

BRIDGING RESEARCH, POLICY AND ACTIVISM FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IN TIMES OF CRISIS

Keynote

Isabelle Anguelovski: From the urban greening orthodoxy to green justice

Large cities worldwide are increasingly deploying urban greening interventions to address socio-environmental and health challenges and harness widespread benefits for citizens, industries, and investors, while protecting existing urban ecosystems, resources, environmentally- or climate-sensitive areas, and built infrastructure and settlements. Many urban greening interventions are further supported or encouraged by policy and research schemes. While those schemes promote city efforts to experiment with and replicate urban greening in neighborhoods through a city, I argue that few of them begin with an equity lens and include concrete measures for ensuring that greening solutions benefit all residents, and in particular residents and communities who are historically vulnerable to environmental racism and/or displacement. For the most part, there is an implicit assumption of “green” trickle-down effects spreading to benefit all. Thus, even if green practitioners and managers have the best social intentions, the broader urban greening orthodoxy leaves aside important urban tensions, contradictions, and trade-offs between different social groups and their relations to urban greening. I illustrate this argument by quantitatively and qualitatively examining the extent to which urban greening creates equity in accessing the benefits of urban nature projects or, in contrast, perpetuates or produces urban inequities through processes of green privilege and green gentrification. I also examine policy and community responses that can build more just green and healthy cities.

International workshop
on Environmental Justice
27 - 29 May 2020

about our keynote speaker

Isabelle Anguelovski is the Director of the Barcelona Laboratory for Urban Environmental Justice and Sustainability (BCNUEJ) and a Research Professor at the Catalan Institution for Research and Advanced Studies (ICREA). She is also a Senior Researcher and Principal Investigator at the Institute of Environmental Science and Technology (ICTA-UAB) and coordinator of the research group Healthy Cities and Environmental Justice at the Hospital del Mar Medical Research Institute (IMIM) in Barcelona.

Situated at the intersection of urban planning and policy, social inequality and development studies, Isabelle’s research examines the extent to which urban plans and policy decisions contribute to more just, resilient, healthy, and sustainable cities, and how community groups in distressed neighborhoods contest the existence, creation, or exacerbation of environmental inequities as a result of urban (re)development processes and policies. She explores how environmental gentrification processes lead to new forms of locally unwanted land uses (LULUs), how municipalities protect vulnerable communities from climate risks and inequality, and the initiatives and obstacles to transitioning towards a low-carbon economy within European urban regions.

More information about Isabelle:

<https://scholar.google.es/citations?user=VqOEGeQAAAAJ&hl=es&oi=ao>
<http://www.bcnej.org/isabelle-anguelovski-bio/>