

SPECIAL PANEL:

“Mapping Environmental Justice – Inventories and reflections on environmental conflicts from the EJOLT project”

Coordinators: Leah Temper, Joan Martinez-Alier, Beatriz Rodriguez-Labajos (*ICTA-UAB*)

Corresponding coordinator: Joan Martinez-Alier – joanmartineزالier@gmail.com

Panel abstract

This session presents the methodology and the main hypotheses and aims of the EJOLT Map of Environmental (In)Justice as well as other inventories of ecological conflicts elaborated by Environmental Justice Organizations. The maps presented aim to make visible voices fighting for environmental justice and to bring attention to threatened communities that are often powerless and ignored by the media. Methodologies, research results and reflections on resource extraction and waste disposal conflicts and citizen mobilizations will be presented.

The EJOLT project grew out of a previous Fp7 project called CEECEC (Civil Society Engagement with Ecological Economics). In this session we present the forthcoming book, “Ecological Economics from the Ground Up”, a collection of case studies of both conflicts and environmental justice successes written collaboratively by ecological economists and activists. Both projects aim to contribute to building a global network of scientists and civil society organizations to strengthen their struggle against the various manifestations of environmental injustice.

“The EJOLT Map”

Leah Temper (*ICTA-UAB*), Christoph Plutzer (*IFF*), Joan Martinez-Alier (*ICTA-UAB*), Bea Rodriguez-Labajos (*ICTA-UAB*)

Corresponding author: Leah Temper – leah.temper@gmail.com

One of the primary objectives of EJOLT is to compile and make available a ‘Map of Environmental Injustice’ consisting of an online unique database of resource extraction and disposal conflicts hosted on the project website, geographically referenced (mapped with GIS), and linked with social metabolism and socio-environmental indicators. It will allow increased understanding of what the determinants of conflicts are and how material demands and policies create potential hot spots for future conflicts.

EJOLT maps ecological distribution conflicts that highlight the distributive & structural impacts of economic activities on the health and environment of specific populations. The effects may be economic, health impacts, economic, socio-cultural or environmental. In most cases featured the communities engage in contentious politics and mobilize in some way against the negative perceived effects of a project.

The map aims to investigate, understand and disseminate the causes and consequences of conflicts generated by the exploitation of natural resources, the generation of wastes and the degradation and commodification of environmental goods by revealing the spatiality of trade/production and consumption processes and through the visualization of the connections between producers and consumers and between sources and sinks of resources, materials and energy. Mapping the conflicts against indicators such as material flows, HANPP, population density, etc... provides a means of testing the hypothesis of the EJOLT project that

environmental conflicts increase around the world in part because of the increase in MEF flows and HANPP and are not solely related to issues concerning governance, for example.

The authors present the methodology and the online database form elaborated in EJOLT to map and categorize the conflicts, making use of the activist knowledge of the EJOs. They will present the first inventories elaborated by project partners and the preliminary results of the EJOLT Atlas of Environmental Justice.

“Map of Conflicts and Environmental Injustice and Health in Brazil”

Marcelo Firpo Porto, Tania Pacheco, Diogo Rocha (*FIOCRUZ*)

Corresponding author: Marcelo Firpo – marcelo.firpo@ensp.fiocruz.br

The third presentation, presents the map of Conflicts and Environmental Injustice and Health in Brazil, developed by FIOCRUZ and FASE, an NGO engaged with Brazilian Network of Environmental Justice (RBJA), formed in 2001. The map has at the moment about 400 cases of environmental conflicts in all Brazilian regions, most of them related to territories and disputes characterized by socio-environmental inequalities and the vulnerabilization of populations affected by different development projects and economic enterprises, as well as the inability of public policies, legislation and institutional praxis to promote human rights, environmental protection and collective health. The selected cases have been discussed by RBJA, other networks and social movements since 2006 and many of them are land and urban conflicts related to the production of rural and metallic commodities. The conflicts express unequal and unsustainable use of natural resources, environmental degradation and different health impacts, but also the intensive exploitation of labor, contempt of traditional peoples and other forms of discrimination. The authors will present the map and the results from the analysis of the more than 400 cases.

