



Environmental Justice

Resources for Community Facilitators

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Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability
of future generations to meet their needs.

Environmental Justice Bulletin Board Assembly Instructions

- Cut out individual pieces of text and put them on the board for best results. Cut out related pieces of text that are on separate lines and arrange them together. For example, the bullet points under the “What is Environmental Justice?” and “Want to Learn More?” sections should clearly go together.
- Place the different sections of text and images on the board, wherever you think is best.
- Consider using covers of issues of Urban Habitat’s *Race, Poverty, and the Environment* for the background to the entire board. Past issues and their covers can be found at: <http://www.urbanhabitat.org/rpe> in the red column at the right of the page. Also try checking out Campus Ministry or the Ethics center to see if they have any old copies of these or other social justice-focused magazines that you can use.

What is Environmental Justice?

According to Dr. Perlita Dicochea, environmental justice (EJ) refers to cultural norms and policies that support sustainable communities where people can live, work, and play with confidence that their environment is safe.

- EJ is achieved when people can realize their highest potential.
- EJ differs from mainstream environmentalism by not isolating nature as “wild”, but rather as a part of human life.

- EJ focuses on those who are most disadvantaged, and uses these terms:

Ecofeminism- A relationship between the historical social domination of women and that of nature

Environmental Racism- Unequal protection against toxic and hazardous waste exposure and the historical and systematic exclusion of people of color from environmental decisions affecting their communities.

Examples of EJ Concerns

“Entire communities, mostly poor and of color, are being destroyed by global warming...the [2004 Indian Ocean] tsunami killed 170,000 to 250,000 ‘poor’ people. Because, by and large...it was the poorest of the native populations, living in the most vulnerable areas, that absorbed most of the tsunami’s impacts. And that’s how it is throughout the world. The disenfranchised people end up as sacrifices to the Western god of profit.”

–Race, Poverty, and the Environment: A Journal for Social and Environmental Justice

The *Race, Poverty, and the Environment* Journal reports that the life expectancy of poorer, more ethnic neighborhoods in the Bay Area is significantly lower than that in wealthier, more racially homogenous areas. For example, “people who live in West Oakland can expect to live on average ten years less than those who live in the Berkeley Hills.” This is attributable to poorer health, partially due to unsafe or unclean environments.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has cited Yucca Mountain in Nevada as a depository under which to bury nuclear waste. This site is also, however, one of traditional importance to the Shoshone Tribe, and, they argue, should be protected under the American Indian Religious Freedom Act (AIRFA) of 1978. Beyond Yucca Mountain's significance as a traditional religious site and the location of valued resources, the negative health affects brought by the burial of toxic waste in this site is of high concern to the American Indians living in the area.

The diamond and gold mining industries in Africa are responsible for ecological and human rights infractions that, together, create an environmental justice concern. Mining uses chemicals which are extremely harmful to the environment and those exposed to them. Furthermore, colonialism forced natives into this labor, which, in many cases, they are still bound to.

Everyone's heard of "Fair Trade", but what exactly is it? Fair Trade helps farmers and laborers by ensuring a fair price for their goods, fair labor conditions, better trading conditions,

