



ENGAGING THE WORLD:

Leading the Conversation on Environmental Justice

2021–2022

Our Campus Partners:

Environmental Science and Policy and Schmid College

Escalette Permanent Art Collection

Fish Interfaith Center

Fowler School of Law

Guggenheim Gallery

Strategic Marketing and Communication

Student Community Support and Development

The Rodgers Center for Holocaust Education and Dr. Marilyn Harran

Special thanks to: Dr. Karen Wilkinson and Rev. Reg Lancaster
for their philanthropic support.



CHAPMAN
UNIVERSITY

**Wilkinson College of
Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences**

ENGAGING THE WORLD

Leading the Conversation on Environmental Justice Events

Where Environmentalism and Social Justice Intersect

- Environmental justice explores why and how environmental toxicity and disasters, such as dirty air and water, disproportionately harm already disadvantaged communities.
- Environmental justice explores how marginalized peoples are denied environmental benefits, such as access to parks or land.
- Environmental justice challenges environmentalists to consider race, class, ethnicity, and gender when formulating solutions to 21st century environmental challenges.

Our purpose for this series is to promote informed, sustained, and enriching dialogues through an in-depth exploration of the substantial racial and socioeconomic disparities in exposure to environmental hazards, including hazardous waste sites, active transportation, climate disruption, environmental health, food deserts, access to green space, and energy justice, with a focus on local, low-income communities. The Engaging the World website hosts a podcast series associated with these events, and recordings for many presentations.

<https://www.chapman.edu/wilkinson/about/events/etw-environmental-justice.aspx>

Bringing the Fight for Environmental Justice to Orange County

In 2016, Patricia Flores and Kayla Asato formed the Orange County Environmental Justice Educational Fund (OCEJ) as a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic environmental justice organization. They spoke on their mission to fight for environmental justice by mobilizing and empowering marginalized community members.



Robert D. Bullard

Dr. Robert Bullard, the “father of environmental justice”, addressed the issues of sustainable development, environmental racism, urban land use, industrial facility siting, community reinvestment, housing, transportation, climate justice, disasters, emergency response, and community resilience, smart growth, and regional equity.



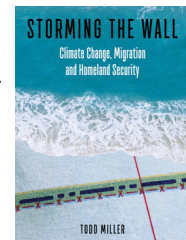
The Agent Orange Curse: Lingering Legacies for Vietnamese and American Innocents

Dr. Larry Berman was a guest of the MA War & Society Program within the Department of History, who spoke of his extensive writings over the years on the Vietnam War and his current research and findings for his future book, *A Slow Walk with Death: The Lingering Legacy of Agent Orange*.



Storming the Wall: Climate Change, Migration, and Homeland Security

Todd Miller, who authored *Storming the Wall*, spoke of his travels around the world to connect the dots between climate ravaged communities, the corporations cashing in on border militarization, and emerging movements for sustainability and environmental justice. In his book he chronicles a growing system of militarized divisions between the rich and the poor, the environmentally secure and the environmentally exposed.



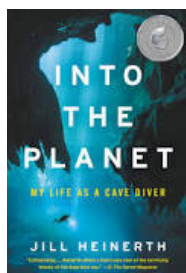
Prayers for Flint: Artist Talk with Karen Hampton

Artist Karen Hampton, an artist of color, talked about her lifelong commitment to creating artwork that responded to the lives of her ancestors. “My lens is anthropology and I study my own genealogy. I travel in my ancestors’ footsteps, I walk the roads where they lived, explored the plantations where they were enslaved, I am the storyteller. As their medium I provide a vehicle for my ancestor’s spirits to transcend history and remain as historical memory. My medium is cloth -- whether digitally printed, hand woven or aged linens -- pieces are imbued with the hopes and visions of African American lives, telling their stories from a maternal perspective.” – Karen Hampton



Into the Planet: My Life as a Cave Diver

Jill Heinerth authored her first book in 2019, *Into the Planet: My Life as a Cave Diver*, which was read and discussed in a book club co-sponsored by Wilkinson College and the City of Orange Public Library.



Bensussen Distinguished Lecture in the Arts: Jill Heinerth, Explorer in Residence, The Royal Canadian Geographical Society

Jill Heinerth shared insights from her most dangerous technical dives deep inside underwater caves, to searching for never-before-seen ecosystems inside giant Antarctic icebergs. Heinerth encouraged the audience to reach beyond their limitations, challenge the unknown, and overcome their fears, while applying her practical experience to share lessons on risk management, discovery learning, failure, and collaboration strategies.



Legacies of Chernobyl and Fukushima

Guests of the Department of History, Dr. Kate Brown and Dr. Aya Kimura discussed the historical reasons for the Chernobyl and the Fukushima Dai'ichi nuclear disasters as well as the ongoing struggles of people living in highly irradiated areas where they both have done extensive research.



Environmental Justice: Engaging the Law

This event featured a roundtable on legal aspects of environmental justice from law faculty and practitioners who discussed their work which ranged from pioneering an EJ comic book to specialized work in Flint, MI, California, and the United States.

