

# **Environmental Risk and Justice in the City**

**ENG/ENV M30: Environment across Cultures**  
**Prof. Heise**  
**27 April 2023**

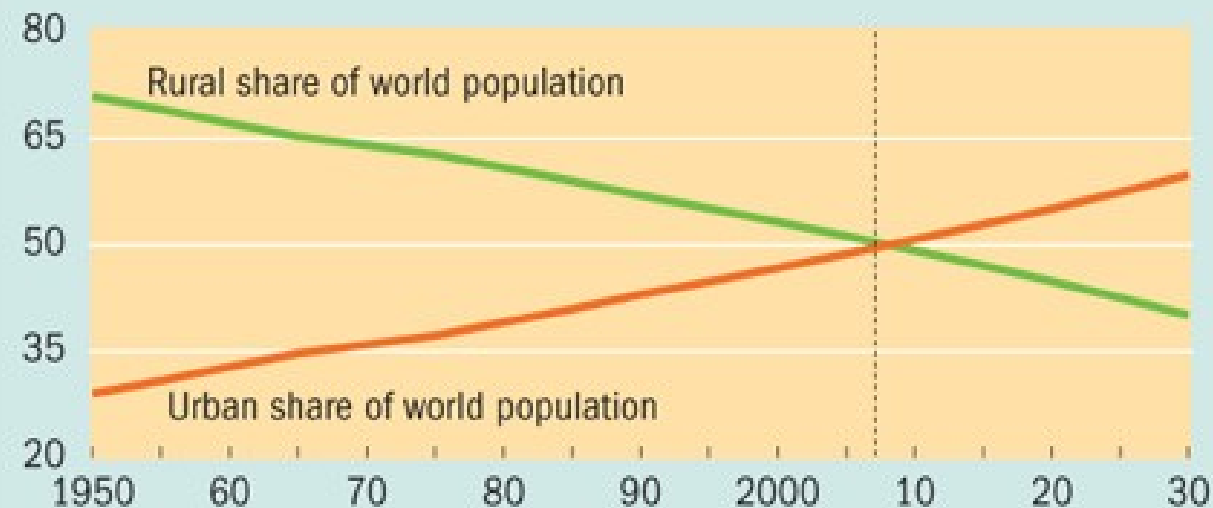
# Urbanization in the Anthropocene

Chart 1

## Tipping the scale

Next year, for the first time in history, more people will be living in urban than in rural areas.

(percent)



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, *World Population Prospects: The 2006 Revision* (2007).



# Urban Ecology in Planning, Architecture, and Design

- ◆ Urban political ecology
- ◆ Urban metabolism
- ◆ Ecological urbanism
- ◆ Landscape urbanism
- ◆ Biophilic design
- ◆ Climate urbanism

Nature in the city ↔ nature for the city ↔ city as nature (“novel ecosystem”)

## **Rise of the Environmental Justice Movement (1980s-present)**

Focus on poor neighborhoods and communities of color, often in urban areas, and their lack of access to nature and exposure to environmental risk.





# LENS Podcast: Heirlooms of Conquest | 2021

## LA Tree Cover:

<https://www.treepeople.org/los-angeles-county-tree-canopy-map-viewer/>



Jenny Price

Environmental historian, urban  
environmental activist (LA River,  
LA Urban Rangers)

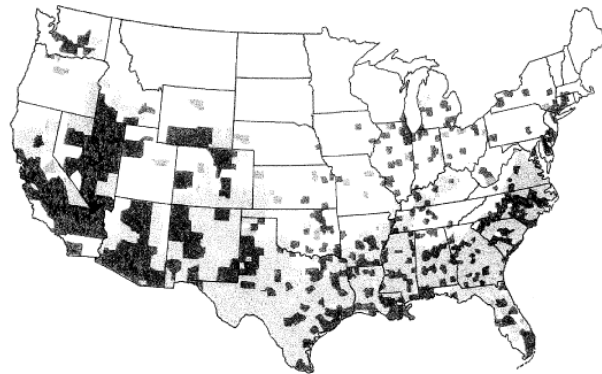


# Environmental Justice in the US

- Movement starts in the 1980s
- 1983 US General Accounting Office's (GAO) *Siting of Hazardous Waste Landfills and their Correlation with Racial and Economic Status of Surrounding Communities*
- 1987: Rev. Benjamin Chavis coins the term "environmental racism"
- 1987: Church of Christ Commission for Racial Justice publishes the report "Toxic Wastes and Race in the United States"
- 1990 Publication of Robert Bullard's *Dumping in Dixie*
- 1991 First People Environmental Justice Leadership Summit: 17 principles of environmental justice
- 1992: Environmental Justice act fails in Congress
- 1992: EPA establishes office on enviro-equity
- 1994: President Clinton issues order to address environmental justice issues in minority and low-income communities

# TOXIC WASTES AND RACE In The United States

**A National Report on the Racial and Socio-Economic  
Characteristics of Communities  
with Hazardous Waste Sites**



COMMISSION FOR RACIAL JUSTICE  
United Church of Christ  
© 1987

Commission for Racial Justice: "Toxic Wastes and Race in the United States" | 1987



# Environmental Justice in the US: A Brief History

- Started in the United States in the 1980s
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The "father of environmental justice"

1990



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