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Identifying and Applying Processes Common to Efforts in Improving the Relationship Between Humans and the Environment

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IDENTIFYING AND APPLYING PROCESSES COMMON TO EFFORTS IN IMPROVING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HUMANS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

by
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ABSTRACT

AVERY THAMES BURNS: Identifying and Applying Processes Common To Efforts In
Improving The Relationship Between Humans And The Environment
(Under the direction of Dr. David Rutherford)

Environmental justice, corporate social responsibility and gendered discourses are
three areas of research and practice in environmental efforts that this thesis research has
found all suffer because they lack recognition of and cause marginalization of specific
groups. This research has created a framework of four processes that help in
understanding these similarities: inequality; disregarding the values and actions of outside
groups; disconnect between stated and actualized values; and insider outsider ideals. By
exploring how these common processes of reasoning operate in each of the three areas,
the research contributes to improving understanding of the areas and increasing their
effectiveness. The overarching purpose of the research is to expand and contribute to
improving the ways that humans interact with the environment.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

This thesis hopes to contribute to improving the ways that humans interact with the environment. This clearly broad ambition could certainly be approached in myriad ways, so this thesis has narrowed the focus to several specific areas that humans have developed for considering this relationship. The first area is environmental justice. It has become a prevalent word in our society today. It affects everyone on some level and it has connections with both humans and the environment. The next area is corporate social responsibility. Corporate social responsibility (CSR) research has grown rapidly over the past decade, and it has become something that shareholders and consumers hold in high value. Nevertheless, many instances exist where environmental damage is done by corporate entities, sometimes even in contradiction to the CSR statements of those entities. The relationship between corporate social responsibility and environmental justice is one that this paper explores. The final area is gendered discourses in relation to the environment and is an area that has not been researched as much as the other two. It is an important component to understanding humanity's relationship with the environment because, in part, it is a connector between environmental justice and corporate social responsibility.

All three of these areas suffer from features of marginalization and lack of recognition and therefore, these are also an important part of this research. They appear in all three areas although in variable forms, and while the forms do vary, they reality of the presence of marginalization and lack of recognition is constant throughout the three areas. One of the ways that humans can better reconcile their relationship with the environment is to address the marginalization and/or lack of recognition that is present.

This research seeks to do this by elaborating four processes that this research found to operate within each of the three areas: these include, inequality; disregarding values and actions of outside groups; the disconnect between stated and actualized values; and insider/outsider ideals. In researching this topic, these processes emerged as common to all three areas. They provide a framework that connects the three areas and shows how they suffer from similar problems. The processes also clearly present how marginalization and lack of recognition are present in many aspects of each area and on top of that each process.

Debates surround the issue of the intrinsic value of the environment or the extent to which the environment is related to human interpretation. This thesis is not going to address those debates. It is going to look at the relationship that human beings have with the environment and how those relationships can be improved.

Initially, this research focused on environmental justice and was going to be another case study exploring the negative impacts that humans are having on the environment. Corporate social responsibility kept appearing in the readings so the research began to morph into a conversation on how corporate social responsibility affects environmental justice. In a similar but less obvious fashion, gendered discourses

also kept emerging in both environmental justice readings and separately in CSR readings, and consequently, it seemed selective to not recognize that trend as something worth noting and exploring.

Environmental justice is widely recognized as a term but may not be as deeply understood as a body of work. Environmental justice will be considered as it developed as an area of literature and how marginalization and lack of recognition have taken root in its continual evolution. Corporate social responsibility (CSR) is an area focused on the social responsibilities of the corporate world. Its strengths and more apparent weaknesses are investigated in this research as related to the environment though examples of failures in which that responsibility is ignored or passed off onto other sources. Gendered discourses in this context specifically refer to how gender enters into conversations about the environment. The conversations about gender related to environmental justice are more frequent than the conversations about gender in corporate social responsibility. Gender is a worthy topic in its own right but it is broad and applies across wide aspects of social relations, and consequently, this research focuses on its role in the discourses that occur related to the environment because it adds an important layer of understanding.

Chapter 2 is a background section that briefly outlines each of the three areas. It includes a brief history on how each is related to the environment and it also brings awareness of the individual issues that each area is addressing in the hopes of raising awareness and developing more of a rapport among people around the origins of the particular issues. This background section contributed to the development of the framework for the processes that connect all three areas and it is important to be able to recognize the foundations of each of the areas without which it is difficult to project

future trends. Chapter 3 describes the research design and explains the methods that were used to create and develop the framework of processes that helps clarify the ways that marginalization and lack of recognition have infiltrated each of the three areas. Chapter 3 makes clear different caveats from each area; it also explains definitions that are crucial to understanding the divisions set forth in this research. Chapter 4 is an account of how each process connects to each area. The processes emerged in an effort to present an easily understood framework able to translate the different areas' issues into a common setting to show that although the context may be different, the struggles involved are in some ways inherently the same. Chapter 5 explores ideas that refer back to policy changes and evaluations. There are changes that can be made to alleviate some of the damage to the relationship between humans and the environment that is being caused. Finally, Chapter 6 explores next steps and helps to advance the conversation on how the recognition of theses issues will be able to further promote change and improve the relationship between humans and the environment.

This research is important because it helps to advance the idea that the environment is not a separate entity that is divorced from humanity. Rather, it is connected to more than what humans generally give it credit. The ability to recognize this connection across more than the obvious boundaries is something to which humans will hopefully be able to resonate with on a more intimate level as a result of this research. The strength of being able to internally acknowledge and externally recognize the apparent connection of the environment across multiple boundaries –its issues and benefits- creates a deeper understanding on a human level of the environment but also of other humans.

CHAPTER 2

BACKGROUND

<u>Environmental Justice</u>

In the past sixty years, while the term environmental justice has become easily recognizable, it has also become increasingly vague. Understanding the background of the term and the multiple facets of its definition give insight into the origin and nature of the relationship between the environment and justice. The way in which the definition of the term we have today evolved changes depending on the area of study and the groups being referenced, and it is important to be able to recognize the background that helps inform how this term applies in different settings.

Environmental justice is a component of environmentalism that "can be understood as a concern for the ecological viability of the entire Earth" (Luke, 2009). The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) uses 'environmental justice' to refer to "fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies." (U.S. EPA, 2010) Over the past decade environmental justice has transcended the boundaries that originally confined it to the social justice sphere during the late 1970's and 1980's and it had not registered on the radar screens of environmental, civil rights, or social justice groups

(Bullard, 1994). The discourse on EJ has expanded to include a spatial expansion "both horizontally into a broader range of issues and vertically into examinations of the truly global nature of environmental injustices" (Schlosberg, 2013).

In the early years of environmental justice "critiques of the limitations of conceiving of environment as wilderness and the 'big outside' were combined with a recognition of the much more broadly defined conception of environment as 'where we live, work, and play'" (Novotny, 2000). This shift was a major part of the growing concern with urban environmental justice in the 1980's. According to Bullard and Johnson (2000), environmental justice has made large strides since its small beginning in 1982 in Warren County, North Carolina, where a PCB landfill started protests that led to multiple arrests. Many environmental academics at the time, and large environmental organizations in the United States, had heretofore missed the importance of defining justice as it related to everyday life. The local communities are the groups that share lived experiences and these shared experiences help define a common sense of place which is important for awareness and activism particularly for environmental grassroots activism and in smaller marginalized communities.

One of the major tenants of initial concern about the environment that really took off in America was focused on advocating to the basic environmental conditions in which people were immersed in their everyday lives (Schlosberg, 2013). Schlosberg, who has worked tirelessly as a proponent in consideration of how we look at justice in the environment, developed three interrelated conceptions of environmental justice as quoted by G. Baxter (2014):

- *Recognition.* Where recognition of, and respect for, various communities,

identities and cultures affected by environmental risk are integral elements of justice.

- *Capabilities.* Where justice is considered in terms of the extent to which environmental policies and decisions restrict or enhance the basic functioning of individuals and communities.

- *Participation and procedural justice.* Where the construction of inclusive, participatory decision-making institutions is at the centre of environmental justice demands; where policymaking procedures institutionalise and encourage active public participation, and recognise local community knowledge (G. Baxter, 2014).

Initially, environmental justice was focused on the injustice and inequality that came from pollution and toxins being deposited into lower income communities. Many of these communities were communities of color, which led to the development of the term environmental racism. "Environmental racism is the racial discrimination in environmental policy-making, policy implementation, and decisions with regard to the siting of risky or controversial facilities" (Mihaylov & Perkins, 2015). In the United States, justice and race have a close-knit history and the area of the environment seemed to be no exception.

All communities are not created equal. Some communities are more equal than others. If a community happens to be poor, working class, or inhabited largely by people of color, it has a good chance of receiving less protection than its affluent or mostly white counterpart. The nation's environmental laws, regulations, and policies are not applied uniformly (B. Baxter, 2000).

When environmental racism seemed to become a reoccurring issue it was then that academia seemed to take hold of the direction, expanding environmental justice into the realms of indigenous rights, labor issues, urban environmental concerns, local food and food justice matters, water quality and the list could go on and on. Environmental justice has become a staple in underprivileged, minority communities; the two have almost come to be interchangeable with each other. "In the United States, early studies linked (hazardous) exposure to such risks and bads to both class and race – it was not only poor communities receiving a range of environmental bads, but communities of color as well" (Schlosberg, 2013).

The redefinition of environmental justice has crossed boundaries. It has also translated from inherent human injustices on an anthropocentric level to the addition a new term, *ecological justice*. B. Baxter (2000) attributes the coining of the term ecological justice to Low and Gleeson (1998), who defined it as the "justice of the relationship between humans and the rest of the natural world." They went onto say "the first principle of ecological justice is that every natural entity is entitled to enjoy the fullness of its own form of life. Non-human nature is entitled to moral consideration." Ecological justice opened up a whole new realm of defending the non-human and caused renewed questions related to defining what is the environment. "The shift suggested here is one from environmental conditions as an example or manifestation of social injustice to one where justice is applied to the treatment of the environment itself" (Schlosberg, 2013). In the transition from solely environmental justice to now ecological justice there has also been a transition from what one person's self-interest can do for the conservation of the environment to what a group of people can do to conquer a broader range of

environmental concerns.