Environmental Justice: Making a Difference

Chapman University faculty joined together in a panel to discuss their research in the areas of environmental health and environmental justice from Crean College of Health and Behavioral Sciences, Schmid College of Science and Technology and Wilkinson College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences.

Godzilla and the Imagination of Anxiety, from Hiroshima to COVID-19

Professor Bill Tsutsui, a researcher, writer, and speaker, spoke on Japanese economic and environmental history, Japanese popular culture (especially the Godzilla movies), Japanese-American identity, and issues in higher education.



Environmental Injustice Case Studies Conference

This conference featured students in FFC 100 The Anthropocene: Humans and the Environment and focused on specific cases of environmental injustice, exploring how their cases reflect the intersection of environmentalism and social justice.

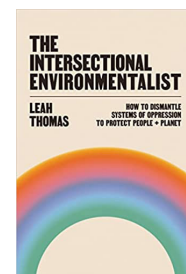
A Fireside Chat with Leah Thomas, Founder of Intersectional Environmentalist

Chapman alumna Leah Thomas, an intersectional environmental educator and eco-communicator based in Southern California, spoke on the intersection of environmentalism, racism, and privilege and acknowledged the fundamental truth that we cannot save the planet without uplifting the voices of its people.



The Intersectional Environmentalist: How to Dismantle Systems of Oppression to Protect People + Planet

The Intersectional Environmentalist, authored by alumna Leah Thomas, was the focus of a book club at the City of Orange Public Library and co-sponsored by Wilkinson College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences.



ENGAGING THE WORLD

Leading the Conversation on Environmental Justice

First-Year Foundation Courses (FFC)

Engaging the World, Wilkinson College's First-Year Foundation program, combines course-work and extra-curricular programming to promote mindful reflection and thoughtful dialogue around critical social issues of our times. The program encourages students to envision the previously unimaginable and bring disparate ideas together in new configurations to cultivate nuanced and informed responses to current social challenges. This core commitment is reflected in all Engaging the World FFC courses, demonstrating the vital importance of the arts, humanities, and social sciences for tackling difficult issues and problems.

Many FFC instructors participated in the Engaging the World Virtual Film Series in which individual FFC courses led a community-wide discussion of a film that explored the significance of environmental justice.



Professors Sally Rubin and David Shafie

Film: *Deep Down*

March 18, 2021

Beverly May and Terry Ratliff grew up like kin on opposite sides of a mountain ridge in eastern Kentucky. Now in their fifties, the two find themselves in the midst of a debate dividing their community and the world: who controls, consumes, and benefits from our planet's shrinking supply of natural resources?

Engaging the World FFC Course Titles:

Anti-Racism: A Continuous Journey

Ecofeminism: Past, Power, Future

Environmental Justice, Latinx Communities, and Farmworkers

Exploring the Escalette Collection of Art: An Experiential Journey

Fallout: Chernobyl-Fukushima

Health Disparities

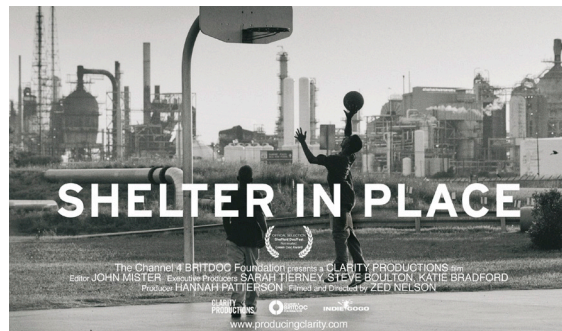
Photography: Staking a Claim

Social Control and Its Discontents

The Anthropocene: Humans and the Environment

Tijuana & the Dream of Environmental Justice

Utopia and Dystopia in Film and Fiction

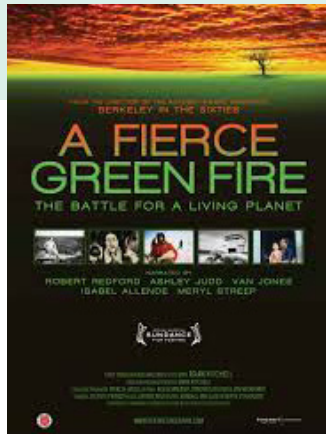


Professor Brian Glaser

Film: *Shelter in Place*

May 6, 2021

Zed Nelson is a renowned London-based photographer and film director whose work has been published and exhibited internationally. Having gained recognition and major awards as a documentary photographer working in some of the most troubled areas of the world, Nelson has increasingly turned his focus on Western society, adopting an increasingly conceptual approach to reflect on contemporary social issues.



**Professors Jan Osborn
and Stephanie Takaragawa**

Film: *A Fierce Green Fire*

August 20, 2021

A Fierce Green Fire is the first big-picture exploration of the environmental movement, spanning 50 years of activism. Chronicling the largest movement of the 20th century, the film tells vivid stories about people fighting – and succeeding – against the odds, from the Grand Canyon to Love Canal, from the oceans to the Amazon. A film by Academy Award-nominee Mark Kitchell and inspired by the book of the same name.



