

ECOPOLITICS PODCAST: Additional Pedagogical Resources (Episode 4)

[Episode 4: Environmental Racism & Justice in Canada](#)

Overview: Dr. Andil Gosine (York) and Tzazná Miranda Leal (Justice For Migrant Workers) discuss the ways in which racism is woven throughout Canadian environmental history and its impacts on Canadian environmental policy and research.

Key Takeaways

- Environmental Racism takes place through policy decisions that disadvantage non-white communities (in particular, Indigenous, Black, and People of Colour). More specifically, it looks to understand who bears the cost and benefits of environmental policy and governance decisions.
- Environmental racism and injustice in Canada is often structural and systemic. For instance, it creates uneven access to clean drinking water, unequal protections from COVID-19, and unequal access to meaningful and safe work.
- "In terms of environmental racism, once you start looking at what our three D jobs look like, meaning our dirty, dangerous, and difficult jobs in Ontario or in Canada, you'll see how many of those jobs are actually being carried out by racialized people" (Tzazná Miranda Leal).
- It is important to understand our own positionality in the larger context of social, cultural, economic, and political structures, as this shapes our own eco-worldview.

Discussion Questions

1. How would you characterize the relationship between work (labour) and the environment?
2. What is your positionality and how does that influence your own eco-worldview?
3. Do you think that COVID-19 has made environmental injustices in Canada more visible?
4. What laws and legislation do you think contribute to environmental racism, environmental injustice, and settler-colonialism within Canada?
5. In what ways is environmental racism "structural" or "systemic"?

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Learn more about our Guests

Dr. Andil Gosine

- <https://euc.yorku.ca/faculty-profile/gosine-andil/>
- <https://andilgosine.persona.co/>

Select Publications by Dr. Andill Gosine

- **Gosine, A.** and Teelucksingh, C. (2008) *Environmental Justice and Racism in Canada: An Introduction*. Toronto: Emond Montgomery Publications.

Tzazná Miranda Leal

- <http://www.cueartprojects.ca/tzazn-miranda-leal>

Learn more about Migrant workers & solidarity campaigns:

- Justicia for Migrant Workers <https://www.justicia4migrantworkers.org/>
- Harvesting Freedom <https://harvestingfreedom.org/>
- Migrant Workers Alliance for Change <https://migrantworkersalliance.org/>
- Caregivers Action Centre www.caregiversactioncentre.org
- Coalition for Migrant Worker Rights Canada <http://migrantrights.ca>

Learn more about our Environmental Racism & Settler-Colonialism in Canada

- Faraday, F. (2014). *Profiting from the Precarious: How Recruitment Practices Exploit Migrant Workers*. Summary Report. Metcalf Foundation. <https://metcalfoundation.com/site/uploads/2014/04/Profiting-from-the-Precarious-SummaryReport.pdf>
- Government of Canada. 'Drinking Water Advisories.' n.d. <https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1538160229321/1538160276874>
- N.B Media Co-op. "There's Something in the Water: A Panel on Environmental Racism in Nova Scotia." May 10 2020. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pJrTP7vq8ZE>
- Sharma, N. (2019). "The Political Economy of Belonging: The Differences that Canadian Citizenship and Immigration Policies Make." Chapter 3 in Mark P. Thomas, Leah F. Vosko, Carlo Fanelli and Olena Lyubchenko (eds.) 2019. *Change and Continuity; Canadian Political Economy in the New Millennium*. McGill-Queen's University Press.
- Wiebe, Sarah Marie (2016). "Guardians of the Environment in Canada's Chemical Valley." *Citizenship Studies*. 20 (1): 18-33.