

Cities & a just energy transition

MIT 11.165/477, 11.286J

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September 15, 2022

Materials for today

- Shalanda H Baker. Anti-Resilience: A Roadmap for Transformational Justice within the Energy System. Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review, 54:48, 2019.
- Sandeep Pai et al. A systematic review of the key elements of a just transition for fossil fuel workers. Technical report, April 2020. [URL](#).
- Erin Baker et al. A perspective on equity implications of net zero energy systems. Energy and Climate Change, 2:100047, December 2021. ISSN 26662787. [doi](#). [URL](#).
- Raimi et al. Policy Options to Enable an Equitable Energy Transition. Technical Report 21-09, Resources for the Future, April 2021. [URL](#).

President Theodore Roosevelt



Pach Bros., Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

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Pach Bros., Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

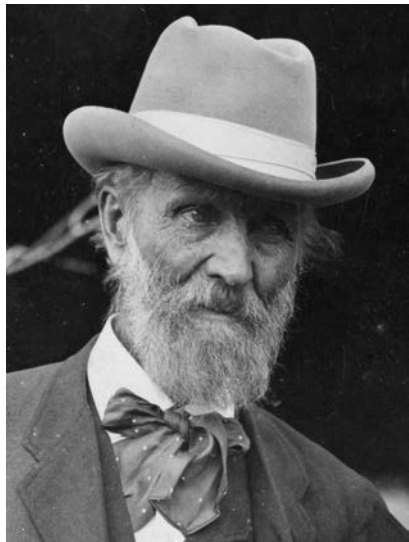
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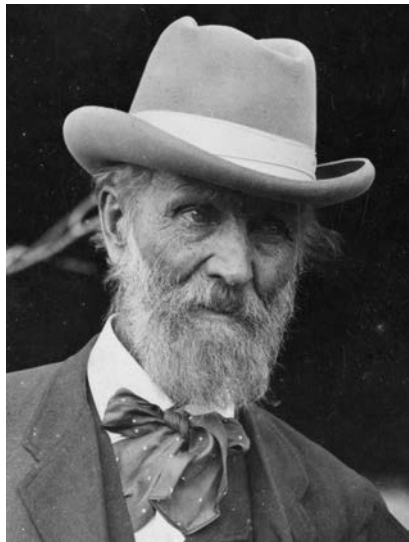
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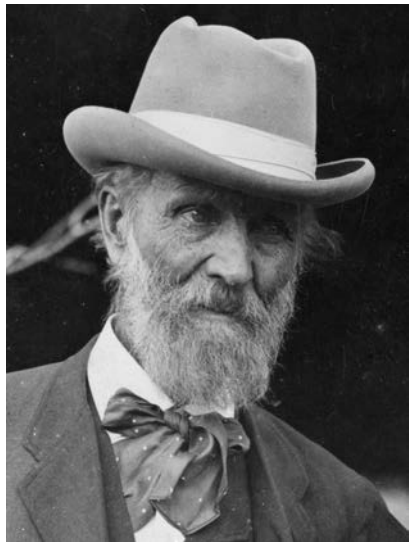
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- troubling racial beliefs also recently **noted** – are they typical for his time? Do they matter? How do they matter?

Frederick Law Olmstead, Jr.



John Singer Sargent, Public domain, via
Wikimedia Commons

- journalist, writer, farmer, abolitionist
- **landscape architect**: Boston Common, Emerald Necklace & the Fens, Prospect Park, Belle Isle Park, Biltmore Estate, U.S. Capitol grounds

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- Central Park and **Seneca Village**

Professor Robert Bullard



2012 Robert D. Bullard portrait: Dave Brenner, [Flickr](#), CC BY 2.0, [Wikimedia](#).

Summary of Community Disputes

Group (Year Founded), Location	Type of Dispute	Facility
Northeast Community Action Group (1979), Houston, TX	Solid waste landfill	Existing
Neighborhood Committee on Lead Pollution (1981), Dallas, TX	Lead smelter	Existing
West Dallas Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice (1989), Dallas, TX	Lead smelter	Existing
Coalition for Community Action (1979), Alsen, LA	Hazardous waste incinerator	Existing
Concerned Citizens of South Central Los Angeles (1985), Los Angeles, CA	Solid waste incinerator	Proposed
Mothers of East Los Angeles (1985), Los Angeles, CA	Hazardous waste incinerator	Proposed
People for Clean Air and Water (1990), Kettleman City, CA	Hazardous waste incinerator	Proposed
West County Toxics Coalition (1989), Richmond, CA	Petrochemical refinery	Existing
Good Road Coalition (1991), Rosebud, SD	Solid waste landfill	Proposed

“Confronting environmental racism: Voices from the grassroots”, 1993, South End Press.

Race and justice in an environmental context

- environmental and civil rights movements in the 1960s, 1970s

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 - ▶ writings on environmental justice (1992) & racism (1993)
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- US President Bill Clinton issues executive order 12898 (1994)
 - ▶ “Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations”

Environmentalists vs. environmental justice

Conflict & Justice

Green groups grapple with a history of racism and exclusion

The environmental movement in America has deep ties to the nation's history of systemic racism and white supremacy. Now, as Americans confront racial injustice anew, powerful green groups like the Sierra Club are beginning to reckon with their own histories of hate and exclusion.

Living on Earth

August 11, 2020 · 2:30 PM EDT

By Adam Wernick

Big green groups like the Sierra Club built their reputations on fighting to protect wilderness and nature, but have a mixed record of helping communities of color.