There was rhetoric at the beginning of the broader environmental movement to motivate people to action: "[P]ointing to the harmful and risky side effects of abusing the commons (atmosphere, oceans, etc.) reminds people that it is in their self-interest to avoid dangerous consequences" (Montada & Kals, 2000). This argument is no longer compelling for multiple reasons but one large reason is, for the individual, the benefits of abusing the commons may outweigh the costs. Another concern being that many other people, not the producers of the pollution, actually suffer the adverse effects that the pollution has on the environment. The farther we move away from the beginning of the movement the more the globe seems to be impacted by all facets of environmentalism. "Many followers of ecologism see themselves and their actions advancing the values of justice globalism" (Luke, 2009). As environmental movements have shifted from an anthropocentric framework to a more ecocentric idealism there has also been a change, as we have seen, from the individual's self-interest to a more global phenomenon of equality.

Grassroots networks and social movements are regarded as agents of change that can help respond to environmental degradation both by generating solutions to existing problems and influencing institutions toward more substantive responses. Researchers and NGO's increasingly regard grassroots networks as important agents of innovation and as actors for mobilizing needed resources in support of cultural decisions toward sustainability, as well as reducing the severity of environmental change (Ferguson & Lovell, 2015). Grassroots movements have been a major agent in making environmental

injustices more widely known. Environmental justice without grassroots movements would not be nearly what it is today.

Social justice and nature is a two-way relationship: protecting the environment is a social justice activity because marginalized communities are hit hardest by pollution; promoting social justice through grassroots movements helps the environment because it is the social, economic and power marginalization of communities that opens weak spots in the enforcement of environmental protection (Mihaylov & Perkins, 2015).

In the last few decades, environmental grassroots movements have continued to grow in number and popularity so that today, environmental justice has become intertwined with multiple other actions to advance social justice in the process environmental justice is a term that has become present in daily conversation, to the extent that there is a chance that it does not have the power or agency that it did when it was first used. This ongoing definition has caused the term to be vague but it shares themes that transcend all social justice actions specifically recognition is a "precondition to justice; we talk about rights and justice when we have citizenship (recognition). Schlosberg sees recognition not as formal and given, but as a contested element of environmental justice" (Mihaylov & Perkins, 2015). We have to recognize environmental justice as a viable component for the future of humans in the environment.

Corporate Social Responsibility

The CSR debate really emerged in academic writing in the early 1960's. It began with references to religion and then later to the cultural and political changes that were rapidly developing in the decade of the 60's. As the 1970's came into full swing actual criteria were being developed to measure and articulate CSR in business. By the end of the decade, large-scale developments had been created to measure how CSR would impact and be relevant to businesses around the world. By the time the 1980's came around financial performance had become equated with CSR. CSR became a hotly debated topic in the corporate realm. It began to be used as more of a formula than as an actual means of producing company values. During the 2000's there became a separation between corporations' stated CSR values and the public's belief of what CSR really meant. From that point on, CSR has become a vast field of research. Today, the focus for corporations is to prove to the public that they are actually implementing the statements that comprise their CSR. According to Porter and Kramer (2006) there are four common reasons that companies participate in CSR activities: moral obligation (duty to be good citizens and 'do the right thing'), sustainability (continued ability to operate requires environmental and community stewardship), license to operate (stake- holder approval to conduct business in a community is required), and reputation (CSR initiatives can improve an organization's reputation, leading to improved business conditions). All four of these concepts focus on the tensions between business and societal issues, and so fall more into public relations and less into using CSR to improve organizational performance.

CSR has often been difficult to define, and according to a study of 37 definitions, done by Dahlsrud (2008), societal implications were the most important followed by economic impacts while environmental impacts seemed to be the least important. But nevertheless, CSR is nothing new at a conceptual level because "business has always had social, environmental and economic impacts, been concerned with stakeholders, be they the government, customers or owners, and dealt with regulations." (Dahlsrud as quoted in Foote et. al. 2010). For a variety of reasons, corporations publish non-financial activity reports; these reports communicate a wide variety of non-financial initiatives including everything from economic, technical, environmental, and community outreach programs (Beauchamp & O'Connor, 2012). Consequently, a clear and more appropriate definition is:

> Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is defined as caring for the well-being of others and the environment with the purpose of also creating value for the business. CSR is manifested in the strategies and operating practices that a company develops in operationalizing its relationships with and impacts on the well-being of all of its key stakeholders and the natural environment (Glavas and Keley, 2014).

CSR as a field of research has expanded considerably in recent times. According to Glavas (2016) over half of the peer reviewed articles on CSR have been published in the last decade. Most publications on the topic have happened, specifically, within the last five years. Even now the research on CSR is limited and is only beginning to scratch the surface of the potential information that we can glean from the integrations of CSR and other fields. In line with stakeholder thinking, CSR requires that organizations take

interest in their employees, local community, consumers, investors, and other stakeholders into all accounts. (Lin-Hi et al.,2014)

As we have seen, the environmental (and now the moral, normative) aspect of CSR is undergoing a period of redefinition. Businesses are having trouble implementing their CSR plans. It is coming to be more common that employees and shareholders are valuing more than financial gain in a company. They want to see a company with moral obligations in its own right plus in the community that it surrounds. Since CSR is such a new field of research there is not a lot of information connecting it to other areas of study. Companies should have a normative obligation to help the natural and human environments in which they interact. From a macro or micro level, when corporations invest more in their employees, their employees will return the favor by being more fully present at work. Taking it a step further when an organization is seen as treating others, with respect they will also take better care of the environment (Glavas, 2016).

The purpose of CSR is both to encourage voluntary engagement for society and to also prevent irresponsible behavior of the environment. CSR is also a major component on the impact of a company's trustworthiness. Sabel (1993) defines trust as ''the mutual confidence that no party to an exchange will exploit the other's vulnerability,' in this case the environment. If a company partakes in irresponsible behavior their trustworthiness plummets but if they partake in doing good than they stay at semi-neutral level when it comes to trust. (Lin-Hi et al., 2014) "The positive relationship between CSR performance and trust is supported by several studies (e.g., Homburg et al. 2013; Perrini et al. 2010). The negative effects of CSR performance on trustworthiness have also been empirically validated (e.g., Bell and Main 2011; Leonidou et al. 2013)." (Lin-Hi et al.,2014)

Corporations have to take into consideration the effects of not following through with their proposed initiatives. Many groups have to look at how their companies are now perceived from an environmental standpoint. Reevaluation is becoming a theme in this category because corporations have to look at not only how their employees are responding to CSR but also those whom their company, its employees and its pollution are affecting.

The language that encompasses values in the corporate realm of sustainability is varied and continually developing. CSR is not only a sustainability issues it is also a moral and ethical dilemma. "Ethical values such as compassion, integrity, justice and respect, and ethics-based decision-making, underpin every aspect of sustainability, including several that are not fully encompassed by the traditional threefold definition comprising environmental, social and economic aspects" (Burford et al., 2016). There have been a number of attempts in the recent decade to establish a global ethical framework through the UN or some other global establishment. This type of chatter does show that the ethical side of corporate actions has become an issue that seems really needs to be taken on one way or another. Large organizations and corporations have a pivotal role in setting an example of how to develop different aspects of a sustainable society. Some of the current challenges with CSR include recognizing the legitimacy and credibility of the corporation's ability to fulfill their sustainable values. There are also similar issues with the values lining up to the actions and day-to-day workings of the corporation. "Indeed, while 64% of the 250 largest multinational companies published Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) reports in 2005, the majority of them listed multiple uncoordinated initiatives rather than elucidating a coherent strategy" (Buford et

al., 2016). The future of sustainability related to CSR will only be able to be successful if the companies who are projecting these statements are able to fulfill them with meaningful action.

Two different fields related to CSR seem to emerge when discussing how different organizations deal with values. One field looks at it from an individual perspective. The individual's personal beliefs and values collectively make up how the values of the corporation are reflected. Then there is another field that recognizes the values of the organization as a whole. There seems to be a middle ground though that is not reflected from either of these views. It seems feasible that issues could arise if the individual's values are not reflected in that of the organizational structure. For example, if equality is a value of the company yet the individuals that work for the company do not value equality as a value issues could easily arise creating misunderstandings and differences between employees and executives that could be hard to overcome.

Gendered Discourses

"The lack of women in organizations that arguably have the power to challenge environmental injustice at the national scale reinforces gender inequalities and limits the effectiveness of environmental justice" (Buckingham & Kulcur, 2009). Gendered discourses as a whole are expansive and continually growing. Focus here is specifically on the inequalities between women and men in the realm of the environment. Gendered discourse and its position in environmental issues has been a problem consistently

growing as women continue to gather in grassroots environmental movements. The complexities of social injustice span more than the gender gap.

> The significance of gender for EJ activism, however, has been largely overlooked by geographers. But given the predominance of women in grassroots EJ activism, it is important to examine whether and how gendered forms of social disadvantage shape its course. Doing so will shed light on possibilities for and constraints upon future EJ activism, and may well contribute to a re-theorization of the nature of environmental injustice. (Kurtz, 2007)

Currently, environmental justice activism is constrained by the notions that women are more concerned about their individual families than how their actions in grassroots organization are affecting the broader public community. The argument itself has blurred the boundaries of the private sphere of home, child rearing and the public sphere of government responsibility for public education. In many cases, women are trying to further advance the government responsibility for education of these types of injustices by bringing to light issues that would otherwise go overlooked. These types of interactions recognize, specifically from a woman's point of view, race and income are not the only factors defining inequality.