Professor Julie Shafer

FFC 100 Photography: Staking a Claim

Film: *Fractured Land*

October 18, 2021

With some of the world's largest fracking operations on his territory, Caleb Behn, a young indigenous leader and lawyer in British Columbia, struggles to reconcile the teachings of his Dene tribe with the Canadian law intended to protect his ancestral land. His dynamic presence and his ability to straddle these two worlds set him apart as a torchbearer in a worldwide movement of resistance, but the pressures of leadership reveal deep fractures in Behn's identity, and in the life of the communities he represents.



**Professors Jan Osborn and
Stephanie Takaragawa**

**FFC 100 The Anthropocene: Humans and
the Environment**

Film: *District 15*

September 9, 2021

Communities for a Better Environment does critical work on environmental justice and empowers Californian communities to stand up to polluting industries and build a green energy future. This short film highlights the hope and tenacity of the young activists of Wilmington, California as they push the Los Angeles City Council to prohibit new and existing oil and gas drilling operations within 2,500 feet of homes, schools and hospitals.



Professor Samantha Dressel

FFC 100 Social Control and Its Discontents

Film: *Snowpiercer*

November 10, 2021

Seven years after the world has become a frozen wasteland, the remnants of humanity inhabit a perpetually-moving train that circles the globe, where class warfare, social injustice and the politics of survival play out.

ENGAGING THE WORLD

Leading the Conversation on Environmental Justice Art Exhibition

This Land is Your Land

The exhibit, *This Land is Your Land*, is titled after the famous song by Woody Guthrie that has become an anthem to the beauty of America's landscape. The exhibition title was chosen to highlight the irony that the land we are so proud of is also one we alter, unequally share, and sometimes even destroy. The works in this exhibit comment on themes of environmental injustice, such as unequal access to clean water and energy; climate disruption and its impact on human and animal migration; the burden of environmental risk on disadvantaged communities; and the legacy of displacement on indigenous peoples. These artists call us to remember that this land is our land, and we must work together to preserve it.

This Land is Your Land was curated by the students in Professor Fiona Shen's First-Year Foundation course (FFC) "Exploring the Escalette Collection of Art: An Experiential Journey," Cassandra Chan, Chase Coury, Jonathan Hwang, Ashley Kuckler, Isabella Mahar, Sophie Manis, Kate Meisenbach, Megan Petroni, Yandel Salas, Sarah Sanders, Ella Schattenkerk, Natalie Teeter, Ivanna Tjitra, Jessie Willey, Madeline Wysong and Annie Yu.

Support was generously provided by the Ellingson Family, the Phyllis and Ross Escalette Permanent Art Collection, Wilkinson College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, Chapman University's First-Year Foundation Courses, and Chapman University Campus Planning.

Virtual Exhibition: <https://scalar.chapman.edu/scalar/this-land-is-your-land/index>

Physical Exhibition: Roosevelt Hall, First Floor



Ivan Forde, *Morning Raid* (detail), cyanotype and thread, 2017.



Ivan Forde, *Morning Raid*, cyanotype and thread, 2017. Purchased with Funds from the Escalette Permanent Art Collection endowment.



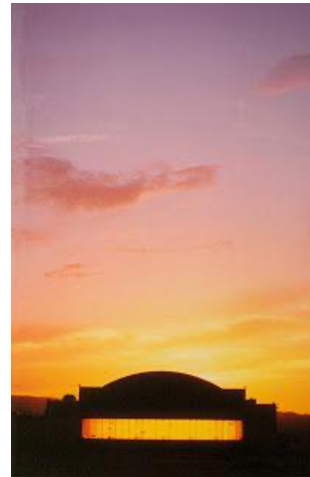
Maya Freelon, *Begin/Again*, spinning tissue ink monoprint, 2018.



Purchased with funds from the Escalette Manuel Mendive, *Unknown*, serigraph, 1995.



Rotimi Fani-Kayode, *In Gods We Trust*, gelatin silver print, c. 1980.
Purchased with funds from the Ellingson Family.



Rotimi Fani-Kayode, *Untitled*, gelatin silver print, 1985.
Purchased with funds from the Ellingson Family.



Mark Bradford, *Untitled*, lithograph, 2003.
Purchased with acquisition funds.



Mark Bradford, *Untitled*, lithograph, 2003.
Purchased with acquisition funds.

Wilkinson College is committed to leading the conversation in our community on issues of humanity, unity and justice. As such, the college has undertaken, semester-long examinations of key societal issues, that began in fall 2020 with The Significance of Race (2020–2021), followed by an exploration of Environmental Justice in 2021-2022. These interdisciplinary, campus-wide conversations promote thoughtful dialogue; mindful reflection; social tolerance; awareness and respect; peace and kindness.