

## ECOPOLITICS PODCAST: Additional Pedagogical Resources (Episode 8)

### Episode 8: Environmental Justice and the Anthropocene

*Overview: In this episode we talk about Indigenous environmental justice with Dr. Kyle Whyte (University of Michigan, and citizen of the Potawatomi Nation). Dr. Whyte explains how indigenous knowledge, identity, and kinship networks can reshape contemporary ecological politics.*

### Key Takeaways

- Global environmental change will contribute to increased migration, disrupting the relations between individuals and the land they currently occupy. Responding to this crisis responsibly (through consent) requires activities and practices that renew relationships in our communities that exist beyond the nuclear family.
- Different political, social, and cultural identities intersect to inform our ecopolitical worldviews. The identities of Indigenous peoples are shaped in the context of both local and global connections.
- Engaging with Indigenous environmental justice requires advocating for justice beyond the environment, removing the distinctions between “health versus environment, or economy versus the environment” that reproduces current power and Settler Colonial ideas (Dr. Whyte, 39:33-40:36).
- Addressing climate change will require “deep change” that includes space for Indigenous self-determination, knowledge, and governance (Dr. Whyte, 37:07-38:10).

### Discussion Questions

1. What is your relationship with the land you live on, and how do you think this is similar or different to Indigenous understandings of the land?
2. How do you understand your responsibility to address environmental injustices within your own community?
3. Dr. Whyte discusses the value of the “kinship network” throughout this episode. Who is in your kinship network? To what extent is this idea reinforced (or not) by dominant economic, political, social, and cultural values today?

## Episode 8: Environmental Justice and the Anthropocene

### Learn more about our Guest

#### Dr. Kyle Whyte

- <https://seas.umich.edu/research/faculty/kyle-whyte>

#### Select articles and videos

- The IEJ Project. "Indigenous Environmental Justice Symposium: **Kyle Whyte**" Youtube. August 13 2016. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZM\\_FpwcRxU0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZM_FpwcRxU0)
- **Whyte, Kyle.** "Critical Investigations of Resilience: A Brief Introduction to Indigenous Environmental Studies & Sciences." *Daedalus (Cambridge, Mass.)* 147, no. 2 (2018): 136–147.
- **Whyte, Kyle.** "Indigenous Climate Change Studies: Indigenizing Futures, Decolonizing the Anthropocene." *English Language Notes*. 55, no. 1-2 (2017): 153–162.
- **Whyte, Kyle.** "Our Ancestors' Dystopia Now: Indigenous Conservation and the Anthropocene." In *The Routledge Companion to the Environmental Humanities*, 222–231. Routledge, 2017.

#### Explore resources mentioned in this episode:

- Canning, Patrick C. "I Could Turn You to Stone: Indigenous Blockades in an Age of Climate Change." *International Indigenous Policy Journal*. 9, no. 3 (2018).
- Indigenous Climate Action <https://www.indigenousclimateaction.com/>
- Keystone XL Pipeline - <https://www.keystonexl.com/>
- Learn more about the Potawatomi and colonial history <https://www.potawatomi.org/blog/2015/03/04/the-1867-potawatomi-treaty-encroachment-in-potawatomi-land-and-the-move-to-indian-territory/>
- Learn more about Citizen Potawatomi <https://www.potawatomi.org/government/>
- Learn more about the United Nations permanent forum on Indigenous Peoples <https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/>

## Episode 8: Environmental Justice and the Anthropocene

### Learn more about Indigenous Resistance in Globally and within Canada

- NFB. “Six Miles Deep” Directed by Sara Roque (2009). Youtube.  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tuK\\_5syA-34](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tuK_5syA-34)
- Idle No More <https://idlenomore.ca/>
- Indigenous Environmental Network <https://www.ienearth.org/>
- Read more about the resistance to the Dakota Access Pipeline  
<https://www.aptnnews.ca/tag/dakota-access-pipeline-limited/>
- Learn more about current events in Canada <https://www.aptnnews.ca/>
- Learn more about Indigenous Environmental Knowledge and Canada’s histories in EcoPolitics Podcast [Episode 1.8: Indigenous Environmental Knowledge and Politics](#)
- Learn more about Treaty Relations within Canada in EcoPolitics Podcast [Episode 1.10: Treaty Relations and Environmental Politics in Canada](#)

### Learn more about Indigenous Environmental Justice and Studies

- Jarratt-Snider, Karen, and Marianne O. Nielsen. *Indigenous Environmental Justice*. Tucson, Arizona: The University of Arizona Press, 2020.
- **Whyte, Kyle.** “Settler Colonialism, Ecology, and Environmental Injustice.” *Environment and Society*. 9, no. 1 (2018): 125–144.
- Gilio-Whitaker, Dina. *As Long as Grass Grows: the Indigenous Fight for Environmental Justice, from Colonization to Standing Rock*. Boston, Massachusetts: Beacon Press, 2019.
- McGregor, Deborah, Jean-Paul Restoule, and Rochelle Johnston. *Indigenous Research: Theories, Practices, and Relationships*. Toronto: Canadian Scholars, 2018.