Kurtz examines how gendered performances of identity shape the practice of grassroots environmental justice activism. 'Judith Butler's (1990) theory of performativity, developed most robustly in relation to gender, foregrounds the way in which social discourses that constitute social norms enable and constrain the social performance of identities in particular ways'. When women act outside of their norms for example, in grassroots EJ movements, the performances of the other characters (men,

government, corporations) are confused and derailed. Women are consistently bound by social expectations based on how they are expected to perform in their given role. The theory of performativity is an interesting way to explore how women can break the gendered hierarchy of their performance in the environmental justice movement. "The concept of performativity plays a critical role highlighting the discursive practices by which the public/private divide is reinforced and reproduced, and rendering cultural resources available to both women EJ activists and those who would marginalize them as 'sedimented forms of gendered practices' (Nash, 2000) that constrain and enable particular social performances" (Kurtz, 2007).

It seems that women are more able and likely to participate in grassroots movements because of the social/private role they play as caregivers for the family. They have time outside of a normal business like setting to gather and converse about the issues that are plaguing the community. Marginalization is a two way street. Women are stuck in caregiver roles performing their job to society but when they are not able to do their jobs as caregivers due to the government failing to do its job as protector; gendered discourse and social roles have to be changed for women to accomplish the initial roles they assumed.

Women's movements develop differently based on the region, social class, race and ethnic background that the women are being developed around. "The construction of viable transnational (women's) movements depends upon the ability to frame women/environment links in ways that resonate sufficiently with grassroots women's groups located in differing social and cultural contexts" (Bretherton, 2003). Bretherton argues that there are four different ways to look at women in relation to the environment:

efficiency arguments, equity arguments, ecofeminist arguments and emancipatory arguments. The efficiency perspective shows women as objects/implementers, rather than formulators, of policies. Women from this perspective are also viewed as a resource to be employed to defend the environment. The equity argument seems to be more promising for women's agency. It seems to be more focused though on women's political, economic and social inequality over the interest of the natural environment. Equity arguments seem to consistently disrupt contemporary dominant norms.

Within the ecofeminist argument, the interest of women and those of the natural environment seem to be the same.

> Central to ecofeminist thought is an identification with the natural world which springs from shared experience of domination and exploitation. Thus, contemporary systems of power and accumulation reflect masculine values, which encourage the separation of nature (feminine) from culture (masculine) and hence permit the treatment of women and the earth to be controlled and exploited (Bretherton, 2003).

Ecofeminism's emphasis on lifestyle fails to provide a simple direction for political action. Also, ecofeminism seems to clearly state men's responsibility for creating solutions to all the environmental problems that they have caused. Ecofeminism's strengths lie in its ability to help women embrace and recognize which elements of their life provide moments of inspiration and hope. Many ecofeminist ideas underlie much of women's environmental activism.

Emancipatory arguments assign insight and responsibility to women. Opposite of ecofeminism, emancipatory arguments focus more on social structure than connection

with nature. "Despite (limited) contemporary renegotiations of gender relations, particularly in Western societies, and considerable variations in patterns of gender relations between and within cultures, women generally remain politically and economically subordinate to men of their own class or ethnic group" (Bretherton, 2003). Since the emancipatory argument challenges dominate norms and values it in principle promises most from women's influence.

Women have struggled all throughout the last century to make significant strides in the workplace. Support for women's employment has grown rapidly and en masse since the 1970's but it seems that towards the mid 1990's this trend began to level off as women were rising in the ranks of corporate America (Pedulla & Thébaud, 2015). Women are faced with many strategic choices on environmental issues as they choose to organize. They can choose to work alongside men in 'mixed environmental movements' or they can organize separately as women. The attraction of mixed movements is the influence and sphere that they are able to effect. The size of the larger organization is able to link the local to the global helping publicize the cause. On the other hand, women seeking the advancement of the radical feminist movement have preferred to organize solely as women. Many radical feminist groups reject working with mainstream, male dominated organizations like the UN. Feminist groups seem to be more sympathetic to outsider grassroots strategies. These divisions are not trivial. The choice of strategy and ideological position are critical points in the cohesiveness in women's movements. Women's potential to influence the norms of the global environmental movement rests on their ability to mobilize a large, but heterogeneous, constituency. Women's movements

should constitute a formidable force of change, given their numbers and fundamental nature of challenge.

Some women's movements have encountered success on a small scale but others have run into problems by emphasizing women/environmental links. For many women, environmental action has been associated with anxiety about family nutrition and health, issues addressed vary considerably according to particular women's circumstances. For example, in southern rural communities many women are concerned about safe, clean drinking water. Where as in northern communities much of the focus is on health promotion, organic food production and sustainability. Such contrasts in culture, lifestyle, and social structure have made it hard for women's movements to develop in a coherent manner.

Gendered discourse issues have also been a consistent issue for women in the grassroots environmental movement. "The lack of women in organizations that arguably have the power to challenge environmental injustice at the national scale reinforces gender inequalities and limits the effectiveness of environmental justice" (Buckingham, 2009). Buckingham makes valid points when she states that the scales of measuring injustice are unequal for women in the first place.

> The scales at which these injustices are manifested are also important consideration. In terms of both impacts and campaigns, the body and the household are key, but often marginalized, sites of environmental injustice, while in terms of campaigns, there is a distinct attenuation of women's presence the further from the grassroots one travels" (2009).

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Women seem to be very mobilized on a local level because they can see they effects the injustices have caused on their homes and families. That creates a sense of community activism but like as Buckingham states the farther removed from the local grassroots level the harder it is for women to participate due to issues like lack of funding for their groups and inability to participate and facilitate in larger discussion because they are not afforded the agency to do so.

For women, the injustices are more on a personal and physical level than on a large community or global scale. The current advertising and marketing of environmental products is directed specifically at women. When the chains of injustice are broken down enough, women's bodies are specifically being tormented by pollution and the effects of harm to the locations in which they raise their children, specifically, low income, minority women of color.

Many environmental groups or nonprofits are staffed in a way that mimics large-scale business, governments and lobbying firms. This means that the gender imbalance from the corporate sector is taking over in the non-profit sector as well. There are however a significant number of women involved in grassroots environmental justice and health campaigning but they are more the ground workers than those in leadership positions. "The national environmental justice (EJ) movement in the USA is partially structured around a gendered division of labor, in which most of the grassroots activist work is done by women, while men are more visible in positions of national leadership (Di Chiro, 1992)." Of the top ten ENGO's in the United Kingdom only one has a female chair of the governing board and all but one have a board that is 60% or more male dominated. (Buckingham & Kulcur, 2009). As mothers are encouraged to make more

environmentally friendly decisions they are burdened by the additional time plus physical and emotional labor of domestic care since the number of women staying home to care for the family still grossly outweighs the number of men. So even if there is a long-term environmental benefit there is a form of injustice where they brunt of the environmentally friendly decisions are made by the mother caregiver of the family.

CHAPTER 3

RESEARCH DESIGN

Underlying premises of this research are that environmental justice is overwhelming, corporate social responsibility has developed a culture of marginalization, and gendered discourses discuss inequality in terms that are broad and misleading. There is not a point where all three of these areas meet but it is possible that each area can mutually inform the others. Each one has multiple lessons about how and why humans relate to the environment in the ways that they do. Our culture has conditioned norms and social expectations that reject equality and promote environmental degradation. These three areas are expansive in their own right but they also can highlight common processes on how each relate to the environment individually and collectively. All operate largely in insolation and there seems to be a lack of information being translated between the three, yet there appear to be similar practices happening in each. Consequently, the purpose of this research is to explore common processes of reasoning within each area to expand and contribute to improving the ways that humans interact with the environment.

The word *area* is being used in this thesis to refer to the scholarly research and empirical investigation on (1) environmental justice, (2) corporate social responsibility and (3) gendered discourses. All three are observable conditions in the real world and for the sake of simplicity and consistency the word area will be used throughout to refer to

the research of each. Each is an area in its own right a place that encompasses a certain body of work. The term area seems to best cover the individual aspects of how humans relate to the environment from each field of research.

All three areas of research (environmental justice, corporate social responsibility and gendered discourses) have norms that have become associated with their individual persona. Persona is an unconventional word for this particular situation, but it applies because a persona is a role or character adopted by an author or actor (Webster's Dictionary). Each area of research has developed a character that has norms that might be translated differently from the research or consistently adopted in one way by the media. As Nelson (1999) argues, "spaces matter for the norms that condition agency. What is culturally available for a given subject 'to do' within a culture has much to do with social expectations regarding performances in particular spaces or places." The way each field is regarded culturally has developed over time; different aspects, identities, and challenges have been attributed to how the areas have developed on a social and intellectual level. Exploration is occurring on how the different persona of each area has developed in this thesis specifically and can be translated from one area to another in the hope that each field can be expanded and solutions can be passed to each successfully. All this in the hope, that humans can better transform their actions into positive environmental treatment. When humans realize that their actions toward each other and the environment can be interchangeable there is a lot of room for social growth and cultural expansion. Our environments inevitably shape the world that we are able to live in.

Environmental justice and corporate social responsibility initially emerged as the first comparison in this research. With respect to the latter, there is a natural avenue for exploration in the events of the corporate sector not respecting the environment, and in this case, not respecting the values of social responsibility they have presented to the world. The research uncovered increasing instances of this misrepresentation in corporate social responsibility (Glavas, 2016) (Buckingham & Kulcur, 2009), and they started to match up with the statistics of environmental injustices (Schlosberg, 2013) (Mihaylov et al., 2015). Additionally as the process continued, gendered discourses kept rising to the surface and seemed to stand out as important components that were not explicitly addressed in the other two areas of research. There had been research done on the overlap in environmental justice and gender issues (Buckingham, Kulcer 2009) (Staeheli, 1996) and then a smaller amount in corporate social responsibility and gender issues (Porter & Kramer, 2012) (Nelson, 1999), but there is no research that effectively combines the three areas and their inherent issues into one work. The combination of these three is a relevant undertaking because it unearths different connections from multiple fields that all eventually connect back to the environment.

