

Regional Science Dialogues for Peace
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Special Session Proposal

Environmental Justice: the Need for Community-based Strategies for Resilience and Access

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Abstract

The concept of *environmental justice* signifies an all pervasive idea that takes into account all actions and social movements to address environmental injustices arising from inequalities and incorrect policies that have adverse effect upon the ecosystem including the human communities. Much literature is found on the evidences and challenges arising out of environmental injustices and equally voluminous is the literature on the ways and means of addressing such injustices across the globe. The subject matter encompasses distributive justice, issues of policy perspectives affecting communities as also the ways of ensuring access to environmental goods and services by the poorest communities.

Studies have highlighted the impacts of international trade policies and the agenda of the global power nexus, that have continuously created adversities for the poorer countries, poor communities, largely situated in the global south. Deeply affected by natural hazards, environmental adversities as well as adverse policy implications, the sufferings of the marginalized communities have had cumulative impacts, and has led to more critical situations in terms of their resilience building strategies. At the backdrop, the polarization of the world into *haves* and *have-nots* never did disappear with progress, but have been accentuated in different regions of the world, perpetuated through processes like globalization. This Special Session calls for research studies that have looked into the progression of inequalities caused by environmental injustices through case studies and existing databases and the equally important set of studies that seek solutions through model-building and strategy development. Critical need for understanding the processes and addressing the challenges confronting environmental injustices and their inter linkages with the political economy may generate the following themes:

1. Issues and challenges of environmental laws and regulations and their adaptations.
2. Issues and challenges related to natural hazards and disasters and their outcomes
3. Studies on community-based resilience building strategies and innovations.
4. Perpetuation of environmental inequalities – cause, effects, interrelations
5. Environmental degradation and its impacts – global to local
6. Pollution and Waste as Hazards and their global impacts
7. Pollution and waste trade-offs – economy and ecology perspectives
8. Perspectives on accessing environmental rights (forest-dwellers, tribes and local inhabitants)
9. Understanding the politics of resource exploitation vis a vis community rights
10. Environmental movements and resource based place-making through community action