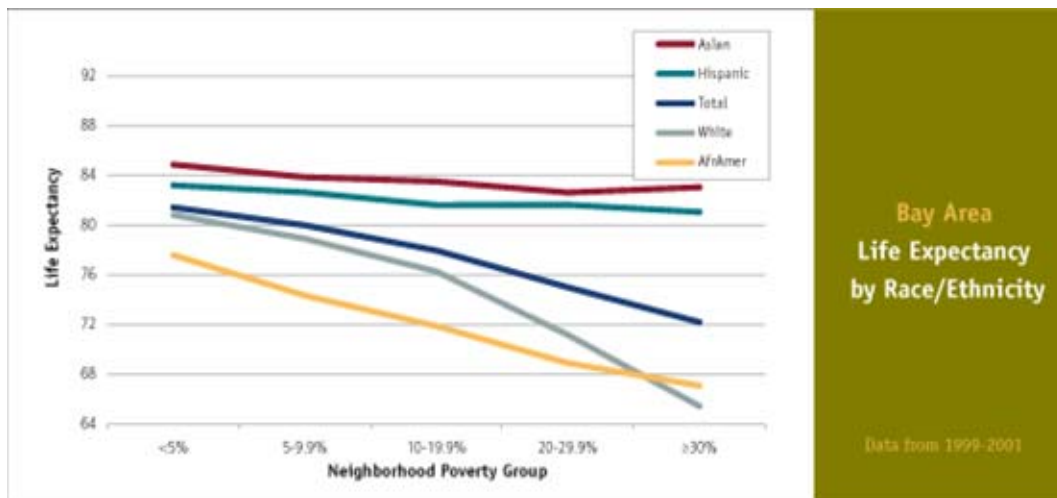
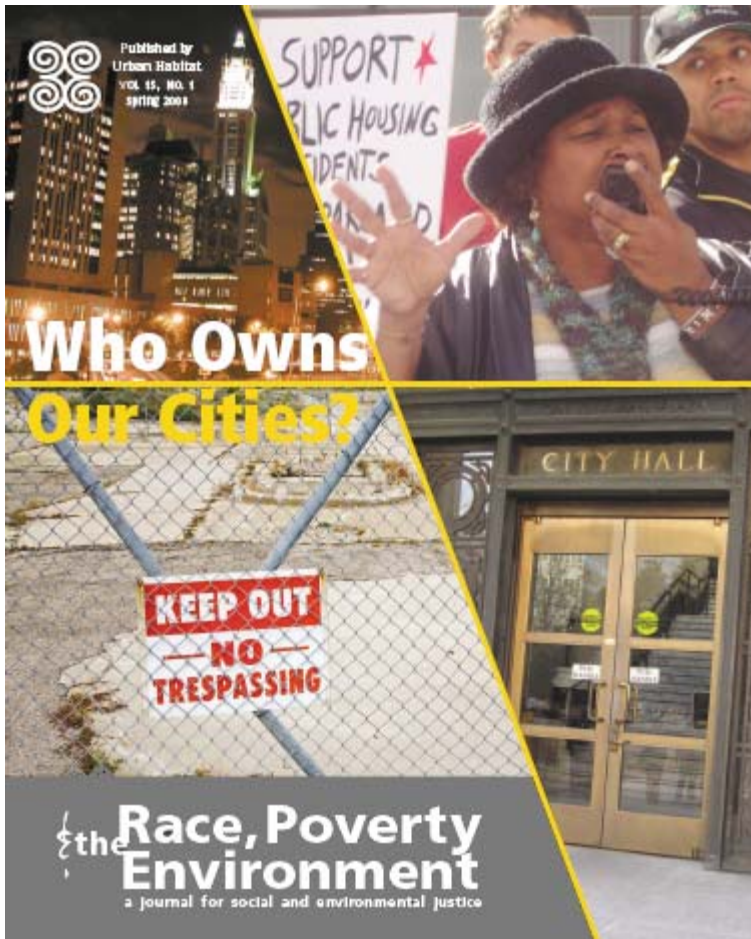
and environmentally sustainable agricultural practices. Look for Fair Trade certified products such as coffee, chocolate, honey, and others to ensure that you are consuming in an environmentally just way.

Want to Learn More?

Here are some items in the media and that are offered at SCU which you can explore:

- *Erin Brokovich*- 2000 film starring Julia Roberts which deals with an actual EJ case
- *Maquilapolis: City of Factories*- 2006 documentary about the Tijuana sweatshops and the women who live and work there