While the research in each field is vast and it is unrealistic to think that there is a specific point where all three streams of thought converge, as this research project progressed, the literature revealed different processes that were applicable in all of the areas. The processes that emerged are: inequality; disregarding the values and actions of outside groups; disconnect between stated and actualized values; and insider outsider ideals. The processes, when expanded, present issues that humans are having or causing in each area towards the environment. The processes were found and developed through

an inductive analysis. This research is qualitative and was informed by previous research on the individual topics of environmental justice, corporate social responsibility and gendered discourses. By the process of an ongoing and recursive review of the literature, this research produced a progressive refinement and concretization of the processes that emerged from the inductive analysis.

The term process was chosen to represent these four seeming themes. A process is an action that is occurring and evolving through continuous action (Webster's Dictionary). The evolution of these processes is important to the work as a whole and each process individually. Each process resonates on a singular level within the three different areas of research. The ability to be recognized alone promotes the importance of large-scale recognition but there is also the overarching quality of marginalization that had to occur for each of these processes to be able to thrive in the reality of today.

The bodies of work associated with the three areas are vast and sprawling in their own right but this research is trying to take a different perspective on how the three intertwine within each other, not to explore the many complexities within each. Environmental justice has facets of research that are far reaching into many other fields. There is a lot of literature in the field of environmental justice research on the environmental movements, grassroots growth, environmental racism, and others. Corporate social responsibility, while a relatively new field, has expanded considerably over the past decade. There is a lot of literature relating to whether or not corporations are responsible for the social/moral component of their work. There is also literature relating to whether or not corporate responsibility extends past the economic component of shareholder concern, and especially, into the environment. In regards to gender, the focus

is how gender enters into discourses about the environment. This research is not focused on gender issues broadly nor is it taking an ecofeminist view that develops a feminist approach to human environment interactions. Nevertheless, ecofeminism is one gender based discourse on the environment and is addressed in the research along with other views.

The first step in identifying the possible processes that were present in each area was to explore the background information of each individual area to create a comprehensive picture of how the body of literature for each developed over time. Once the background information was compiled it was helpful to see how different events or developments impacted the train of thought that has developed in the separate bodies of literature today. In the environmental justice background section it was helpful to look at the way specific environmental justice movements developed and exposed multiple aspects that contributed to the processes developed in this research. The separation of environmental justice from ecological justice was also an important component because ecological justice focuses more on the inherent natural environment: "We define ecological justice as the extent to which human activity treats the natural world with respect and dignity to insure the well-being of non-human species, flora, and the physical landscape" (Parris et al., 2014). Environmental justice, on the other hand is more concerned with the actual distribution of environmental burdens across communities. In this research's exploration of the definitions of environmental justice, different components of environmental racism and discrimination were repeatedly found, and lack of recognition emerged as an underlying quality that was repeated over and over in different accounts of injustice.

The corporate social responsibility background began developing through the history of how CSR emerged in the social activist vocabulary. Originally, CSR was developed as a means to explore economic impacts. There became a separation between stated CSR values and what the public believed social responsibility actually meant. The exploration between perceived CSR and the reality of CSR is something that was helpful in defining the processes for this paper. CSR has effects on those inside the company as well as outside. There are different aspects of marginalization and denial from corporations that once recognized could potentially help corporations interact better with not only their employees but also those in the communities around them and eventually the environments they affect.

As a whole, the research on gendered discourses is expansive but the part of it that is directly related to the environment was found to be relatively small. As the research on environmental justice and corporate social responsibility expanded, gendered discourses seemed to fit as a third party that was experiencing some of the same symptoms of growth in the environmental sector as were the other two. These symptoms eventually became the processes of this paper (inequality, a disregard for the values and actions of outside groups, a disconnect between stated and actualized values and finally insider and outsider ideals).

In summary, inductive research of other literature was used to develop the individual background sections of environmental justice, corporate social responsibility and gendered discourses. From this inductive analysis, four processes emerged. These four processes provide insight into the future of humans ability to connect to the environment by pointing out issues like marginalization and lack of recognition that

relate to more than one field of research. A lot of the issues that each area is facing today

are problems that have evolved over time, sometimes in conjunction with one another.

Looking at each area of study individually through the lens of each process it became

easier to discern the relationship between the process and the areas. A summary of the

processes as applied to each area is presented in the following table.

Environmental Justice
Inequality   ▪ Present in most definitions of Environmental Justice as a necessity due to EJ issues mainly effecting lower income, minority groups

Disregarding Outside Groups
    ▪ Outside groups are people who have been marginalized by mainstream society, specifically impoverished lower class minorities and women.
    ▪ These groups of people are taking the brunt of the injustices and environmental degradation that are happening in underprivileged communities.

Disconnect between stated and actualized values   ▪ Different environmental justice movements show considerable variety in stated values, the actualization that injustice continues to occur to humans and the environment many times without reprimand or concern is a massive part of this disconnect.
Insider outsider   ▪ The environment and marginalized communities are both outsiders. The same mentality applies to both; disregard is an anthropocentric means in justifying actions. Shifts to a more ecocentric mindset can hopefully insight changes from the inside (privilege).
Corporate Social Responsibility
Inequality   ▪ The environment is unequally represented in CSR conversations. Corporations do not treat the rest of the humans equally with their own then they are being unequal to society and disregarding the important relationship that all humans have with the environment.
Disregarding Outside Groups   ▪ When corporate entities are disruptive of nature they are disruptive of the environments in which people live.
Disconnect between stated and actualized values   ▪ "There is a major gap between CSR theory and practice. While corporations are forging ahead with CSR, at the same time, they are struggling with implementing CSR" (Glavas, 2016).

Insider outsider
    ▪ Corporations are the inside players and those being affected by their environmental degradation are the outsiders.
    ▪ Corporations (insiders) who are using their influence to enforce the separation between marginalized communities and the mainstream population versus who outsiders are less able to bring down those who inside turn a blind eye to the destruction that is occurring to the people and environments around them

Gendered Discourses
Inequality   ▪ Gendered discourses specifically marginalize women so that they endure unequal treatment in environment.

Disregarding Outside Groups
    ▪ As women try to push back against larger entities (corporations, governments, the private sector) they are disregarded but when they do nothing they are overlooked.
    ▪ As long as women are considered an outside group it is going to be hard to change the way that we, as a society, view environmental degradation.

Disconnect between stated and actualized values   ▪ Women are part of their own individual community based movements but there is a disconnect between the larger movements and their smaller pushes for change. Gendered discourses are recognized as a part of the environmental justice definition in theory but it less recognized in practice.
Insider outsider   ▪ As long as women, particularly women in poverty, are marginalized to the outside of the public sector when they try to speak up about environmental concerns there will continue to be a culture of neglect from their perspective.

CHAPTER 4

PROCESSES OF REASONING

A process is a series of actions that produce something or that lead to a particular result (Webster's Dictionary). This research developed four processes that relate human actions to the environment: inequality; disregarding values and actions of outside groups; a disconnect between stated and actualized values; and insider/outsider ideals. These processes are not all tied together at a nexus but they intersect in various places that provide insight into how human interactions with the environment can be improved. In this chapter, each process will be briefly described and then applied to the three overarching areas of study: environmental justice, corporate social responsibility and gendered discourse.

Inequality is an unfair situation in which some people have more rights or better opportunities than other people (Webster's Dictionary). Inequality presents itself through different avenues. In this section, I will explore how inequality has integrated into that area. Inequality has become a factor in multiple facets of the environmental justice movement and the corporate social responsibility movement. An integral part of gendered discourse, inequality was one reason for the development of the women's movement. When humans are treated unequally that has the ability to translate into the treatment of

the environment. In this exploration, inequality was consistently present in aspects of these three areas of research.

Disregard is defined as: to pay no attention to, treat as unworthy of regard or notice (Webster's Dictionary). The process of disregard came about due to the presence, in each section of research, of groups or areas that were treated as irrelevant by decision makers. There was disregard of the values and actions of outside groups. Disregard is important because for humans and the environment to be harmonious the presence of disregard has to be minimized. Recognition is the opposite of disregard; as communities who have experienced environmental disregard are recognized for their struggle we can create a culture of experience instead of ignorance.

Disconnect is defined as: to separate (something) from something else, to break a connection between two or more things (Webster's Dictionary). In each area there is a theme of separation, a disconnect between stated and actualized values. The environment is separated from justice; corporations are disconnected from their supposed responsibility. Gendered discourses are disconnected from other justice work and many women's environmental grassroots movements are seen as their own sect. Each area is removed from a part of it that seems to be inherent.

Insider and outsider ideals resonate with the "out-of-sight-out-of-mind" sentiment. People who have low engagement in system justification, the outsiders, change environmental justice issues. Those who are complacent with the status quo, the insiders, ignore or are unaware of environmental justice problems. The insiders resist change and the outsiders, those affected by injustice, are the ones who are openly fighting for change. In the same vain, corporations are the inside players and those being affected

by environmental degradation are the outsiders. For gendered discourses, it is helpful to think of the outside of the home as the private sphere and the inside as being the public sphere. Women are the main focus again in this situation. As long as women, particularly women in poverty, are marginalized to the outside of the public sector when they try to speak up about environmental concerns there will continue to be a culture of neglect from their perspective.

With this general understanding of these processes of reasoning the remainder of this chapter will explore them individually by describing their presence in each of the three areas. The goal of this exposition is to describe how each process manifests in a specific manner within the different areas and then again how the areas relate to each other.

