

From Protest to Policy: The Political Evolution of California Environmental Justice Activism, 1980s-2010s

Practice Job Talk by Tracy Perkins



This paper explores tensions between strategies of protest and policy-making in environmental justice activism over time. It traces the history of three decades of environmental justice activism in California, with a focus on the growing engagement with the state through policy advocacy. Perkins places this slow shift in the form of environmental justice activism within the context of the professionalization of the non-profit sector and the shifting racial politics that accompany the continued growth of California's majority people of color population. She uses theories of social movement channeling, color-blind racism and neoliberalism to shed light on the dilemmas faced by contemporary environmental justice advocates in their efforts to build a just, sustainable society.

October 2, 2014
3 - 4:30

UC Santa Cruz
College Eight
Room 301

Tracy Perkins is a Ph.D. Candidate and Teaching Fellow in the Department of Sociology at the University of California, Santa Cruz. She specializes in environmental sociology and social movements and holds a M.S. in Community Development from the University of California, Davis. See more of her work at tracyperkins.org.