“Teaching Ecological Economics With EJOs: A New Book And Electronic Course”

Hali Healy (*King's College, London*), J. Martinez-Alier (*ICTA UAB*), M. Walter (*ICTA, UAB*), L. Temper (*ICTA UAB*), B. Rodriguez-Labajos, (*ICTA UAB*), J.F. Gerber (*Harvard Univ.*)

Corresponding author: Hali Healy - hhealyatcececec@gmail.com

A new book for teaching Ecological Economics and Political Ecology, “Ecological Economics from the Ground Up”, will be launched at the ISEE conference in Rio de Janeiro. It is in part a product of a European project that ran from 2008 to 2010, Civil Society Engagement with Ecological Economics (CEECEC, under the FP7 Science in Society programme), but other materials have been added since then, drawn from a new FP7 project, Environmental Justice Organizations, Liabilities and Trade (EJOLT). Both projects grew out of dissatisfaction with the distance between academic ecological economics and a need felt by civil society organizations (CSOs) and particularly environmental justice organizations (EJOs) to be able to grasp the concepts and methods of ecological economics and political ecology. The book, designed as a teaching/learning resource based on real world experience instead of first principles, was born of a process of collaborative research between activists and sustainability scientists (mainly ecological economists). Due to be published by Earthscan in 2012, the case studies upon which the chapters are based were chosen by CSOs/EJOs, based on their organisational interests and needs.

Individual chapters focus on a wide range of sustainability topics organised into three thematic sections:

Part I: Social Metabolism: Key Theories, Concepts and Methods

Chapter 1: Aid, Social Metabolism and Social Conflict in the Nicobar Islands

Chapter 2: The Mining Enclave of the “Cordillera Del Cóndor” in Ecuador

Chapter 3: The Manta–Manaus Project: Nature, Capital and Plunder

Chapter 4: High Speed Transport Infrastructure (TAV) in Italy

Chapter 5: Let Them Eat Sugar: Life and Livelihood In Kenya’s Tana Delta

Chapter 6: South Africa’s Minerals-Energy Complex

Part II: Participation and Institutions: Key Theories, Concepts and Methods

Chapter 7: Local Governance and Environment Investments in Hiware Bazar, India

Chapter 8: Participatory Forest Management in Mendha Lekha, India

Chapter 9: Forestry and Communities in Cameroon

Chapter 10: The Waste Crisis in Campania, Italy

Chapter 11: Sedentarization of Tibetan Nomads: Conservation or Coercion?

Part III: Valuation and Environmental Policy: Key Theories, Concepts and Methods

Chapter 12: Nautical Tourism Development in the Lastovo Islands Nature Park

Chapter 13: Local Communities and Management of The Djerdap Protected Area In Serbia

Chapter 14: Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) In India From the Bottom-Up

Chapter 15: The Potential of REDD and Legal Reserve Compensation In Mato Grosso, Brazil

Chapter 16: Environmental Justice and Ecological Debt in Belgium: The Umicore Case

Chapter 17: Ecoticos: Multidimensional Valuation for Socio-Ecological Conflict Analysis in Costa Rica

Chapter 18: The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity: When is Money Valuation Appropriate?

Conclusion: Between Science And Activism: Learning And Teaching Ecological Economics And Political Ecology With EJOs.

Prior to the publication of the book, an internet course of the same title was run, once under CEECEC as a pilot version in 2010, and for a second time under EJOLT in 2011. As was the case under CEECEC, course participants in the second running came from Europe and around the world, mainly activists/CSO members, university students, and some policy advocates. Designed to last 15 weeks, each module features a virtual classroom, discussion forums, a lecture with audio in flash format, and materials that include the CEECEC case study chapters and related articles/videos available via the course platform, the Moodle. Participants are also required to submit short assignments at the end of each module, applying the principles and concepts taught to issues/contexts that are relevant to learners’ own experience. This presentation will officially launch the new book and then present an overview of the course, highlighting the mechanics of the latter, presenting a summary of participants’ evaluations of the course.