



SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY

Environmental Justice and the Common Good





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Origins

Vision & Mission

Community-Driven Research

Environmental Justice

Common Good

Initial Program Areas

Small Grants

How Could You Connect?

How Could We Support Your Work?



ORIGINS



Integral Ecology
Affinity Group



Laudato Si' +
SCU Conference



May 2019 Conference



Ignatian Center Faculty
Collaborative



Presidents' Three-
Year Commitment



VISION

**Conducting and fostering community-driven research for
social and environmental justice**



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE (EJ)

Rights of all people to healthy and livable communities, now and in the future, including fair:

- **Distribution** of environmental burdens and benefits
- **Recognition** of individual dignity and group rights, including equitable protection against environmental harms through law, regulation, and enforcement
- **Participation** in environmental decision making by all who are affected, including historically excluded groups, and consideration of future generations



EJ ISSUES

- Indigenous land + cultural rights
- Hazardous waste siting
- Climate justice
- Energy justice + security
- Food justice + sovereignty
- Water justice + sovereignty
- Transportation justice
- Reproductive justice
- Environmental health inequities
- Occupational safety + health
- Pesticide + chemical exposure
- Access to nature + parks
- Rights of nature
- Green jobs + Green New Deal
- Safe, affordable housing
- And many more



EJ COMMUNITIES

Neighbors, workers, consumers who are:

- Indigenous
- People of color
- Ethnic minorities
- Low income
- Immigrants
- Women
- LGBTQ+
- Disabled
- Seniors + Youth
- Future generations
- Etc.



COMMUNITY-DRIVEN RESEARCH (CDR)

Emerges from collaboration among scholars/creators with community-based organizations and/or government agencies in response to community needs

Partners co-design and co-conduct research as equals for mutual benefit

Some Examples of CDR

- Action research
- Community-based participatory research
- Participatory action research
- Citizen science
- Community lawyering
- Community arts
- Anchor institutions



WHY CDR FOR EJ?

- Participatory justice includes participating in decisions about research
- Research **with** (rather than **on** or **for**) communities builds their capacities
- Increases relevance, reach, rigor, and reflexivity of EJ research

“We gave birth to a conversation that people would recognize as their own. We gave it a language, we gave it words, we gave it a science base, we gave it a public policy base, and we gave it a base that was rooted in the power and mobilization of people on the ground so it couldn’t be denied.”

-Vernice Miller Travis,
co-founder of West Harlem
Environmental Action



WHY CDR FOR EJ NOW?

Collaborating with communities to produce knowledge overcomes popular mistrust of science, academia, and government from:

- Technocratic indifference to EJ
- Authoritarian populist attacks on science and academia
- Disinformation spread by and for polluters





EJ + THE COMMON GOOD

- The Common Good is
 - Shared & beneficial by all or most of society
 - Built and sustained through collective action
- Examples of common goods
 - Science, democratic norms, the climate, clean water, and biodiversity
- How does EJ work relate to the common good?





MISSION



At SCU: Faculty development, funding, and networking to support research and teaching partnerships with community-based organizations that respond directly to community needs and priorities



In California: Building a network to support research and teaching collaborations through partnerships among academic institutions and community-based organizations



Across Jesuit Higher Education: Fostering collaborations among faculty, staff, students, and Catholic social ministry in the U.S. and around the world



DISTINCTIVE CONTRIBUTIONS



South Bay

Strengthen EJ locally
by linking academics
+ CBOs



Social Ministry

Strengthen links to
grassroots EJ
organizations



Jesuit Education

Strengthen community-
driven approach to EJ
research



INITIAL PROGRAM AREAS



Food Justice



Water Justice



Climate Justice



EJ Law & Advocacy



SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM

To support:

- Environmental justice research
- Preference for community-driven research collaborations
- By SCU faculty/academic staff, including with students
- Spring 2020 request for proposals
- Up to \$3000 apiece in first year
- Second RFP in 2021





CONNECTIONS

www.scu.edu/ej

- How does your work connect to the Initiative?
- How can we support your work with professional development, resources, networking, grants?
- Any thoughts on external sources of support we could apply for jointly?

