**Application: Environmental Justice Research Proposal**

This exercise provides you the opportunity to work with other students to investigate a real and current situation of potential environmental justice in the United States. You will designate a study area and then propose two research studies to investigate environmental justice in this area. The first study will use an approach emphasizing spatial location, facility siting, motives/intentionality, and sequence of events as illustrated by Baden and Coursey (1997) and described by Pulido (2000). The second study will use an approach emphasizing structural forms of privilege and how your particular case is embedded in broader sociospatial processes as illustrated by Pulido (2000). The exercise requires a good understanding of the concept and methods of environmental justice as presented in our textbook and additional readings (Oliver-Smith on Peru, Pulido on Los Angeles, and Harvey on the environmental justice movement more broadly).

You will complete the assignment in small groups (see groups below).

**Instructions**

1. Acquaint yourself with the **EPA’s environmental justice mapping tool**, EJView, at <http://epamap14.epa.gov/ejmap/entry.html>. Look up any necessary terms, such as “brownfield.” You may need to refer to the help pages to learn how to use the tool. Note that *block, blockgroup, tract*, and *county* are terms describing spatial categories of U.S. census data; *block* is the finest spatial resolution data available.
2. **Find a good example** of an area of the United States that appears to be a concern for environmental justice. This will be your study area. Due to the scale of the data and population density, urban areas may provide more examples than rural areas.
   1. What location did you choose for a **study area**? Include a figure showing a map of the study area. (Use the PrtSc (Print Screen) key on PCs to copy and paste (Ctrl + p) your map from the EPA website to your document.) Be sure to add a figure caption.
   2. Explain why you chose this study area.
      1. What **variables** (characteristics of the population and environment) provided by the EPA mapping tool will you use in your study proposal?
      2. What initial **patterns** do you notice among these variables?
      3. **Why is this a good example** of a place to look into environmental justice?
3. **Proposal 1: Spatial Science Approach.** Propose a research study to study environmental justice for your chosen case based on the methodology used by Baden and Coursey (1997) as described by Pulido (2000). This approach focuses on local spatial analysis, mapping and counting, siting of dangerous facilities, and the sequence of events.
   1. What will your research question or thesis statement be? (Avoid research questions that may be answered with “yes” or “no.”)
   2. What theoretical or conceptual ideas will frame your study? Draw on the ideas presented by Baden and Coursey (1997) as described by Pulido (2000).
   3. What types of data are you interested in? How might you collect and analysis these data? Note that you are only *proposing* a study; you will not carry it out for this class.
4. **Proposal 2: Critical Realist Approach.** Now, using the same case, propose a research study to study environmental justice based on the methodology used by Pulido (2000). This approach focuses on multi-scalar processes, structural forms of inequality and discrimination, historical processes, and the politics of hazards.
   1. What will your research question or thesis statement be? (Avoid research questions that may be answered with “yes” or “no.”) Has your question changed from 3a above?
   2. What theoretical or conceptual ideas will frame your study? Draw on the ideas presented in the Robbins et al. text (pp. 89-93) and the readings by Pulido, Harvey, and Oliver-Smith.
   3. What types of data are you interested in? How might you collect and interpret these data?

Length: Approximately two pages, single-spaced and not including graphics and references.

The analysis is due [insert due date]. Upload the analysis to Moodle. Make sure everyone’s name is on the document.

Groups: [insert assigned groups of about four students each]