

Just Transitions in Practice: Systems Transformations, Movement Motivations, and Concepts of Justice

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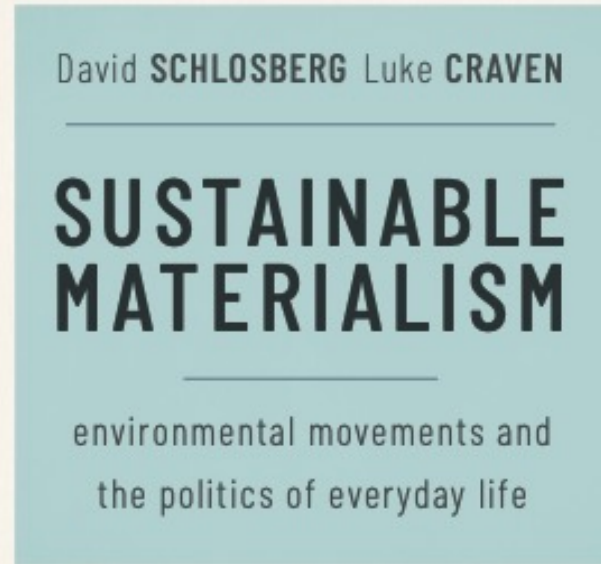
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Intro

- Two main points
 - Conceptions of social and environmental justice in sustainable materialist/system transition movements include:
 - Participation
 - Basic capabilities
 - Responses to power
 - There is a disconnect between these ideas of environmental justice, and more critical and intersectional approaches

Sustainable materialist movements addressed include sustainable food/food justice, renewable community energy, and sustainable fashion



Motivations of Activists

- **The desire to *DO***
 - Material participation, ‘do-activism’
- **The need to *respond to POWER***
 - Removing one’s own body from flows of unsustainable power
- **The desire to *EMBODY SUSTAINABILITY***
 - Rebuilding connections to environmental flows and systems.
- **And the insistence on *ACTING JUSTLY***

Project Method

- How are political concepts understood, used, and applied in social movements?
- What political theory is being made by movements?
- Here, how is justice understood, articulated, and practiced by those at the front of just transition of unsustainable systems?
- How do these notions differ from other theories of environmental justice?

Justice in Sustainable Materialist Movements 1: Political and Material Participation

- Procedural justice
 - Both classic political participation and active material participation
 - Community involvement in decision making AND social inclusion in everyday practice
 - Doing
 - Mix of political and material



Justice in Sustainable Materialist Movements 2: Justice as Capabilities and Functioning

- Key basic needs, processes, and capabilities for individual and community functioning.
 - Health is key: general experience of well-being and flourishing
 - This is desired/produced at both the individual and community level – a healthy and functioning community.
- Community as both an individual-enabling capability and a subject of justice itself

Justice in Sustainable Materialist Movements 3: Justice and Power

- Justice is about circulations of power.
- Removing selves and communities from reproduction of power
- Displace and replace powerful flows
- Physically embody, practice, and replicate alternative and sustainable flows of materials
- Justice as a counter-power, counter-circulation



Critical EJ and Sustainable Materialist Movements

- What is missing?
 - Equity
 - Recognition and race
 - Decolonisation/settler colonialism
- So a disconnect between critical EJ in theory, and the way that more movements are taking up the discourse of EJ in practices of just transition.
- Question: Can we have just transition of material systems without attention to broader oppressions and injustices?

Conclusions

- Three key ideas of justice in sustainable materialist movements focused on transition of systems:
 - Justice as political and material participation
 - Justice as functioning individuals and communities
 - Justice as opposing power
- Final point: How *critical* is the justice of just transition in practice?
 - Environmental justice is part of just transition movements – but is their conception of EJ enough to be productive and transformative?

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