

Environmental Justice

The Environmental Justice concentration includes the study of justice, discrimination, morality, equality, human rights, property rights, democracy, transparency, compensation, vulnerability, and susceptibility. These topics are important guides for creating just and equitable solutions that benefit the environment, resource sustainability, human health and well-being. Economic development and environmental policies have often avoided the plight of susceptible populations: the poor, homeless, unemployed, migrants, those who are stateless, the very young, the elderly, and the ill. All of these topics may be appropriate for a specialization in environmental justice.

Additional focal topics of this field include: disproportionate minority group exposures to polluted air and water; degraded lands; contaminated foods; racial discrimination in institutional policies and practices; deliberate neglect of minority group environments; unequal opportunities for access to clean air, drinking water, safe and nutritious food, affordable housing, affordable health care, and quality education; the exploitation and abuse of immigrant labor and their families; the absence of rights to participate in corporate, governmental, and NGO decision-making affecting their environments and health; and confiscation of property rights without consent or compensation.

Courses in the concentration provide a path for fulfilling the [Human Rights Studies Multidisciplinary Academic Program](#) or for completing a double-major in Environmental Studies and any one of several related fields in the social sciences or humanities.

Senior Essays, Environmental Justice Concentration: 2017-2020

Alanis Allen, BA 2020

Essay Title: [The "Make Me" State: How Environmental Injustice Still Prevails in the Alabama Department of Environmental Management](#)

Selah Bell, BA 2020

Essay Title: [The Politics of Risk & Catastrophe: Analyzing the Federal Regulation \(or lack thereof\) of Coal Combustion Wastes between 1973 and 2015](#)

Yesenia Chavez, BA 2020

Essay Title: [Envisioning Vieques, Puerto Rico's Resilient Population as Food Secure and Energy Independent](#)

Alexander DeJesus, BA 2020

Essay Title: [Environmental Justice in the Community and Home: Monitoring Indoor and Outdoor NO2 Pollution in Springfield](#)

Jaye Mejía-Duwan, BA 2020

Essay Title: [Unintended Consequences: How California's Clean Vehicle Rebate Project Exacerbates Environmental Justice Inequities Through Emissions Redistribution](#)

Devin Moore, BA 2020

Essay Title: [Land Acquisition, Displacement and Emergency Management: A History of Injustice in Michigan](#)

Yasamin Sharifi, BA 2020

Essay Title: [Tracing the Environmental History of Palestinian Refugee Camps in Lebanon, 1949-1969: Material Manifestations of Inequality](#)

Ashia Ajani, BA 2019

Essay Title: [The Formation of Black and Indigenous Relationships and Identities Through Land Struggles in Oklahoma and Kansas from 1854-1930](#)

Post Yale: Environmental Justice Writer and Organizer. Worked as a Campaign Assistant with The Environmental Voter Project, and then as an Editorial Fellow with Sierra Club Magazine. Plans to go into theoretical research and get on a professorship track.

Ian Ishmael Irungu, BA 2019

Essay Title: Ian Ishmael Irungu, [SUSTAINABILITY IN AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES, A Case Study of Vision 2030 in Kenya](#)

Post Yale: Harvard Business School 2+2 Program. Working with Dalberg Advisors to inform sustainable development stakeholders on their project and policy initiatives on the African continent.

Marissa Medici, BA 2019

Essay Title: [Injustice Atop Environmental Injustices: Ethical Questions Raised by Retainers Offered in Environmental Justice Communities](#)

Post Yale: FoodCorps, food justice in East Harlem. Plans to become a public interest lawyer focused on environmental and civil rights issues.

Lekha Tlhotlhemaje, BA 2019

Essay Title: [The Promise of Land, The Hope of Home: Farm Dweller Livelihoods, Land Tenancy and Justice in uMgungundlovu, South Africa](#)

Post Yale: Woodbridge Fellow, Yale Office of International Affairs. Environmental and social justice advocate for people who are disproportionately affected by environmental disasters and climate change.

Tien Tran, BS 2019

Essay Title: [Mapping Heat Vulnerability of Homeless Residents and Accessibility to Cooling Centers in Los Angeles, California](#)

Post Yale: California State Senate Fellow, advocates for low-income communities of color and environmental justice in California.

Maya Jenkins, BA 2018

Essay Title: [Environmental Violence & Resistance while Incarcerated: An Exploration of Spatial Rupturing & Imaginations around New York Prison](#)

Post Yale: Program Analyst at Vera Institute of Justice - Center on Youth Justice

Phoebe Chattfield, BA 2018

Essay Title: [Solar for All: Low Income Access to Solar Power in Massachusetts and Connecticut](#)

Post Yale: Green Corps Fellow and Community Organizer

Treston Codrington, BA 2018

Essay Title: [A House Divided: The Meaning of Community Formation and Environmental Engagement for Effective Hurricane Recovery Efforts in Canarsie, Brooklyn](#)

Post Yale: Public Engagement Associate at Public Agenda, Brooklyn NY

Sofia Gulaid, BA 2018

Essay Title: [Unequal Urban Green Space: Barriers of access to urban green space for immigrants in Paris, France](#)

Post Yale: Master in City Planning Candidate at MIT

Duane Bean, BA 2017

Essay Title: [Climate Realism: An Environmental Justice Approach to Climate Fiction](#)

Post Yale: Yale-China Fellow

Nate Sievert, BA 2017

Essay Title: [Diversity and Inclusion in Environmental Education: Case Studies of Promising Organizational Change](#)

Post-Yale: International Mountain Guide