



University
of Victoria

GRADUATE COLLOQUIUM

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

Environmental racism: Decolonial inflections and alternative horizons in Latin America



Dr. Marina Rougeon

Anthropologist, Invited professor

Collective Health Institute, UFBA (Salvador, Brazil)

Monday, November 30th, 2020

11:30 am – 12:30 pm

Online – via Zoom

(zoom meeting link on the website)

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The idea of environmental racism has been gradually gaining visibility on the Brazilian environmental agenda after its emergence in the United States. It is present both in academic narratives and environmental activism, generally associated with the concept of environmental injustice and based on political ecology, which has been occupying a prominent position in Latin American production. I propose to discuss this concept without pretending to be exhaustive, considering its origin, trajectory, uses, controversies, and limits. I make a parallel between the U.S. and Latin America, underlining some common elements but also the differences in terms of posture, especially in the face of colonialism and capitalism. Then my attention is drawn to the Brazilian case, analyzing some peculiarities of the justice-injustice-environmental racism interface. Finally, I will underscore the alternative horizons opened by this issue, based on local life models, ontologies, and cosmologies that increasingly find a prominent place on the environmental agenda, notably discussing the issue of human rights, the rights of nature and territories. In this presentation, the central ideas presented are guided by a critical and decolonial-inspired analysis of the environmental issue.

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