Inequality

Environmental justice

The environmental justice movement is based on inequality relating to humans and the natural world. "The Environmental Justice Movement the next wave of environmental activism reflected the realization that humans are indeed part of nature, but there are social differences among them modifying that relationship" (Mihaylov and Perkins (2015). Environmental justice is an area of research that is extensive and inequality is a recognized theme throughout the field. Inequality can also be defined as a process that continues to evolve as the world is changing. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) uses "environmental justice" to refer to "fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income

with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies" (Bell & Ebisu, 2012). The emerging idea of ecological justice is coming to reinforce the idea that humans also treat the natural world as unequal to the areas in which humans live. Ecological justice is defined as the extent to which human activity treats the natural world with respect and dignity to insure the well being of non-human species, flora, and the physical landscape (Parris et al., 2014).

There are a few indicators that have been found to lead some groups to be predisposed to environmental inequalities. "In general, persons with lower-socioeconomic status had higher estimated exposures (to injustice), based on indicators of education, unemployment, poverty, and earnings" (Bell & Ebisu, 2012). There is a consistent process of injustice being more relegated to a group of people or a community than directed at an individual. Mihaylov and Perkins (2015) help with this by defining environmental justice from the perspective of the community. Three equally important components include: equity in the distribution of environmental risk, recognition of the diversity of the participants and experiences in affected communities, and participation in the political processes, which create and manage environmental policy. Environmental injustice is creating inequality in communities across the globe. The way that humans are currently acting in relation to the environment is not sustainable for future generations. This anthropocentric behavior will only last as long as the resources that humans abuse.

Corporate Social Responsibility

Inequality is present in many different facets of the corporate realm. There is inequality present in interactions with shareholders, outsiders and employees of corporations today. "CSR as a form of economic responsibility also includes references

to growth, business expansion and acquisitions across the country or globe as well as increased customer bases, the launch of new products, future research projects, strategic plans for the company, marketing, investments, and new programs." CEO's are not making statements about environmental issues or what/how their company is treating the environment at all, according to this data most of the focus is on economic responses. The majority (87%) of the data analyzed fit within the category defined as economic responsibility (Beauchamp & O'Connor, 2012). If CEO's do make statements about the environment they come second or much later down the line to economics. Inequality in the corporate realm can also be seen as a moral or ethical issue. "Ethical values such as compassion, integrity, justice and respect, and ethics-based decision-making, underpin every aspect of (corporate) sustainability, including several that are not fully encompassed by the traditional threefold definition comprising environmental, social and economic aspects" (Burford et al., 2016).

When corporations choose to value economic growth and activity over protecting humans and in turn the environment. They are slowly eroding the relationship humans and the environment share. Employment is a major component of the human race, large corporations have the chance to set examples for a number of people by showing that sustainability is a viable option. The social aspect of the corporation's responsibility is to be able to protect the humans that it employs and in turn the environments that those people inhabit in their jobs but also in their daily lives. If the corporations do not treat the rest of the humans equally with their own then they are being unequal to society and disregarding the important relationship that all humans have with the environment.

Gendered Discourses

Inequality is a word that has become increasingly associated with gender. The focus here is going to be on how gendered discourses specifically marginalize women so that they endure unequal treatment in environment. In terms of the environment, women, increasingly in underprivileged communities, are taking the on the weight of environmental justice issues. "The national environmental justice (EJ) movement in the USA is partially structured around a gendered division of labor, in which most of the grassroots activist work is done by women, while men are more visible in positions of national leadership (Di Chiro, 1992)." The connection between women and the environment is increasingly made by ecofeminist but typically when there are communities where the environment is being mistreated, women are the humans who are trying to step up and protect their surroundings. There are numerous theories for why this is the case most are centered around a woman's need to nurture the earth. While this is not entirely untrue, many times in these lower income communities women are the caregivers who are recognizing what harm to the environment does to human health. There is definitely an unequal representation of women taking up the slack men leave behind in terms of protecting this earth we have been given. "In part, this neglect of gender is due to the less publicly visible scales at which the consequences of environmental injustice for women, less geographically concentrated than ethnic minorities or people in poverty, are manifested the individual body and the household or family" (Buckingham & Kulcur, 2009).

Women have really begun to speak out against these stereotypes and judgments that have forced them to essentially fight for themselves, health and their children.

Buckingham presents a strong case of the factors that have come together in alignment to marginalize gendered dicourse: lack of visibility of environmental gender injustice; campaigning organizations which are themselves gender blind at best, masculinist, at worst; institutions at a range of scales which are still structured by gender (as well as class and race) inequalities; and an intellectual academy which continues to marginalize the study of gender and women's inequality.

Corporate power structures of the early 20th century have not changed very much even today. The intense economic growth and globalization attitudes of America have been major contributors to women's inequality. As women have become more educated and made massive strides in power there have been large efforts to change these power structures so that women's grassroots movements will stop going unnoticed. Change is accessible. Brulle and Pellow (2006) have begun to examine the idea that inequality should be widened, "Scholars cannot understand and policy makers cannot prevent environmental injustices through a singularly focused framework that emphasizes one form of inequality to the exclusion of others…environmental injustices affect human beings unequally along the lines of race, gender, class and nation." When race, gender, class and nation are combined it is normally minority women in poverty living in less developed countries that are significantly affected by environmental justice issues. This inequality is an injustice and while inequality exists gender will be apart of it.

Disregarding Values and Actions of Outside Groups

Environmental Justice

Outside groups are people who have been marginalized by mainstream society, specifically impoverished lower class minorities and women. These groups of people are taking the brunt of the injustices and environmental degradation that are happening in underprivileged communities. For example this information is coming from an article on socioeconomic levels of what groups of people live next to polluting industries:

> Blacks more than whites more likely to live next to polluting industrial facility, education more than income was a more likely indicator of who lived where. Those without a high school diploma were more likely. Those making less than $15,000 a year were as well. We indeed found that residents of city and suburban areas were significantly more likely than were residents of rural areas to live near a polluting industrial facility. (Mohani et al., 2009)

Environmental racism is another example of how one group of people is discriminated against due to factors that are beyond their control. Environmental racism is the racial discrimination in environmental policy-making, policy implementation, and decisions with regard to the siting of risky or controversial facilities (Mihaylov & Perkins, 2015). When we as a society do not respect the values and rights of an individual or a group of people we are in turn not valuing the environment. Most of those who are not directly affected by some type of environmental disregard live in isolation from the pressing environmental issues. That does not mean those not affected by environmental harm are not a part of the groups causing the environment damage. Today, when environmental movements make it to the national media, which is typically not the case, there has been some type of environmental tragedy like the BP Oil Spill or a pipeline break. We are a society that is not recognizing the disregard with which we treat those in lower classes

and the natural world. "Recognition is a precondition to justice; we talk about rights and justice when we have citizenship (recognition). Schlosberg sees recognition not as formal and given, but as a contested element of environmental justice" (Mihaylov & Perkins, 2015).

Grassroots movements are a huge part of these estranged communities. Interestingly enough of these types of communities are fighting for fair treatment of not only the individuals who live in degradation but also for the environment itself. "A local grassroots group often finds itself in a marginalized position within a network of activist communities, and the main determinant for this is mobility, in turn determined by material and cultural resources, or *freedom to*. Such marginalized position means not having voice in the strategizing, steering, and resource spending of a networked movement, which might mean irrelevant or adverse movement goals and outcomes" (Mihaylov & Perkins, 2015). Recognizing grassroots movements by those who have suffered from disregard is one way we as a society can make progress to value these types of communities.

Corporate Social Responsibility

Corporations have control over a vast domain. They oversee their employees, the environments they inhabit, and the vast landscapes in which their products and manufacturing reach. CSR encompasses more than, simply, the place where the company is located. It is an image that a group produces and then projects to send out into the world; other corporate groups watch, respond, react, and mimic the way large corporations treat CSR. These types of reactions are especially influential as this field continues to grow.

Today, corporate social responsibility has become quite commonplace. Shareholders expect larger corporations to have values statements that help them resonate with the goals of the company. There is a large disconnect between these values and how large corporate entities are treating people of lower classes and minority communities. "Nature cannot be reproduced by humans and changes in it are often irreversible. Fragility and uniqueness are commonly ascribed as characteristics of the natural environment. Then, nature is also a complex system, and even more complex is its relationship with human systems" (Mihaylov & Perkins, 2015). When corporate entities are disruptive of nature they are disruptive of the environments in which people live. That type of disregard takes on a whole new identity when it results in possible environmental disasters or a slow erosion of the environment over a longer period of time.

To focus on an example, pollution is a huge issue in the area of CSR. Pollution is primarily connected with individual short-term profits and societies' long-term adverse effects, whereas environmental protection is linked to personal costs (Baier et al., 2013). DuPont Chemical's CSR statement is this: "We believe in inclusive innovation. This means, we collaborate with customers, suppliers, governments, academic institutions and others to develop innovative solutions for an ample and nutritious food supply; abundant and sustainable energy; and protection for people and the planet."

Since 2001, Rob Bilott, a lawyer from Taft, Stettinius and Hollister, out of Cincinnati, has been speaking with the EPA on taking action against DuPont for the chemicals: perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), which is used in the manufacture of Teflon and other nonstick substances, and the related perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS). "DuPont, despite knowledge that the chemical (POFA) was linked to increased rates of

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cancer and other horrific health conditions in animals and human beings, had dumped mountains of the stuff into the local water supply for decades" (Rich 2016). Horsham, Pennsylvania; Maricopa County, Arizona and three communities in West Virginia: Parkersburg, the site of a Teflon factory that until recently was operated by DuPont; the adjacent town of Vienna; and Martinsburg all were without water until a filtration system was put in place by the EPA to remove the extremely dangerous levels of POFA from the public water supply. The West Virginia National Guard was called to truck in water for these communities. As of October 2015, 3,535 plaintiffs had filed personal-injury lawsuits against DuPont for the adverse health effects of the chemical POFA. Due to Bilott's diligent work the chemical POFA was banned by the EPA but it is still being phased out and replaced with new chemicals that could possibly have the same effects, we just do not know about them yet. DuPont knowingly and willingly contaminated the water supply that caused harm to almost 70,000 people. They claim to value protecting people and the planet but we see here that corporate disregard is a present phenomenon that deserves relevant attention.

