

Review: Global Climate Crisis: Seeking Environmental Justice and Climate Equality

By Hoda Mahmoudi and Kate Seaman (Eds.)

Reviewed by Bishnuprasad Mohapatra
Odisha, India

Mahmoudi, H. & Seaman, K. (Eds.). *Global Climate Crisis: Seeking Environmental Justice and Climate Equality*. UK: Edward Elgar Publishing Limited, 2025. 158 pp. ISBN: 9781035308873. \$36, Cloth Binding.

The growing environmental impact on people, society, and the planet through anthropocentric activities, as well as the ongoing failure of global climate diplomacy, has sparked the emergence of environmental justice and climate equity movements. This book not only highlights the major challenges that our society and planet are going through due to climate change but also discusses and suggests various solutions to the climate crisis from a moral and ethical framework. This edited book consists of seven chapters, which are written from diverse perspectives and provide a comprehensive conceptual, historical, theoretical, and empirical case analysis on the global climate crisis, and suggest how to establish environmental justice and climate equity around the globe.

The book starts with analyzing how historically the human-nature relationship was shaped by the dominant narratives of Western European cultural traditions which are anti-ecological in nature and have created the imbalance and injustice in the present human-environment relationship. Taking the example of growing urban heat islands, Jelks and Gonzalez's chapter discusses the disproportionate negative impact of climate change on the health, economics, and rights of the vulnerable communities. Despite the close association with nature, women and girls are one of the vulnerable groups that are disproportionately affected by climate change and its related policies. Authors further argue that women are a heterogeneous group, and it's time to understand the intersectional awareness and conceptions of equity from the feminist standpoint perspective. To facilitate better climate sustainability, focus must be on identifying and developing intersectional capabilities, consciousness raising, and emphasizing common goals and shared responsibilities for a collective outcome. Further, they have strongly recommended the practice of care ethics from the feminist perspective, where moral decisions, collaboration, and consensus-building play an important role in sustainability. The author emphasized women's participation in environmental policy and practices is crucial in identifying environmental problems, influencing resource allocation, planning and implementation of solutions of climate related problems.

Further, the book argues that the growing disconnection between human and nature has created a collective alienation from nature in urban spaces than in rural areas. This growing disconnection has resulted not only in eco-anxiety but also as a byproduct of the same. The dualistic urban development policies that implement infrastructure and nature as mutually exclusive alternatives are helping worsen the vulnerabilities of the vulnerable groups and social inequalities around the world. The very root of this (policy) failure lies in the methodology, that is, the way we see and do. For this reason, our urban policies need reimagination in the way we see, understand, and engage with nature and climate change. They have suggested integrative approaches with collective actions through a situated ecological framework where policymakers need to focus on the lived space rather than the planned space in the policy for the sustainability of the coexistence of humans and nature.

Going further, Kyle Haines' chapter argues that the challenges like corruption, low state capacity, and rapid urbanization can result in the unrecognition of climate justice campaigns and amplify inequality in society, which makes the struggle for environmental justice more complex. Additionally, lack of access to information, difficulty in identification of allies, lack of meaningful collaboration, and less responsive government are creating hurdles for the global climate justice movements. The environmental and climate justice movements argue for a cross-border collaboration of citizens, groups, and governments; and all need to work together to address the common goals of the global climate crisis.

This book not only challenges and criticizes the modernist approach to understanding human-nature relationships, but also questions the methodological aspects of understanding, analyzing, and implementing climate change issues and policies on the ground. From a postmodern perspective, this book reminds us how the importance of local culture, narratives, knowledge, contexts, and experiences are most of the time excluded from the global discourses of policy and practices on environmental justice. While ensuring environmental justice and climate equity, this volume emphasizes the need not focus only on institutional reform, but to argue also for collaborative actions with moral responsiveness. The authors in this volume have argued for engaging with other cultural narratives that are outside of dominant cultural discourse, the adaptation of localized methods and actions, and have suggested for the investment of resources in the communities, community-engaged participatory research practices, community-based recommendations, and empowering local community knowledge of science. Going further, authors have also argued for the adaptation of situated ecological attention through a multi-stakeholder perspective in climate adaptation policies and practices.

This edited book is interdisciplinary in nature; however, it will help scholars of social sciences, particularly sociology, development studies, and anthropology, who are doing research and teaching on the issues of environment and climate change in society. Besides academics and researchers, the highlighted cases in this volume can be helpful for the development practitioners, policy makers, bureaucrats, non-government organizations, and activists who are working for environmental justice and climate

equity around the world. Particularly, researchers who have a curiosity towards theoretical and qualitative writing can follow the chapters as examples for their write-up.

Bishnuprasad Mohapatra ranabishnuprasad@gmail.com, Lecturer in Sociology,
Malyagiri Mahavidyalaya (Affiliated to Utkal University), Odisha, India.

Electronic Green Journal, Issue 52, ISSN: 1076-7975