

Reading group on Fairness, Responsibility, and the Environment

Justin Leroux, HEC Montréal

Description

This 12-hour reading group will expose students to the issue of environmental justice from the point of view of responsibility. Discussions will mainly be based on applications of the liberal egalitarian approach, a theory of justice that focuses on holding agents responsible for characteristics over which they have control (effort, typically) while at the same time protecting agents from the impacts of circumstances for which they are not responsible (luck, talent). An overview of other theories will be given at the end of the seminar.

Students will be evaluated based on in-class presentations, on in-class participation, and on a short in-class examination (1 hour max).

Organisation des séances

- **Session 1 (3 hours):**
The liberal egalitarian approach. Applications in contexts with no externalities.
- **Session 2 (3 hours):**
Applications of the liberal egalitarian approach when externalities are present (pollution, pricing of public services).
- **Session 3 (3 hours):**
Applications to international climate change negotiations.
- **Session 4 (3 hours):**
Overview of other approaches to fairness issues in environmental economics. Short exam.

References

Billette de Villemeur, E. & J. Leroux, "Sharing the cost of global warming" *Scand. J. of Economics* (2011) 113(4), 758–783. DOI: 10.1111/j.1467-9442.2011.01675.x

Bossert, W. "Redistribution mechanisms based on individual characteristics" *Mathematical Social Sciences* (1995) 29:1-17

Bossert, W. & Fleurbaey, "Redistribution and compensation" *M. Soc Choice Welfare* (1996) 13: 343. <https://doi.org/10.1007/BF00179237>

Cappelen, A. and Tungodden, B. (2003), Reward and Responsibility: How Should We Be Affected When Others Change Their Effort?, *Politics, Philosophy and Economics* 2, 191–211.

Tentative syllabus

Cappelen, A. and Tungodden, B. (2007), Local Autonomy and Interregional Equality, *Social Choice and Welfare* 28, 443–460.

Fleurbaey, M. (1995), Equality and Responsibility, *European Economic Review* 39, 683–689.

Fleurbaey, M. (2008), *Fairness, Responsibility and Welfare*, Oxford University Press.

Johansson-Stenman, O. and Konow, J. (2010), Fair Air: Distributive Justice and Environmental Economics, *Environmental and Resource Economics* 46, 147–166.

Roemer, J. E. (1998), *Equality of Opportunity*, Harvard Univ. Press, Cambridge, MA.

Tungodden, B. (2005), Responsibility and Redistribution: The Case of First-Best Taxation, *Social Choice and Welfare* 24, 33–44.