

Human Rights and Campaigns for Environmental Justice

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Intellectual and Conceptual Foundations

“Environmental justice struggles are taking place in both the Global North and Global South. Among the most prominent are the struggles of the indigenous peoples of the Arctic and the Pacific Islands for climate justice, *the resistance of local and indigenous communities against environmentally devastating oil drilling*, and the challenge by transnational agrarian movements (such as La Vía Campesina) to corporate-dominated free trade policies that undermine rural livelihoods, exacerbate poverty and hunger, and degrade the environment” (Gonzalez, 2015).

- Linked with undergraduate honors thesis being completed under the Department of Women's and Gender Studies
 - The transformation from nonviolent to violent forms of women's resistance to oil extraction in the Niger Delta
- Human rights obligations within the Niger Delta
 - Universal Declaration of Human Rights, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
 - Domestic Law, Alien Tots Claim Act (Mmadu, 2013)
 - African Charter on Human and People's Rights, the San Salvador Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights, Arab Charter on Human Rights, ASEAN Declaration on Human Rights



Ed Kashi, Shadows and Light: The Power of Oil in the Niger Delta



Ed Kashi, *Shadows and Light: The Power of Oil in the Niger Delta*

“The language of human rights is morally compelling, and suggests that human rights should, in theory, trump other, less weighty considerations (such as economic efficiency) (Gonzalez, 2015).

“Once human rights are institutionalized in the international human rights system, they become embedded in pre-existing relations of power that generally favor Northern states and transnational corporations” (Gonzalez, 2015).

“Some scholars have questions the utility of the human rights framework given the ‘diminished governance capacity of Third World states, which is the result of years of intervention by international law and international financial institutions” (Simons 2012, Gonzalez 2015).

- Panel discussion including local and potentially international environmental justice activists, as well as experts on the emancipatory potential of environmental human rights
- Does the framework of human rights lend weight to campaigns for EJ?
- Providing an open forum to expand on the existing discourse of engaging a framework of human rights in the push for environmental justice

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