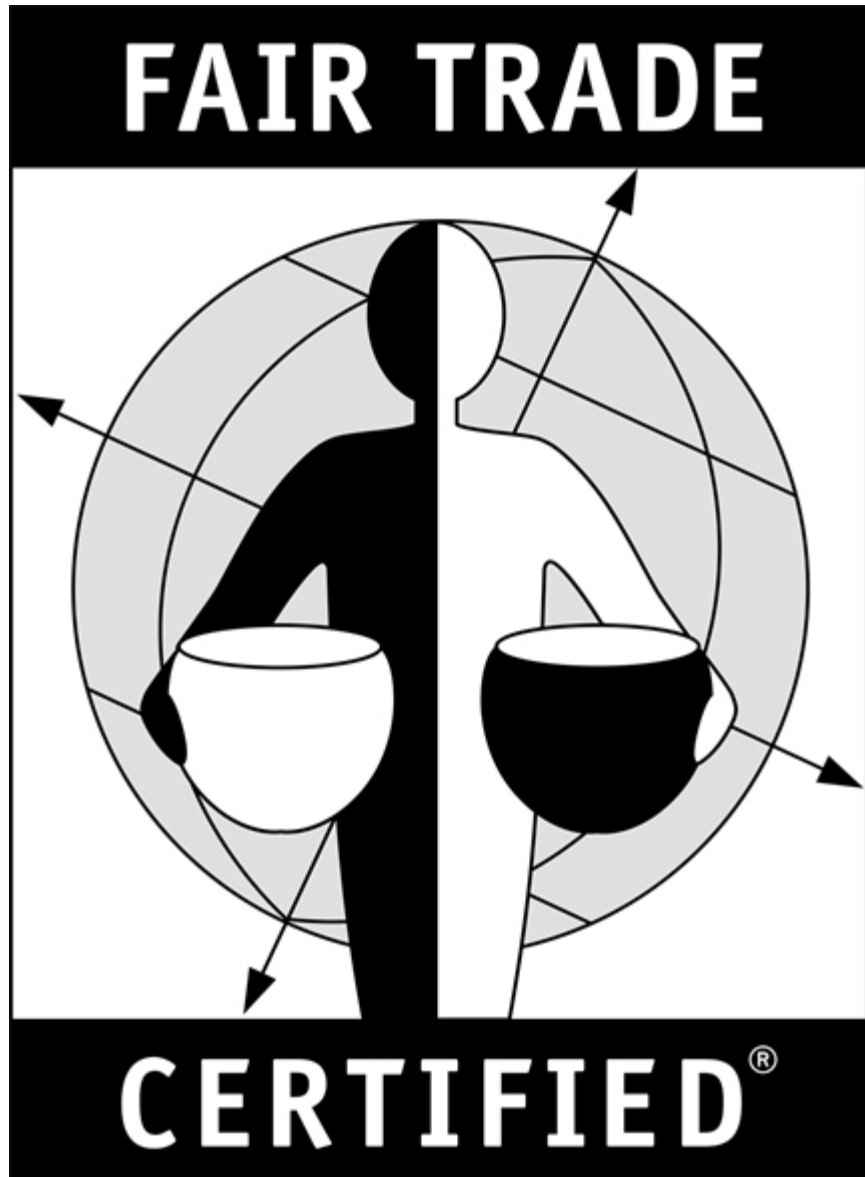
- Take ETHN 156 "Race, Gender, and Environmental Justice" with Dr. Perlita Dicochea
- Check out the Indigo Girls, a folk group with a passion for social and environmental justice
- *From the Ground Up: Environmental Racism and the Rise of the Environmental Justice Movement* by Luke W. Cole and Sheila R. Foster



This graph shows the life expectancy of various racial and ethnic groups in relation to the percentage of the population in a neighborhood living below the poverty line.




Yucca Mountain, the proposed nuclear waste storage site and spiritually significant Shoshone Indian location.



If you see this label on something you're thinking about getting,
buy it with confidence!



Not only are most methods of mining for diamonds and other elements such as gold environmentally unsustainable, they can also cause human rights violations.



She brought a
small town to its feet
and a huge company
to its knees.

Julia
Roberts
is
Erin
Brockovich

Based on a true story.

