

AAAM Conference - Black Environmental Reading Notes; 07.28.20

Environmental Justice and Museums

Ten Ways That Racial And Environmental Justice Are Inextricably Linked

Cities across the United States and Europe have been reflecting on the unprecedented protests demanding greater [racial justice](#) following the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis on 25 May. This has sparked a [deeper conversation](#) around the world among companies, universities, [religious institutions](#), [museums](#) who have historic links to racial injustice and slavery. Given the significance of 19 June (Juneteenth), many companies and organizations have also been quick to sign up to pledges around racial justice. However, the response among the environmental community has been [more muted and nuanced](#), given the [complex relationship](#) between the modern environmental movement and race relations. National Geographic famously addressed [its own historic coverage of race](#) in a [special edition](#) two years ago.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/nishandegnarain/2020/06/30/eight-ways-that-the-fight-for-racial-and-environmental-justice-are-inextricably-linked/#593fbeb78732>

National Black Environmental Justice Network

<https://www.nbejn.com/>

The National Black Environmental Justice Network was formed in December 1999 during an emergency gathering of African American leaders, at the first national gathering of nearly 300 Black grassroots, environmental and economic justice activists.

28 Black Environmentalists

<https://medium.com/@melpete94/black-history-month-environmentalists-69b16007da8f>

From Buffalo Soldiers who served as some of the first national park rangers and George Washington Carver whose revolutionary crop rotation methods stemmed from his observations that nature leaves no waste to modern day environmental African American activists!

Taking Nature Black conference

The event was hosted by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and sponsored by the Washington, D.C., region's Audubon Naturalist Society as part of their Black History Month celebration. The conference attracted hundreds of speakers and attendees who discussed environmental issues and the African-American community. Science journalist Bob Hirshon attended the event and prepared a report.

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/podcast/episode/african-americans-nature-and-environmental-justice/>

Barrio Logan has faced environmental racism for generations. We want justice.

I live in Barrio Logan, a historically BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) community. Beginning in the 1920s, Chicano, Mexican, Black and Asian populations moved here, lured by bayfront industry jobs and affordable housing. Our community thrived — people canned tuna, brewed beers, built homes and churches, swam in the bay. In the 1960s, racist land use policies began to decimate our neighborhood and endanger our families with pollution.

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/julie-corrales-barrio-logan-has-faced-environmental-racism-for-generations-we-want-justice/ar-BB16MYfg>

Environmental Justice in 5mins

Other communities of color had organized to oppose environmental threats before **Warren County**. In the early 1960s, Latino farm workers led by **Cesar Chavez** fought for workplace rights, including protection from harmful pesticides in the farm fields of California's San Joaquin Valley. In 1967, African-American students took to the streets of **Houston** to oppose a city garbage dump in their community that had claimed the life of a child. In 1968, residents of **West Harlem**, in New York City, fought unsuccessfully against a sewage treatment plant in their community. But the Warren County protests marked the first instance of an environmental protest by people of color garnering **widespread national attention**.

<https://www.nrdc.org/stories/history-environmental-justice-five-minutes>

Black in the times of Climate Change

Detroit's environmental activism

<https://onezero.medium.com/the-blackest-city-in-the-u-s-is-facing-an-environmental-justice-nightmare-788e0fb5c6b9>

Books and Reports

A Terrible Thing to Waste: Environmental Racism and It's Assault on America

Harriet A. Washington

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1whDw6FXuhoBvx484nUTyu_15sO19Kd7K/view?usp=sharing

https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07F65ZFFV?ref_=k4w_embed_details_rh&tag=bing08-20&linkCode=kpp

2019

Toxic Waste and Race in the United States

United Church of Christ - Racial Justice Commission

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1siQHxpWVPzEZMjUBpKRkRmqfTwltGaWA/view?usp=sharing>

1987

The 139 Square Mile Report

Detroit Future City - Disparities between city and metropolitan areas

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PN_LUDT78Xwq7vcnMYIO7xQgQDgsqqX0/view?usp=sharing

2017

Assessing the State of Environmental Justice in Michigan

School of Environment and Sustainability, University of Michigan

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xqSwaxVCr7lQV-G89fJKYcgsrKxOGwwx/view?usp=sharing>

2019

Water Color: Race and Water Report

The Water Affordability Crisis in the United States

Thurgood Marshall Institute for NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cVJdIKOmWVqrCvd4JB2MDp7JT3Zen9sz/view?usp=sharing>

2019

Environmental Justice Timeline, EPA.Gov

<https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-timeline>

Additional Resources

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-Wob8W3htyYRtYlgYtmsdus0XjRusEgR/view?usp=sharing>

Movies

COOKED: Survival by Zip Code

The Deadly Chicago Heat Wave Is As Relevant to Racial Justice Today As It Was 25 Years Ago

The documentary examines the unnatural disasters of environmental and structural racism.

<https://www.nrdc.org/stories/deadly-chicago-heat-wave-relevant-racial-justice-today-it-was-25-years-ago>

Considerations for **STORM THE WATERS**

a film festival that explores invention, curiosity, activism and creativity in the pursuit of water rights.