In many cases, corporations like DuPont only see the short term affect of getting rid of the pollution or hiding it but they might not see the detrimental effects that it has down the road for ecosystems and communities that are in the path of the long term effects like Parkersburg, West Virginia. According to Montada and Kals (2000), not all members of a society are affected to a similar extent (by pollution) and, often, those who gain advantage by polluting the environment (corporations) are not those who are affected most. The individuals affected by pollution are not being compensated in any form for the value of the land or their health that has been taken away. Montada and Kals

go on to assume that one way to change exploiting and polluting behavior by these large

corporate entities is by evoking a sense of social responsibility, morality and justice.

Pollution is just one of the thousands of examples in which corporations disregard

their values statements to further economic gains. By disregarding these statements as we

have seen their actions lead to extreme disruptions in communities with geographical or

historical distance from the source that are not being compensated in any way for their

losses.

Gendered Discourses

Women's relationship to the environment is a complex issue. Marginalization has

been a huge concern of women as they try to expand their voice on environmental issues.

Women make up the majority of volunteers in grassroots environmental movements; they

are those at the front lines trying to push for equality not only for themselves but also for

the locations in which they reside. "It is in the grassroots level that women's movements

are most vibrant, with women typically involved, not only in lobbying or protests politics,

but in the provision of mutual self-help services from refuges to refuse disposal"

(Bretheron, 2003). In many lower class, lower income areas where different types of

environmental injustices are occurring, women are the ones who are noticing what others

have overlooked. Since women are caregivers they notice when environmental issues turn

into health complications for humans, the environment and even animals.

As women have advanced in the corporate sphere there have been lots of

complaints and countless issues where men's voices have overturned a woman's voice

simply because she is a woman. "Men and women are supposed to behave according to

gender related stereotypes in the workplace. Men are supposed to be: direct and assertive

example assertion, jokes or threats to influence others to complete work. Where women are expected to use appearance, charm and compliments (indirect tactics)" (Alguinis & Henle, 2001). When women have decided to step outside these culturally defined lines of gender roles they have been evaluated negatively. This contributes to the atmosphere of disregard that women are continually overcoming in many situations.

Many of the partners to these types of movements, large corporations and NGO's, operate in a 'top down' rather than bottom up structure. The UN for example has realized that they were a more 'top down' male focused organization. In 2010, they formed United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, that is a woman led organization for the advancement of women all over the world. In these larger organizations, the processes of professionalization and bureaucratization are also characteristics of masculinization, which adds to the male attitude of indifference toward feminine opinion. The ideals, values and appointment of male personnel are all masculinized. Other groups, specifically women's environmental grassroots organizations, have resisted that type of compliance with strictly male leadership.

On the other hand, when these groups become separated with larger movements the risk of marginalization increases greatly (Bretheron, 2003). As women try to push back against larger entities they are disregarded but when they do nothing they are overlooked. There needs to be some way that women can express their concerns about environmental issues without being labeled an ecofeminist, many are simply concerned citizens with an appreciation for things greater than themselves. As long as women are considered an outside group it is going to be hard to change the way that we, as a society, view environmental degradation.

Disconnect Between Stated and Actualized Values

Environmental Justice

There is a lot of talk about the issues that our society is facing today, especially in terms of the environment. A large disconnect is created when problems are constantly voiced but solutions are never presented. New problems are being voiced, situations are becoming dire and there are always new species on the brink of extinction. The language we use to develop the conversations about environmental justice issues is not creating a positive atmosphere. If this type of negative rhetoric is going to continue, solution oriented language needs to become part of the conversation. The problems pile up; apathy presents itself as a more viable solution than working towards a common goal.

Environmental justice issues are not typically exposed by the mainstream media as an area of public concern. Different environmental justice movements show considerable variety in stated values, the actualization that injustice continues to occur to humans and the environment many times without reprimand or concern is a massive part of this disconnect. The sierra club's mission statement is this: To explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth; To practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources; To educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; and to use all lawful means to carry out these objectives. The Sierra Club explicitly states practice along with education and restoration. Greenpeace's statement is a bit more vague: Greenpeace is the leading independent campaigning organization that uses peaceful protest and creative communication to expose global environmental problems and to promote solutions that

are essential to a green and peaceful future. Whether explicit or inferred many

environmental justice movements are not realizing values and injustice continue to occur.

The issues are still occurring as well as the doom and gloom rhetoric as long as these two

continue to co exist change is far from actually existing. Shellenberger and Nordhaus

(2004) propose an interesting theory as far as current environmental politics are

concerned:

> The marriage between vision, values, and policy has proved elusive for
>
> environmentalists. Most environmental leaders, even the most vision-oriented, are
>
> struggling to articulate proposals that have coherence. This is a crisis because
>
> environmentalism will never be able to muster the strength it needs to deal with
>
> the global warming problem (or any problem) as long as it is seen as a "special
>
> interest." And it will continue to be seen as a special interest as long as it
>
> narrowly identifies the problem as "environmental" and the solutions as technical.

Environmental problems need to be a global concern and not a special interest. As

long as justice issues and environmental issues are separated there will be no collective

movement for change. As the chasms of disconnect between reality and solutions grow

farther apart society will continue to separate itself from the actuality of a chance to make

a difference.

Corporate Social Responsibility

"There is a major gap between CSR theory and practice. While corporations are

forging ahead with CSR, at the same time, they are struggling with implementing CSR"

(Glavas, 2016). As corporations are making these value statements they are essentially

making a commitment to whatever they feel responsible: the well being of others, the

environment, value for business, and stakeholders are some of the elements that are consistent to CSR statements. When CEO's were asked what they perceived as their companies CSR most made comments about economic responsibility including references to growth, business expansion and acquisitions across the country or globe as well as increased customer bases, the launch of new products, future research projects, strategic plans for the company, marketing, investments, and new programs. (Beauchamp & O'Connor, 2014). There is a clear disconnect between the values that these corporations are stating and the actions that they condone. The contradictions that these disconnects cause for stakeholders and employees is something that corporations have realized they are going to have to dive into finding solutions.

Coca Cola India had significant issues with pesticides in their drinks in the early 2000's. Their statement relating to water sustainability: "At Coca-Cola, we respect the human and ecological needs for water. As a beverage company, we recognize the indispensable nature of water in advancing healthy ecosystems, communities, business, agriculture and commerce." By 2006 allegations about high levels of pesticides and pollution by discharging wastewater into fields and streams in certain impoverished communities were still ongoing.

In 2006, after almost three years of ongoing allegations, the CSE (an Indian NGO) published its second test on Coca-Cola drinks, also resulting in a high content of pesticide residues (24 times higher than European Union standards). In addition, Coca-Cola was accused of water pollution by discharging wastewater into fields and rivers surrounding Coca-Cola's plants in the same community (Plachimada in Kerala). Groundwater and soil were polluted to an

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extent that Indian public health authorities saw the need to post signs around

wells and hand pumps advising the community that the water was unfit for

human consumption.

After this serious environmental issue Coca-Cola lost a huge portion of consumer trust in

India and in turn abroad. "This highly publicized conflict in India also caught the

attention of consumers in the US. After a series of demonstrations by students who joined

two activist groups in the US, ten American universities temporarily stopped selling

Coca-Cola products at their campus facilities." Coca-Cola at the time denied most of the

allegations that such pollution was actually occurring. It was not until much later around

2012 that Coca-Cola stated in their Water Stewardship and Replenish Report that they

had begun to achieve a balance between groundwater use and beverage production. Since

then Coca-Cola has started many water initiatives in India to try and regain the trust of

the population that they do have a heart for sustainability and not just for profits.

When massive corporations like Coca-Cola make huge environmental decisions

for whole communities and fail to immediately take responsibility it is hard on the

consumer to trust but it also takes the communities that are harmed years to regain safe

groundwater and the health effects of pesticide pollution can be detrimental for life.

Theses are not small issues. When there are statements of responsibility they need to be

followed through with action and not denial.

When ninety-three percent of the world's largest companies formally report on

CSR this is an issue that needs to be taken under serious consideration. (KPMG, 2013)

CSR is not just limited to North America or Western Europe. For example, 69% of

companies in India report on CSR, 64% in Vietnam, 60% in Philippines, and 52% in

Mexico (Grant Thornton, 2013). In fact, as of 2009, more than 15% of the CSR reports in

the world have originated in China (Marquis and Qian, 2014). With this many companies

participating in some form of CSR the growing disconnect between statement and action

is becoming a large credibility obstacle. Especially today when companies have a PR

crisis, for instance BP or Shell, their CSR statements come under serious criticism. Until

there is some clarifying statement that is able to connect CSR as a more unified global

concept there is continually going to be confusion and misperceptions between

stakeholders, employees and firms as to what they are held responsible and if they should

be held responsible.

CSR has become diluted as it has grown from an economic tool to a social

responsibility. "Many terms have been used interchangeably with CSR such as corporate

citizenship, corporate social performance, stakeholder theory, sustainability, and

sustainable development to name a few" (Glavas, 2016). Since the definition process of

CSR is constantly changing it is hard to be consistent with matching up broad statements

and actions of large corporations. That is why these companies need to be able to hold

their employees accountable for their actions in fitting with the company's vision. Until

there is a more direct sense of consistency between statements and actions there will

continue to be confusion and a lack of trust between the public and corporate entities that

claim to be helping the communities that they are causing direct harm.