UNIVERSAL PICTURES AND COLUMBIA PICTURES PRESENT
A JERSEY FILMS PRODUCTION "ERIN BROCKOVICH"
ALBERT FINNEY AARON ECKHART COSTUME DESIGNER MARGERY SIMON
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS THOMAS NEWMAN PRODUCED BY AMANDA SCHEER OCHS
WRITTEN BY JEFFREY KURLAND PRODUCED BY ANNE V. COATES A.C.E.
DIRECTED BY PHILIP MESSINA PRODUCED BY ED LACHMAN A.C.E.
CASTING BY GAIL LYON EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JOHN HARDY CARLA SANTOS
PRODUCED BY DANNY DEVITO MICHAEL SHAMBERG STACEY GREER
DIRECTED BY STEVEN SODERBERGH
A UNIVERSAL PICTURE

MAQUILAPOLIS

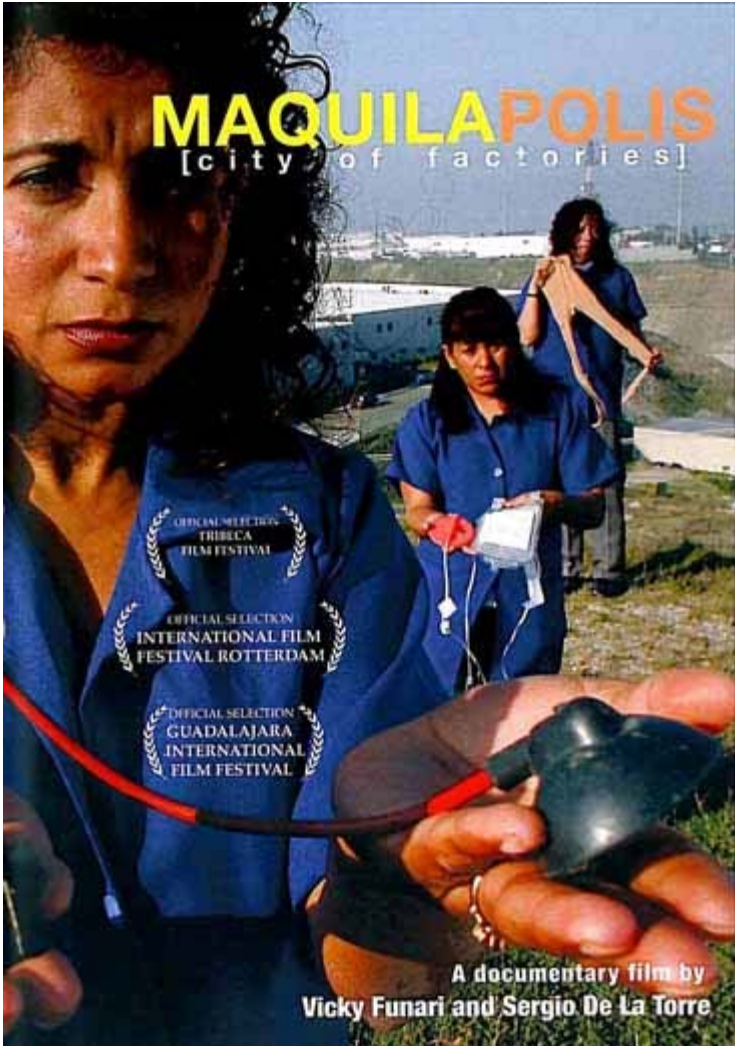
[city of factories]

OFFICIAL SELECTION
THIBICA
FILM FESTIVAL

OFFICIAL SELECTION
INTERNATIONAL FILM
FESTIVAL ROTTERDAM

OFFICIAL SELECTION
GUADALAJARA
INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL

A documentary film by
Vicky Funari and Sergio De La Torre



Text:

<http://urbanhabitat.org/node/500>

<http://urbanhabitat.org/node/2816>

<http://www.transfairusa.org/>

<http://environmentaljusticeblog.blogspot.com/2008/04/abstract-artisanal-gold-mining-in.html>

<http://www.umich.edu/~snre492/kendziuk.html>

Images:

http://epicurious.blogs.com/photos/uncategorized/2007/10/18/fair_trade_logo.jpg

<http://blogs.tnr.com/tnr/blogs/environmentandenergy/yucca.jpg>

<http://www.urbanhabitat.org/files/images/84.gif>

<http://www.urbanhabitat.org/files/images/whosecitiescover.jpg>

http://nyinquirer.typepad.com/nyinquirer/images/sl_diamond_miner_1.jpg

http://www.impawards.com/2000/posters/erin_brockovich.jpg

<http://www.environmentalhealth.org/images/Maquilapolis1.jpg>