

Kim Fortun: WHY FOCUS ON ENVIRONMENTAL INJUSTICE

00:00:08:13 - 00:01:00:02

Kim Fortun

So I'm often asked why, in my teaching and much of my research, I focus on environmental injustice instead of environmental justice. And in the concept of environmental justice really emerged with the emergence of the environmental justice movement, which emerged or moved into greater public visibility in the 1980s and was just a very important term in the US and global environmental movements to ask to, to to give attention to the way environmental harms were more likely to occur in communities that were otherwise also disadvantaged, because they were poor, because they were, communities of color, because of racism.

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Kim Fortun

And so the way that pollution harms and other environmental harms, kind of concentrated and built like a perfect storm and already disadvantage into communities. And so the term environmental justice really pointed to a future when those inequities weren't reproduced and exacerbated by, pollution.

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Kim Fortun

In order to get to environmental justice, you first need to understand the character of environmental injustice. What's causing it in a particular place? What are the sources not only of pollution, but of the political, inertia that then leads to no attention to that pollution or no health care access for the people subject to pollution. So you need to understand all of the elements of injustice in order to reach for.

00:01:58:10 - 00:02:01:23

Kim Fortun

And I think of chasing environmental justice.