Credit: Andre Turcott/Flickr

A typical but important headline in 2020 (PRI)

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(Justice, fairness, and equity) x (energy & climate)

Climate justice

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- intergenerational equity
- disproportionate causes and burdens

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Energy justice

- disproportionate access, harms, burdens

Disproportionate to who?

- Unions & workers
- Fossil fuel dominated communities
 - ▶ FF jobs create/support 2-5 other jobs (Marchand & Weber, 2018)
- Frontline/EJ communities

Surrounded by fossil fuels, they fear climate bill leaves them behind

By Sarah Kaplan

August 27, 2022 at 7:00 a.m. EDT



Brandy Smith, left, and Ariel Watson at the Prince-Hall apartments in Fort Arthur, Tex. (Tamar Kalifa for The Washington Post)

From the **Washington Post**, 8/27/2022

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The 'JUST' framework

Heffron, Raphael J., and Darren McCauley. 2018. "What Is the 'Just Transition'?" *Geoforum* 88 (January): 74-77.

J	T R A N S I T I O N	Justice	Justice takes the form of 3 forms of justice
			Distributional
			Procedural
			Restorative
U	T R A N S I T I O N	Universal	Universal takes the form of two universal forms of justice
			Recognition
			Cosmopolitanism
S	T R A N S I T I O N	Space	Space brings in location, where are 'events' happening ? (in principle, at local, national and international levels)
T	T R A N S I T I O N	Time	Time brings into transition timelines such 2030, 2050, 2080 etc. and also 'speed' of the energy transition (i.e. is it happening fast enough?).

Figure courtesy of Elsevier, Inc., <https://www.sciencedirect.com>.

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 - ▶ Recognition justice (R2): entails recognizing that parts of the society might suffer as a result of energy and environmental decisions and identifying individuals and groups who might be impacted by such decisions.
 - ▶ Cosmopolitan justice reinforces all of the above justice forms but states that the above forms of justice must apply universally to all human beings.

Estimated % of registered voters who are worried about global warming

Select Question: Worried about global warming

Show: National **State** Congressional District Show population centres

Un-Select Zoom-out

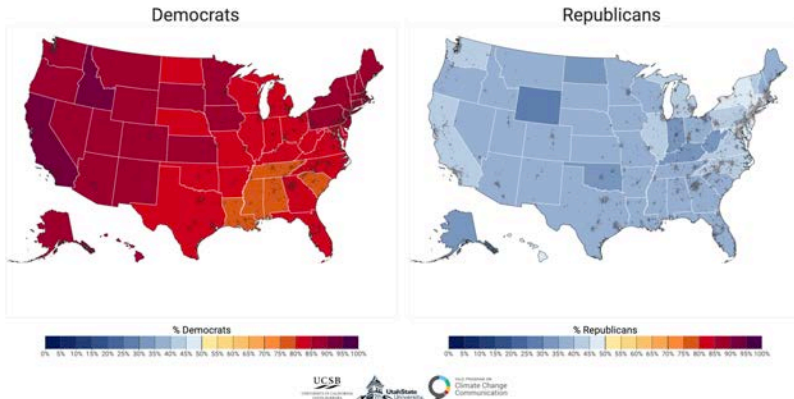
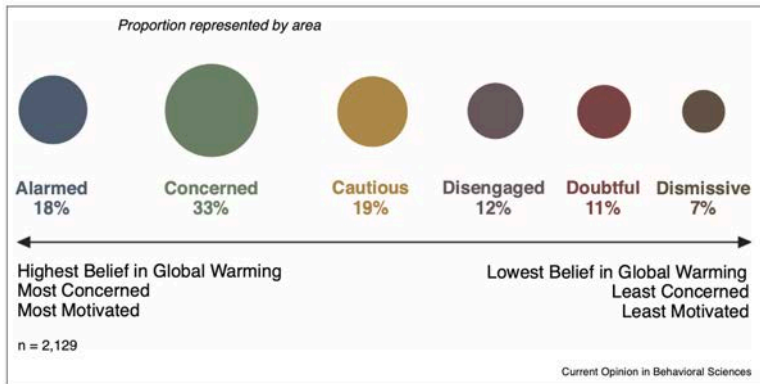


Figure from Yale Project on Climate Communication, "Dem. and Rep. views (2018)"

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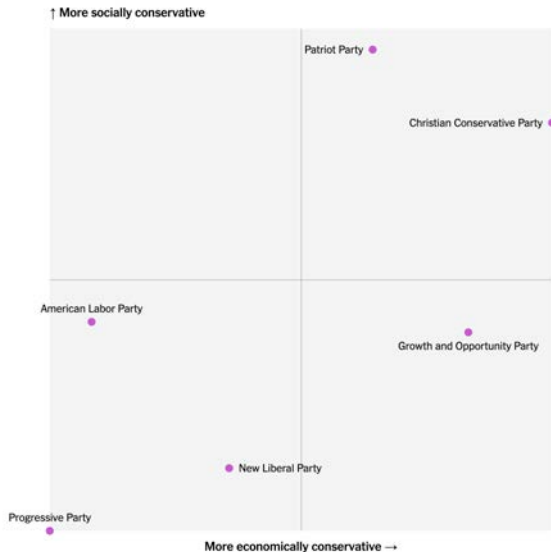
Figure 1



Proportion of the U.S. adult population in the Six Americas in 2008.

From the Yale Project on Climate Communication, “Six Americas Study”

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NYT Quiz: If America Had Six Parties, Which Would You Belong To?

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Class discussion

Thursday: We're going to do a discussion exercise that requires you to argue for different energy policies based on different conceptions of justice!

MIT OpenCourseWare

<https://ocw.mit.edu>

11.165 Urban Energy Systems & Policy Fall 2022

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