ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE (EJ)
MASTER OF SCIENCE

EQUITY AND JUSTICE HAVE AN INTEGRAL ROLE IN ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS, YET ARE UNDER-ADDRESSED IN MANY LEGAL, ECONOMIC, AND SOCIAL SYSTEMS

The Environmental Justice program at SEAS is at the forefront of the field's teaching, research, scholarship, and advocacy. By recognizing the interconnectedness of societal and biophysical factors, we advance both sustainability and human rights. SEAS was the first school in the United States to launch an Environmental Justice program that offered undergraduate and graduate degree specializations, and our campus is now home to one of the largest clusters of the field’s faculty and students nationwide.

WHY EJ?

• Examine how and why inequalities arise and are maintained in environmental affairs around the world.
• Understand the mechanisms that give rise to class, gender, racial, and other types of disparities.
• Investigate the causes and consequences of inequitable distributions of environmental benefits and hazards.
• Develop a broad understanding of the historical and contemporary factors that shape the emergence of environmental justice movements across the globe.
• Through the lens of intersectional justice, address global issues like climate vulnerability and adaptation; environmental workforce dynamics; environmental health; energy transitions; agricultural change; food security; forest governance; hazard exposure; community revitalization; conservation and access to natural areas.
• Learn about the relationship between environmental justice and areas of conflict mediation, management of non-governmental organizations, advocacy campaigns, public opinion, and more.

GAME CHANGERS

JULIANA PINO ’15
POLICY DIRECTOR, LITTLE VILLAGE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ORGANIZATION

“Understanding injustice within environmental issues requires the kinds of interdisciplinary approaches represented within our school, and the ability to work side-by-side with faculty on complex and critical issues has been invaluable.”

VITOR LIRA ’16
SENIOR PROJECT ASSOCIATE, CIRCLEPOINT

“Not only did my master’s degree make the difference in the hiring process and my performance at work, the connections I made at Michigan helped me blaze a trail very few people are able to, especially since I am an international student.”

GABRIEL JONES ’17
SENIOR ASSOCIATE, ARABELLA ADVISORS

“SEAS equipped me with research skills and knowledge that I now apply in my role as a trusted advisor to environmental grantmakers. I often employ what I learned from environmental justice courses and my master’s project to inform my approach to designing and implementing strategic grantmaking projects.”

FACULTY

• Bilal Butt
• Rebecca Hardin
• Paul Mohai
• Joshua Newell
• Ivette Perfecto
• Tony Reames
• Samuel Stolper
• Kyle Whyte
MASTER’S PROJECTS
Part of the culminating experience of your program is a master’s project or master’s thesis, where you will work with an external client to solve real-world problems. Recent projects include:

Assessing the State of Environmental Justice in Michigan
(Michigan, USA)
Client: Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition
Advisor: Dr. Paul Mohai

Environmental Justice Organizations, Liabilities, and Trade: Mapping Environmental Justice Project (Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA)
Client: European Commission: Community Research and Development Information Service
Advisors: Dr. Rebecca Hardin, Dr. Paul Mohai

CAREERS
In-house career coaches will provide personal guidance while you are a student and continued support after you graduate.

SEAS SUSTAINABILITY THEMES
Students specializing in Environmental Justice have the option to focus their studies and deepen their knowledge in one or more sustainability theme.

COURSE SAMPLING
• Energy Justice
• Indigenous Sustainability and Environmental Justice
• Food Systems: Implications of Unequal Access
• Poverty, Environment, and Inequality
• Frontiers in Environmental Justice

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