

ECOPOLITICS PODCAST EPISODE 3.1: WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE AN ECO-CITIZEN? INTRO TO EVERYDAY ECOPOLITICS SEASON THREE. Additional Pedagogical Resources

Episode 3.1: What does it Mean to be an Eco-Citizen? Intro to Everyday Ecopolitics Season Three.

Summary: What is eco-citizenship and what does it entail? These are the overarching questions that guide this episode's discussions with Manvi Bhalla, Graduate Student and Co-Founder of Shake Up The Establishment & missINFORMED, and Kimberly Nicholas, Associate Professor of Sustainability Science at Lund University. From an introduction to intersectionality and its importance in climate justice action, to the Eat Lancet Report's rough guidelines for how to reduce one's carbon footprint, this wide-ranging discussion explores all the facets of what it means to be an eco-citizen, and who bears the most responsibility for taking action to slow climate change.

Key Takeaways

- Part of our role as eco-citizens is to develop our own climate literacy. Climate literacy begins with fundamental facts about the science of the climate situation we face. As Dr. Nicholas summarizes it: “It's warming. It's us. We're sure it's bad. We can fix it.” (Dr. Nicholas 21:45-22:10).
- Addressing climate change will require a recognition that “one epistemological way of knowing” will not hold the solution to climate change. Rather, it will require us to embrace diverse ways of thinking and acting as eco-citizens (Manvi Bhalla, 30:40-30:55).
- Having diverse perspectives in our organizations, in our decision-making spaces, and in our communities will help to ensure our action is open and inclusive to all. It's important for environmental actors to recognize the needs and experiences of different members in our communities, particularly those most marginalized voices.
- Eco-citizenship takes place in a range of skills and actions. For example, you may reduce your consumption, hone your skills in community building, join existing organizations and movements, and work with advocates and activists in your local community. Eco-citizenship starts small and connects to bigger issues.

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Discussion Questions

- How do you define your own eco-citizenship and the work you do everyday (e.g as a consumer, community organizer, citizen)?
- Do you think there is an equal responsibility for eco-citizenship, or do some individuals have more responsibility for their actions today?
- What do you think is the role of intersectional analysis and equity in thinking through everyday ecopolitics at the community, national, and global level?
- Do you actively address climate change through your work, or is this an issue that is addressed through another lens or context (e.g feminist work, food sovereignty, anti-racism or anti-poverty activism)?

Learn more about our Guests

Dr. Kimberly Nicholas

- [Kimberly Nicholas | Lund University Centre for Sustainability Studies](#)

Select articles, books, projects, and videos

- Øredev Conference. “**Kimberly Nicholas** - How we solved climate change: A retrospective from 2050” Vimeo. 2017 <https://vimeo.com/243139925>
- **Nicholas, Kim**. “We Can Fix It World Cafe.” 2018. Accessed November 2021. <https://www.kimnicholas.com/we-can-fix-it-world-cafe.html>
- **Nicholas, Kimberly**. *Under the Sky We Make: How to be a Human in a Warming World*. G.P Putnam’s Sons. New York. 2021.
- Ullström, Sara, Johannes Stripple and **Kimberly Nicholas**. “The Takeoff of Staying on the Ground: Changing personal and political narratives of aviation, climate, and the good life in Sweden.” www.kimnicholas.com/the-takeoff-of-staying-on-the-ground.html

Manvi Bhalla

Select articles, books, projects, and videos

- Learn more about the work Manvi Bhalla’s work at UBC www.manvibhalla.com/
- <https://www.egesta.ubc.ca/research-team/manvi-bhalla/>
- Learn more about Manvi’s work with Shake Up the Establishment <https://www.shakeuptheestab.org/>
- Learn more about Manvi’s work with missINFORMED <https://www.missinformed.ca/>

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Explore resources mentioned in these episodes:

- Learn more about the Youth Climate Strikes: <https://globalclimatestrike.net/>
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). 2018. "Global Warming of 1.5C." Switzerland: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/special-reports/sr15/sr15_spm_final.pdf
- Learn more about the League of Conservation Voters <https://www.lcv.org/>
- United Nations. "The Paris Agreement." Web. <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-paris-agreement>

Learn more about Women in Politics and Climate Policy

- Ergas, Christina, and Richard York. "Women's Status and Carbon Dioxide Emissions: A Quantitative Cross-National Analysis." *Social Science Research* 41, no. 4 (2012): 965–976
- Kwauk, Christina. "Why Captain Planet should have been a woman." *Brookings Institution*. March 28 2019. <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/education-plus-development/2019/03/28/why-captain-planet-should-have-been-a-woman/>
- Mavisakalyan, Astghik, and Yashar Tarverdi. "Gender and Climate Change: Do Female Parliamentarians Make Difference?" *European Journal of Political Economy* 56 (2019): 151–164.
- Norgaard, Kari, and Richard York. "Gender Equality and State Environmentalism." *Gender & Society* 19, no. 4 (2005): 506–522.
- Nugent, Colleen, and John M Shandra. "State Environmental Protection Efforts, Women's Status, and World Polity: A Cross-National Analysis." *Organization & Environment* 22, no. 2 (2009): 208–229.

Learn more about Eco-Citizenship and Democracy

- Adkin, Laurie E. *Environmental Conflict and Democracy in Canada* Vancouver: UBC Press, 2009.
- Cabannes, Yves. "Contributions of Participatory Budgeting to Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation: Current Local Practices Across the World and Lessons from the Field." *Environment and Urbanization* 33, no. 2 (2021): 356–375.
- Devaney, Laura, Pat Brereton, Diarmuid Torney, Martha Coleman, Constantine Boussalis, and Travis G Coan. "Environmental Literacy and Deliberative Democracy: a Content Analysis of Written Submissions to the Irish Citizens' Assembly on Climate Change." *Climatic Change* 162, no. 4 (2020): 1965–1984.
- Makuch, Karen E, and Miriam R Aczel. "Eco-Citizen Science for Social Good: Promoting Child Well-Being, Environmental Justice, and Inclusion." *Research on Social Work Practice* 30, no. 2 (2020): 219–232.
- Wynes, Seth, and **Kimberly A Nicholas**. "The Climate Mitigation Gap: Education and Government Recommendations Miss the Most Effective Individual Actions." *Environmental Research Letters* 12, no. 7 (2017): 74024–.