Gendered Discourses

There has been an interruption of power from the real influencers in the larger

realms of the environmental movements to the smaller grassroots movements that women

seem to inhabit. By focusing on gendered discourses as a component of environmental

injustice we consider the usefulness of concepts of scale and intersectionality as ways of widening consideration of environmental injustice. (Buckingham & Kulcur, 2009). Gender is a component of most any definition of environmental justice. While it is important that gender is recognized as a part of the intersectionality in the environmental justice movements it is also valuable to understand that many women in the smaller scale grassroots movements feel disconnected from the overall environmental justice movement. Women are part of their own individual community based movements but there is a disconnect between the larger movements and their smaller pushes for change. Gendered discourses are recognized as a part of the environmental justice definition in theory but it less recognized in practice.

Place and division of labor are also important contributors to the disconnect seen between the voice of a women and an organization or a man in environmental discourse. Consider the burden placed on todays households to adopt environmental strategies for example, recycling or energy efficiency to 'save the planet,' actions which normally fall to a woman in the household. More recently women have been making great strides in the professional arenas but the place of corporate America still is hesitant to accept women and as a culture corporate America is hesitant to adopt the rhetoric of environmental issues and solutions proposed by a woman. In a different context, women in less developed countries are effectively carrying the weight of the environmental burden. "In most households of sub-Saharan Africa, the burden of water collection rests on women, thereby reducing the amount of time they can spend on other activities" (UN Stats, 2010). Women also spend more time finding fuel and cooking in poorly ventilated areas greatly increasing their chances of getting a respiratory illness.

Environmental factors will continue to disproportionately affect women as long as gender-differentiated roles and expectations in the household, family and community life are maintained. At the same time, the participation of women in environmental decision-making, particularly at a high level, remains limited, thus restricting the integration of women's issues and gender perspectives into policy-making on the environment (UN Stats, 2010).

The more that the disconnect in gender differentiated roles in environmental issues is spoken about the more women will be prompted to speak out against this type of marginalization. The integration of women's issues into concrete policy would be a huge advancement for smaller grassroots movements led by women. Specifically in environmental policy women are trying to effectively propose change that closes the gap between how environmental factors disproportionally affect them over men.

Insider and Outsider Ideals

Environmental Justice

New Environmentalism has reflected the transformation of the environment into a mainstream issue. One goal of the Environmental Justice Movement is to expand these rights to all groups in society, including those with less power and a history of discrimination…Community struggles for healthy environment were justified as a seamless extension of the struggle for rights—this time rights to clean water, air, food (Mihaylov & Perkins, 2015).

Marginalized communities are the ones who are experiencing environmental degradation without a real outlet to change. In this case, marginalized is referring to

communities living below the poverty line, typically communities of ethnicity, and those with a lower degree of education. Progressive environmental reform has made big strides to protecting human health and nature in the last century; but current social inequalities mean that White middle-class citizens are the main group that enjoys these new environmental rights (Mihaylov & Perkins, 2015).

In the true sense of the word outside, many of the communities who lack the agency for change either live outside a large source of pollution or are in a setting where environmental degradation is present. This is problematic because often times there are multiple economic and social barriers to changing the way the environmental issues are impacting the health of the community. "It is a two-way relationship: protecting the environment is a social justice activity because marginalized communities are hit hardest by pollution; promoting social justice helps the environment because it is the social, economic and power marginalization of communities that opens weak spots in the enforcement of environmental protection" (Mihaylov & Perkins, 2015).

The environment is also considered outside the thought of insiders due to the fact that after certain types of ecosystems have been destroyed or degraded they are hard or nearly impossible to rebuild them. The same mentality applies to the environment as it does to marginalized communities; disregard is an anthropocentric means in justifying actions. If insider communities began to shift to a more ecocentric mentality and begin to treat their individual environments with respect, there is a chance that change would be able to occur instead of being forced from an outside source like a grassroots movement. People with high engagement in system justification, who are interested in maintaining the status quo, tend to ignore or deny environmental problems (Feygina et al., 2010).

There is a need for a middle ground. Until denial has turned to acceptance and finally to action there will continue to be a gap in the reality of the outsider.

Corporate Social Responsibility

Corporations are the inside players and those being affected by their environmental degradation are the outsiders. Most of the literature surrounding the 'insider' and 'outsider' dichotomy has been in the economic sector. The 'insiders' are normally people who have a stable and protected form of employment, whereas the 'outsiders' have insecure jobs or no jobs at all. Especially in this corporate section, the economic definition still holds some weight in the transfer to a more environmentally based argument. Corporations who are using their influence to enforce the separation between marginalized communities and the mainstream population, in opposition to their statements of equality and inclusivity are the targets of the idea that when humans are able to respect humans they are able to move towards the idea of valuing the environment. Outsiders are less able to bring down those who inside turn a blind eye to the destruction that is occurring to the people and environments around them. Gouldson (2006) makes an important distinction in how environmental justice advocates react to CSR claims and how the underprivileged might view their claims of "social responsibility,"

> With regard to the procedural dimensions of CSR, proponents of EJ might ask companies about the steps they are taking to ensure that the most deprived and excluded groups have a voice in stakeholder engagement processes. Similarly, with regard to the more substantive aspects of CSR, advocates for EJ might ask companies about the steps they are taking to ensure that the most deprived or

vulnerable communities are not disproportionately affected by their

environmental impacts (Gouldson, 2006)

As CSR continues to develop there are questions on how and if these companies

should be more inclusive. Advocates of CSR and environmental justice propose that

companies should have explicit policies on issues of equality, that these initiatives should

be accompanied by effective corporate governance processes and that they should publish

clear, consistent and comprehensive reports on performance, including on emissions and

outcomes at the site level (Gouldson, 2006).

If there is not this type of consistent advocacy will there be a point at which the

corporate outsider has a vision to make change happen. Many corporations lack

consistency in their CSR reports if they do have them from one location to another. Since

most grassroots movements are on a local, specialized level will the insider/outsider

phenomenon continue because the size of the corporation and reliability of employees

will always vary? Consistency is a key aspect of the relationship between corporations

and communities, until there is a better way to juxtapose the reliability of these

relationships there will be an insider and there will unfortunately be an outsider

Gendered Discourses

For the purposes of gendered discourses, it is helpful to think of the private sphere

as being the outside and the public sphere as being the inside. Women are typically

relegated to the public or inside sphere. The inside domain is mainly left to the world of

men. As women have continued to become more involved in the outside or private realm

specifically in environmental grassroots movements there has been push back. "Equally

important from the standpoint of women's activism, is the recognition that the

construction of a space as public or private may take on different implications for members of various social groups… Marginalized social groups arc likely to be marginalized both in private and in public spaces, although the forms of that marginalization and the ways in which that marginalization operates within those spaces may differ" (Stachcli, 1996). The notion that marginalization can occur in different spaces, inside and outside, is important for women because as different women's groups move from local grassroots activism to possibly a larger scale form of activism there is still the possibility of marginalization regardless of the setting.

Women are typically on the inside environmental movements. Grassroots movements are typically organized and run by women on a local level. However, in larger corporations or ENGO's the leadership is typically male dominated. "On the other hand, the relative exclusion of women from access to economic resources has been offered as an explanation of lower levels of women's participation in public sphere. The theory of biographical availability supposes that women are less available than men to participate in environmental activity outside of the private sphere because of the demands of the household and reduced discretionary resources" (Ferguson & Lovell, 2015). When women do make the leap from the public to private sphere in environmental activity in many cases they care deeply about the topics in which they have spent time engaging. Environmental issues are closely linked with health and since women are mainly in the role of caregiver they tend to recognize when environmental issues are becoming a threat to health. As long as women, particularly women in poverty, are marginalized to the outside of the public sector when they try to speak up about environmental concerns there will continue to be a culture of neglect from their perspective.

CHAPTER 5

Discussion

The four processes discussed earlier point out issues that have developed within each individual area. While the areas all relate to the environment, they differ in various ways, and so too, the processes differ in their manifestation in each area even as they apply to all three. There is a sense of incompleteness without an evident direction of change going forward. There needs to be more research conducted on how improvement can permeate the current situation for each process individually but also for the group as a whole. This chapter focuses on some possible arguments to encourage the development of new ideas and facilitate a discussion. The first two arguments specifically relate to the equity and emancipatory arguments brought forth by Bretherton (2003) in her paper *Movements, Networks, Hierarchies: A Gender Perspective on Global Environmental Governance.* A third argument was developed from Bretherton's framework to tie the equity and emancipatory ideas together. The third argument is acknowledgment.

The combination of these three areas (environmental justice, corporate social responsibility and gendered discourses) being able to resonate as a different, new thought with its own importance is an achievable goal. It is important that these thoughts are able to resonate in a different manner because if they are taken and classified in the same way as they have been before then there has been no leap to a new thought about the connection of the three areas. The recognition of connection is important because it

shows the interconnectedness of the environment to three bodies of thought that seem initially separate.

In the gendered discourse background section, an argument is brought forth by Bretherton (2003) that discussed different advancements in involvement for women that had positive outcomes for the quality of governance that women exercise toward the natural environment. Focusing specifically on Bretherton's equity and emancipatory arguments, acknowledgement is a development of the two. Acknowledgment is defined as: to recognize the rights, authority or status of also to recognize as genuine or valid. The equity argument emanates from a reformist perspective.

Equity arguments have been advanced particularly though women engaging with existing political and economic organizations on either a domestic or international level. The goal of this type of argument is to broaden protection of the individual by state agency. The emancipatory argument is more based on social structure. The case typically being where women have to remain subordinate to men in their own particular class or ethnic group. Bretherton states that this type of argument "helps present the masculinization of contemporary environmentalism while it does not deny men an emancipatory role it also does not deny them responsibility." It has been consistently mentioned that these three areas environmental justice, corporate social responsibility and gendered discourses are suffering from a lack of recognition. Acknowledgement is a feasible middle ground between equity/emancipatory and recognition. Acknowledgement, in this case, would come before recognition because acknowledgement is being used in more of an internal context and recognition is taking on more of an external context. Recognition carries more legitimacy in a public

atmosphere than acknowledgement. Reaching recognition comes through acknowledgement.

