Environmental Justice in Multispecies Worlds: Land, Water, Food

An interdisciplinary graduate student conference

March 6–8, 2020

Center for Culture, History, and Environment
University of Wisconsin–Madison
multispeciesjustice.org

We invite participants for an interdisciplinary graduate student conference to be held March 6-8, 2020, on the campus of the University of Wisconsin–Madison, which occupies ancestral Ho-Chunk land. This conference emerges from a multi-year conversation across departments at UW-Madison concerned with meanings of social and environmental justice in what Marisol de la Cadena and Mario Blaser have called a “world of many worlds.”

Featured speakers include

Marisol de la Cadena
Professor of Anthropology and Science and Technology Studies, University of California–Davis

Kyle Powys Whyte
Professor of Philosophy and Community Sustainability, Michigan State University

Cleo Woelfle-Erksine
Assistant Professor, School of Marine & Environmental Affairs, University of Washington

Submissions due
Nov. 15, 5pm CST to multispeciesuw@gmail.com

Flooding in the Kickapoo River Valley, August 2018. Photo/Emma Lundberg
Inspired by work on Indigenous cosmopolitics, multispecies ethics, feminist and postcolonial studies, and racial capitalism, we seek to understand the following questions:

- How have histories of colonial and capitalist exploitation shaped contemporary configurations among humans and other beings?
- How do class, racial, ethnic, gender, and other politics shape multispecies encounters?
- How can recognizing multiple forms of life reframe techno-scientific management?
- What might constitute environmental justice in the pluriverse?
- How might attention to Indigenous cosmologies and multispecies ethics redefine the politics and structures of environmental justice?
- Is justice an apt framework for engaging relationships among humans and other-than-humans?

Join and extend this conversation, bringing methodologies and perspectives from across the humanities and social and natural sciences to explore key themes of climate justice, settler colonialism, decolonization, racial capitalism, sovereignty, food justice, democracy, rights, more-than-human worlds, among others.

Inclusivity is a core value of this conference. We seek the participation of scholars from a broad range of backgrounds, disciplines, and institutions, and especially encourage submissions from those traditionally underrepresented in the academy. To this end, we encourage proposers to include a 100 word statement with their submission about how their proposed contribution supports the spirit of inclusivity of the conference themes.

An interdisciplinary committee of graduate students and faculty of the UW will select participants based on inclusivity, engagement with core questions, scholarly contribution, and potential for launching or adding to a productive conversation.

In an effort to keep the conference affordable, hotel accommodation with breakfast will be provided for nonlocal participants in the writing workshop and for a limited number of student presenters. More information will be provided to those accepted.

Send submissions to multispeciesuw@gmail.com by 5pm Central Time, Friday, November 15. Feel free to send questions, too.