<http://www.arts4good.net/storm-the-waters>

THE BOY THAT HARNESSSED THE WIND is a feature dramatic film that details the true-life story of a Malawian boy who saved his village by inventing a wind turbine that allowed farmers to irrigate their crops.

<https://www.netflix.com/TITLE/80200047>

BLUE GOLD: WORLD WATER WARS is based on the book BLUE GOLD: THE FIGHT TO STOP THE CORPORATE THEFT OF THE WORLD'S WATER, and examines the problems created by the privatization and commodification of water.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lkb4WG8UJRw> (30sec. trailer)

WHERE THE WATER RUNS tells the story of Nasir, a disingenuous water distribution operative and truck driver working for the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power during the worst drought in L.A.'s history.

<https://vimeo.com/251553897> (30sec. trailer)

BENEATH THE SURFACE is a documentary produced by Great Lakes Bureau that examines the controversy surrounding the Line 5 oil pipeline that runs underneath the lakebed between the Upper and Lower Michigan Peninsula. <https://www.greatlakesnow.org/beneath-surface-line-five/#full>

What is Environmental Justice?

<https://youtu.be/flu-AfQ0cBM>

December 2017

Dr. Robert Fuller: Father of Environmental Justice

<https://youtu.be/YUIJfWGZAhl>

January, 2020

A Brief History of Environmental Justice

<https://youtu.be/30xLg2HHg8Q>

August 2017

An Inconvenient Truth

An Inconvenient Truth makes the compelling case that global warming is real, man-made, and its effects will be cataclysmic if we don't act now. Gore presents a wide array of facts and information in a thoughtful and compelling way: often humorous, frequently emotional, always fascinating.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ZUoYGA15i0> (30sec. trailer)

2006

MyGlobalVillage Teen Summer Sessions

A program of University of California Riverside

California Museum of Photography

produced by Reggie Woolery, Curator of Education 2007-10

<https://youtu.be/v19dwtS3DGo>

A Healthier Atmosphere for Children of Urban Violence (article)

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-pTr1TLXV3_4gA_55XKZYdaV8ZX6hg_c/view?usp=sharing

2007

MyGlobalVillage Film Festival (poster)

Featuring documentaries from Human Rights Watch International Film Festival

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mQFi3KwFADEZCrbMlexY6eSbC7ukjlwb/view?usp=sharing>

2008

Flash FLOOD Desert Excursion (poster)

Featuring the photography of Sant Khalsa

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qNT3Xh8yF2kquceqtayZtvr_8pUtSLEP/view?usp=sharing

2009

Joshua Tree Desert Excursion (poster)

Featuring the photography of thirty-five amateur and professional photographers

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_S4ZaQ6-UhPpN9O8ZclpCpPLbA9DcCFz/view?usp=sharing

2009

Teen Posters on Environmental Crisis

MyGlobalVillage 2009

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ruN93Y9C04ZQdgT3_lkjoiz_oP0-63Xr/view?usp=sharing

Additional posters

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Qb1Y8EPdk6M6Wevpyunyx9LNLj4o1Ee?usp=sharing>

Social Justice + Museums news

Museum of African American History Launches New Social Justice Program Initiative with \$1M Liberty Mutual Foundation Grant

Museum to Expand Online Learning and Archival Resources and Offer Virtual Event Capacity

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/museum-of-african-american-history-launches-new-social-justice-program-initiative-with-1m-liberty-mutual-foundation-grant-301094881.html>

<https://www.bing.com/news/search?q=Social+Justice+African+American+Museums&qpvt=social+justice+african+american+museums&FORM=NWRFSH>

Apple donates profits from John Lewis documentary to museums

The company will give the money made from the rentable film to the National Civil Rights Museum and National Museum of African American History and Culture.

<https://www.cnet.com/news/apple-donates-profits-from-john-lewis-documentary-to-museums/>

Peters Introduces 1619 Act to Raise Awareness, Understanding of African American History in Schools

Legislation Would Provide Funding for Educators to Gain Access to Educational Programming from the National Museum of African American History & Culture

<https://www.peters.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/peters-introduces-1619-act-to-raise-awareness-understanding-of-african-american-history-in-schools>

'We Were Tired of Asking': Why Open Letters Have Become Many Activists' Tool of Choice for Exposing Racism at Museums

In the wake of the George Floyd protests, art workers across the nation have been writing open letters to advocate for change at museums.

<https://news.artnet.com/art-world/museum-open-letters-activism-1894150>

Former Staffers and Board Members Accuse the Smithsonian's National Museum of African Art of Perpetuating 'Culture of Racism'

Lonnie G. Bunch III, the head of the Smithsonian, has promised to investigate the complaints.

<https://news.artnet.com/art-world/national-museum-african-art-racism-1894956>

Human rights museum criticized, employees say work environment racist

<https://winnipeg.ctvnews.ca/mobile/human-rights-museum-criticized-employees-say-work-environment-racist-1.4980295>