

## **Environmental justice and citizen intelligences: the renaturalisation of metropolitan river basins - the case of Jacaré River, Niterói, Rio de Janeiro**

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This is a study on the *aménagement* of the urban landscape. The central question of this work is the persistence of existing imbalances in the renaturalisation process of river basins in relation to the perception of the individuals living in these geographical environments. We've been studying the specific case of the Jacaré river basin, located in Niterói, metropolitan region of Rio de Janeiro. This study is part of a broader multidisciplinary research project that has different teams of professionals from Fluminense Federal University and foreign universities during the year 2015. We used the landscape integralisation strategy to give form and content to the renaturalisation river basin in focus, based on the perception of the residents of the neighborhood Jacaré, a corresponding geographical extension to the area of the eponymous river basin. Our aim is to systematize the environmental perceptions of these residents in order to define guidelines for the renaturalisation process of the river basin in which they live. WE mobilize the concepts of etnogeomorphology and etnolandscape in their relationship with the parameters of the territorial justice, more specifically, addressed as environmental justice. Methodologically, citizen intelligences are at the same time, the theoretical resource and the elements of analysis for us employees. So we will: i) raise the theoretical debate about environmental justice, ii) from the empirical study of iii) citizen intelligence based on the environmental awareness of the residents of a metropolitan river basin. In our assessment, this study contributes to the management of more inclusive and democratic urban landscape. We understand the territorial justice from a systemic point of view, since the social rights that it activated should be designed through mutual call between them, that is, as a

social rights system. We also add that the territorial justice is a "federative issue", according GERVAIS-LAMBONY; DUFAUX (2010) as it mobilizes various scientific disciplines and different content ranging, for example, from the global right to a healthy environment and from to the local democratic right to intra-urban mobility and, of course, beyond the civic content of everyday practices and perceptions of citizens. For these authors, the unifying character of the concept of territorial justice is brought out through the "need to mobilize also fully environmental studies", being very close to (we would say, *including*) the notion of environmental justice, pointing out new modes to approach the territory and landscape. As an implementation of the principles of social justice to the territory, we conceived the territorial justice as a social and spatial strategy for the elimination of oppressive spaces. In particular, we define the oppressive spaces as those which prevail, at least, one of the five faces of oppression point out by Iris Marion Young, as the exploitation, marginalization, deficit of power, cultural subjugation and violence (YOUNG, 1988). Thus, territorial justice should lead to the formation of fair territory, that is, those free from oppression mentioned faces. We also agree with Iris Marion Young when she differentiates structural from procedural justice, defining the latter as the social process of the relations between individuals, as is the negotiation between different social groups that appear "fair" decision. We alert that this is not to defend a scientific assumption that the ultimate goal of territorial justice is the establishment of fair, sustainable and stable spatial structures. Therefore, when we use the expression fair territory, we refer to a process rather than to a structurally consummate space or a social space guided by idealization of an abstract model of figure territorial effect. We reinforce the concept of territory as a system, designed from the procedural justice. Also, we defend the idea of the inevitable relation between the mobilization of citizen intelligences, as proposed by Majo Hansotte with the promotion of environmental justice. These citizen intelligences work with complementary logical that include consensus, dissension, the resumption and confrontation - in order to fight against oppression. As a process full of gains and epistemic losses, environmental justice, since the 1980s, must be understood more precisely as "the set of principles that ensure that no group of people, whether ethnic, racial or class groups, support a portion disproportionate degradation of public space



"(ACSELRAD et al., 2004). The epistemic expansion of this notion of justice coupled to landscape management is the raison of our scientific effort.