

GEOG 468: Environmental Justice in Urban Europe

Fall 2021

Dr. Jon Lepofsky

10:10-11:00am ET, Mondays, Wednesday & Fridays

204 Carolina Hall

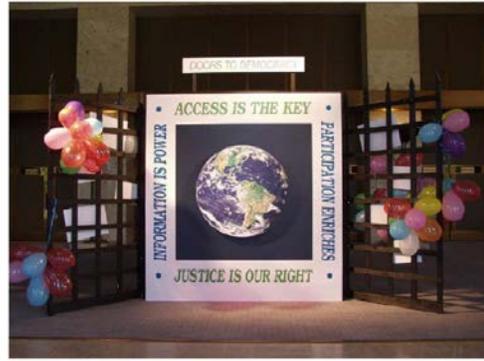


Image sources: [Modelur](#) & [Integrated Environmental Health Impact Assessment System](#)

According to several indices, Europe is home to many of the “greenest” cities in the world.¹ But just because a city is green, that does not mean all people there, nor all parts of the city, benefit from efforts to foster sustainable development. There may be an uneven geography as to which people and places gain from these cities going green. It may even be the case that greening Europe’s cities reproduces social inequities. Furthermore, who decides what counts as “green” may be limited to an elite group or to a limited perspective. These concerns are especially pressing as many European cities serve as models for other places, especially through policy transfers oriented to build resilience in light of global climate change. Therefore, it is imperative to ask: **is environmentally sustainable urban development also socially just in these greenest of urban places?** This course will examine Europe’s greening urban geography through the lens of environmental justice. This course is open to anyone, but is especially relevant to students interested in environmental justice, environmental policy, ethics, Europe, geography, sustainability, and urban planning & policy.

During this course we will be implementing an interactive learning method, Collaborative Online International Learning, or COIL. COIL is an instructional method that involves faculty members and students from two or more countries teaching and learning together using technology as part of regularly scheduled courses at each institution. During this course we will engage in a collaborative project with faculty and students from Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia. Participation in the COIL activities is a required component of this course.

There are no prerequisites for this course.

¹ For example, see [CDP Global](#), the Siemens' Green City Index, and the news article “[Where is the world's greenest city?](#)” from The *Guardian*. Europe’s “green” cities have also been celebrated [in numerous travel blogs](#).