The goal is to improve the relationship between humans and the environment. The goal is not to propose big solutions that are as large as the problems we face. Simply acknowledging that the processes of inequality, disregard, disconnect and insider/outsider are occurring is a big step forward whose importance should not be underestimated. A culture of internal acknowledgement is one that could hopefully develop a respect that the issues in these areas are realistic and deserve to be recognized externally by actors other than those directly affected.

Lack of recognition and marginalization have consistently presented themselves in many scenarios explored throughout this research process, and while there is a distinction between the two, both are consistent with inequality. To begin to solve inequality these marginalized humans have to be seen. They have to be acknowledged and then recognized. These problems are fixable. Both lack of recognition and marginalization have plagued the minority communities to accept environmental injustice as their lot, and they have taken up their fair share of space in gendered discourses.

It is fitting that societies' inability to recognize and ability to marginalize have contributed to causing the broader processes discussed in the previous chapter. Lack of recognition and marginalization contribute much to the cause of inequality and disregard. They create disconnects and insider/outsider culture. They are clearly present and generally unrecognized. Naming them -acknowledging- them is an important part of their solution.

Environmental justice would be the most widely recognized out of the three areas. The many grave injustices that have occurred and make it to be a commonly known phrase is concerning. It has also become a cliché. It is widely recognized as an issue but the term itself has become convoluted. Injustice in the environment, in this day in age, is something that most people can acknowledge is occurring but few can say they have experienced on a personal level. Marginalized humans and those who are not recognized lack the power to change the structures in which they reside. Acknowledgement by the rest of the human community that these types of inequalities are occurring is one of the firsts steps to change. If these issues are not given priority then it seems probable that our society will continue down the path of degradation to the physical world and its relationship with the humans in it.

The combination of the issues of environmental justice, corporate social responsibility and gendered discourses is relevant because there is strength in appreciating the theoretical, qualitative aspects of these three areas and identifying the connections that can lead to realistic, comprehensive solutions. Implementing acknowledgement is something that has to be done on a personal level but the conversations around these three areas can become more frequent and open. There is not a particular way to implement conversations but the first step is beginning to have them. The more information that is presented in a way that allows people to empathize with the sentiment is what will have a profound difference on how society views these particular areas. The current is something that is missed in rhetoric today. Current, as in what is happening now, is missed in terms of the solution definitely not as part of the problem. Understanding the complexity between these three areas is an example of how to create

adequate accurate solutions. There has to be an understanding of not only one area but also the areas that dabble in its arena.

In environmental justice it needs to be acknowledged that there are injustices occurring. There has been an overall dismissive attitude toward the failure to use our resources as adequately as we could. A comprehensive picture of where we are right now is one of the best ways to assess how to move forward toward solutions that are less far fetched than population control, reduction of greenhouse gases, a complete move to alternative energy. All are accurate in their portrayal of the current but are not feasible to implement on such a large scale when there are still those who struggle to acknowledge or converse about where we are now.

Corporate social responsibility is a place where acknowledgement is key. Concern needs to be voiced over the chasm that is between stated responsibility and the evident failure to conduct that responsibility. Acknowledging and recognizing that there is disparity between action and reality is at the heart of the corporate social responsibility debate. A possible solution here would be for the corporation to not have the statement of responsibility if they are not going to live up to the values they have set for themselves. While not ideal it would it would at least be consistent. If the corporations are going to keep their statements they need to have a values based system in place to make sure that those statements are more than just economic boosters.

For gendered discourses, women are already involved in environmental change both in economic and political realms, specifically through grassroots movements. Acknowledging that there is already change occurring would be a logical first step. It would also seem easier to accept this transition than to continue to fight to keep women

and their individual and environmental rights out of the conversation. Exclusion can be easily grouped into the family of lack of recognition and marginalization. Recognizing the advances women have made from authority figures in business and the private sector would be beneficial to growth and healing.

Respect. Respect for the environment and the injustices that have occurred. Respect for those corporations who do honor their responsibility and for those who do not to see that they have disrespected specific communities. Respect to women who are entrenched in grassroots environmental work and respect from women to those in leadership who are pushing for environmental reform. Acknowledgement has the power to be the beginning of change.

CHAPTER 6

Conclusion and Recommendations

The environment was at the beginning of the exploration process of this research. A way must exist for humans to better integrate their needs and wants with the environment. By pointing out that there are four processes that are inherently connected across environmental justice, corporate social responsibility and gendered discourses is consistent with the idea that thinking about the environment traverses boundaries. There is strength in knowing the way that areas interact to find solutions to the problems that are exposed in the processes. The processes of inequality, disregarding values and actions of outside groups, disconnect between stated and actualized values and insider/outsider ideals serve as a framework showing the way that problems are able to arise in relation to the environment. The processes expand our understanding of the ways that humans interact with the environment because they are consistently verified through three different areas of study. This research has pointed out that place, privilege and positioning are all vital to the way recognition and marginalization is projected on different groups of people.

This research has established that marginalization was present in each area. Which has to mean that it is likely to be present in more areas, as well. The same conclusion can be reached with lack of recognition. It was present in each area

throughout this research, so it, too, is likely to be present in other areas of research related to the environment.

The three areas explored are connected as a group through their attachment to the environment. It is important to recognize, as we have seen thoughout this thesis, that the environment is essential to each of these areas individually, in pairs, and as a whole. It is inseparable from an exploration from each of their backgrounds. This research is practical because it points out how the disrespect of the environment can lead to the disrespect of humans who live in certain places or are defined by a certain lack of privilege. The social expectation for each of these areas has to change for the subjects in the areas to be able to change their place. This research has a practicality to be able to help those who have recognized that these issues are real achieve validation but then to also present to those who have not achieved that realization understand that marginalization does occur and inequality is plaguing many people around them.

Policy and education changes can be made to alleviate the pain that some of the processes have caused. Creating constructive laws that work with corporations to help create consistency across the state and federal levels. Helping corporations work with the environment instead of against it comes through both education and enforcement. There needs to be more of an open dialogue between corporate power and those creating regulations. The overlap of corporate executives whose hands are in the policy sphere does not leave a lot of room for objectivity. There is an importance of third party opinions like those who come from a nonprofit sphere or advocacy groups to educate younger generations on the value of the environment but also corporation's role in its destruction.

The government can stay uninvolved in environmental issues until disaster occurs like it has for example with large oil spills, or it can make the punishment for corporations who facilitate these disasters stronger and more intensely regulated. Corporations who are going to have CSR statements need to be held accountable by their shareholders and by the correct government institution when their responsibility fails. If the corporation does not want to be held accountable for their lack of stated responsibility the simple solution for them would be to remove any talk of environmental responsibility, sustainability or inclusivity from their mantra. Then the corporation would be able to be recognized for their actual actions and instead of offering a façade of responsibility. While this is not an ideal solution it is a start to the honesty and reality that shareholders and the general public deserve.

Gendered discourse about the environment are something that does not occur frequently enough. The connection between women and their involvement in environmental efforts has been overlooked as something of importance. Particularly, the recognition that there is a relevant connection between environmental grassroots involvement and the expansive area of corporate social responsibility is a conversation worth having. The overall identity of women in the environment has been neglected and imagined through stereotypical qualities.

The ongoing and recursive process employed in this research to progressively concretize the framework has been a useful start for sifting through the data and exploring this topic. A possible limitation of this process is the potential of reifying the terms used in this research. To avoid that danger and advance the research, a recommendation is that future research could develop formal codes through continued

qualitative analysis. Codes include but are not limited to: process codes, activity codes, strategy codes, relationship and social structure codes and preassigned coding schemes (Cresswell, 2009). These codes would be used in order to create systemic rigor within the research.

The three areas discussed in the thesis (environmental justice, corporate social responsibility, and gendered discourses) share intimate struggles. The processes framework that was developed and applied shows the deep connections that humans are dealing with in regards to their public and private relationship with the environment. There is potential for growth in each area in realizing that humans can value the environment. Humans have the power to change the issues that we have created. Recognition can become mainstream. Marginalization can dwindle. Women can expand the realms that value their struggles as legitimate. Pointing out the inadequacies in the system allow for conversations that promote change. For humans to be able to better interact with the environment and in turn themselves the issues have to be brought to the surface, internally acknowledged and then outwardly recognized by society. While the three areas seem outwardly unrelated, they appear to be internally quite connected through the framework processes of inequality, disregarding values and actions of outside groups, the disconnect between stated and actualized values and insider/outsider ideals. Moreover, they are likely connected to more than just the three areas mentioned above. The realization that lack of recognition and marginalization are prevalent allows us to be able to create change.

The hope of this research is that it will affect the ways that people look at the environments that surround them so that environments no longer are just spaces that

people occupy but locations that have inherent connections to multiple other areas that they directly affect, as well as areas that they do not. This research has the potential to change the way that different bodies of research are looked at with respect to how they create images of the environment within other areas of research as well as in their own field. The transformation of norms in humans' individual space through the process of individual acknowledgement can lead to a transmission of those norms to others, furthering the process of recognition that can lead to reduced marginalization.

The environments our society has created condition and condone atmospheres of marginalization and lack of recognition as demonstrated by this research. Part of the solution to create change comes from the ability to recognize the way different people relate to the environment. This research has attempted to shed light on the connections of environmental justice, corporate social responsibility and gendered discourses as relevant. Relevance creates a situation under which theses specific areas and the people in them deserve a voice that warrants change.

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