

Special Issue

Social and Environmental Justice in the COVID Era

Message from the Guest Editors

COVID-19 emerged from the encroachment of human activity into habitats of other species, raising critical questions about deforestation, climate change, ecosystem disruption and the impacts of extractivism. COVID-19 also now compels new attention to extreme social and health inequities associated with racial, gender and class injustices globally—both underlying the origin and spread of such pandemics as well as the uneven consequences that ensue. For example, African-Americans have been disproportionately impacted by COVID; lower-income countries in Latin America and Africa, saddled with debt from neoliberal policies, are being devastated from weakened public health infrastructure and insufficient healthcare equipment. So too are those barely sheltered in crowded refugee camps in the Middle East and worldwide, or already suffering from widespread impacts of climate change on the environments they depend upon for their livelihood. Certain occupational groups also deserve special focus—in Spain, more than 25% of COVID-19 cases have occurred in healthcare workers. Moreover, the lockdowns and travel disruptions are themselves having unequal impacts.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Addressing the environmental and public health challenges requires engagement and collaboration among clinicians and public health researchers. Scientific discoveries and advances in this research field play a critical role in providing a rational basis for informed decision-making toward control and prevention of human diseases, especially the illnesses that are induced from environmental exposure to health hazards.

IJERPH provides a forum for discussion of discoveries and knowledge in these multidisciplinary fields. Please consider publishing your research in this high quality peer-reviewed journal.

Editor-in-Chief

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