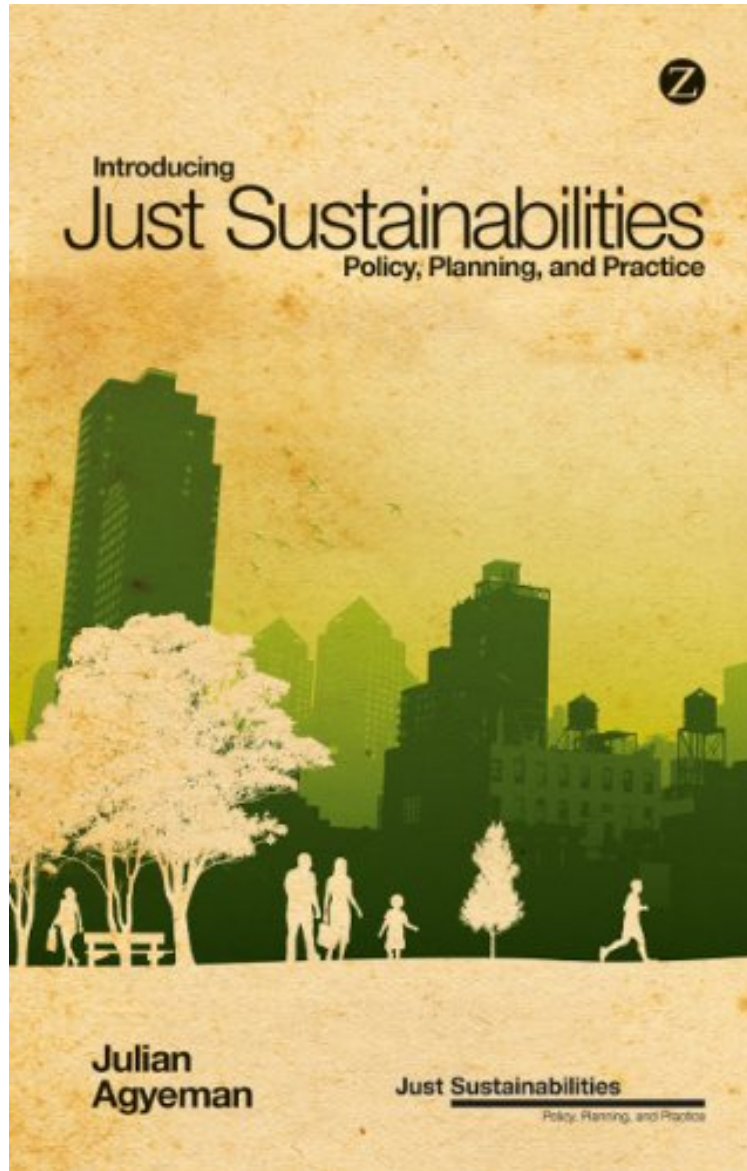


[E-BOOK] Introducing Just Sustainabilities: Policy, Planning, and Practice

# Introducing Just Sustainabilities: Policy, Planning, and Practice

*Julian Agyeman*

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**Julian Agyeman : Introducing Just Sustainabilities: Policy, Planning, and Practice** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Introducing Just Sustainabilities: Policy, Planning, and Practice:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Excellent timing and treatment of an important subject By Hugh Joseph Good timing for Julian Agyeman's recent book, Introducing Just Sustainabilities. How to address inequality has always been the elephant in the room in international development, but recently this has come to the

policy forefront in the United States as the divide between the very wealthy and the rest of the population has ballooned to record proportions and now has the focus of Congress and the President, and the progressive media. The book starts with a well-thought-out essay on a topic Agyeman has been writing about for over a decade, and constitutes an elaboration on earlier works that results in a well-considered treatment of the issues. He sets out by referencing *Our Common Future* - more commonly known as the Brundtland Commission Report - issued over a quarter century ago. Its main contribution is on integration of environmental principles to economic and social development, but the notion of intergenerational equity is also a fundamental element. Social and economic justice are fundamental elements of the notion of great equity, but as "sustainability" as a concept has evolved in policy and practice, this leg of the stool seems to have gotten shorter. As a result, the environmental justice discourse, including food justice, has become somewhat separated from the core framework of sustainability, building almost in parallel. What Agyeman does is put justice issues right back on the sustainability table, with statements such as: "Similarly, the environmental movement with its dominant "green" or environmental sustainability discourse does not include strategies for dealing with current or intra-generational inequalities and injustice issues within its analysis or theory of change". The narrative's strength includes making the case for just sustainabilities from both theoretical and applied perspectives. He explains human needs and values scales developed by Max-Neef, S.H. Schwartz, and others that argue for a much broader approach to meeting human needs than simply the consumptionist paradigm that pervades the globe today, including a lot of sustainable development policy. In that context, he argues for a reconsideration of what justice means along broader dimensions of human welfare. Where I also find real substance is in Agyeman's smooth weaving between the issues at the global scale and the local. On the subject of food (which is my area), he discusses how overconsumption and waste are salient features of the global food supply, as is widespread hunger and malnutrition. In context, we are at a juncture where the human material footprint exceeds the earth's carrying capacity, something needs to give in the inequalities of access to material resources in order to address the problems of hunger and other basic human needs for all the world's population, and not just the privileged. To that end, as discussed above, he focuses on also addressing other vital dimensions of human existence that sustainable development in particular hasn't adequately addressed. Agyeman then takes on local food systems (LFS), reviewing the limitations of this paradigm from a food justice perspective. He reviews critiques of localism and then incorporates his own perspective by asking "when, if ever, is the localization of food production and consumption an appropriate means for achieving social justice within food systems?" He then follows with chapters on space and place, and then on culture more broadly. In summary, this book does a fine job of capturing the essence of the multiple dimensions of environmental justice and argues for its rightful elevation and greater prominence within the sustainability discourse. It has the style and depth suited to use in college classrooms as well as for a broader public, and in particular should be read by policy-makers and planners both here and abroad. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Book By Dean Saitta Julian Agyeman does a masterful job synthesizing recent literature and case studies that relate to key themes in urban sustainability, including Food, Space and Place, and Culture. Any reader with even a casual interest in the city will be richly rewarded. There's lots to think about if we want to build cities that are culturally-inclusive and sustainable in the most comprehensive sense of that term. Julian Agyeman brings great passion, intelligence, and imagination to the task, and nicely primes the pump for the rest of us. For a more extensive review of the book, see [...]

This unique and insightful text offers an exploration of the origins and subsequent development of the concept of just sustainability. Introducing *Just Sustainabilities* discusses key topics, such as food justice, sovereignty and urban agriculture; community, space, place(making) and spatial justice; the democratization of our streets and public spaces; how to create culturally inclusive spaces; intercultural cities and social inclusion; green-collar jobs and the just transition; and alternative economic models, such as co-production. With a specific focus on solutions-oriented policy and planning initiatives that specifically address issues of equity and justice within the context of developing sustainable communities, this is the essential introduction to just sustainabilities.

"In this beautifully written book, Julian Agyeman builds on his groundbreaking concept of just sustainabilities to include an exploration of how food, space, place, and culture shape our capacities to imagine and pursue a world of possibilities. From Bogota to Boston, he always asks the right questions and makes sure to consider the real world applications and implications of just sustainability. Agyeman also offers a bold and refreshing critique of reformist approaches to sustainability and social change. He presents a clear agenda for policy, planning, and practical pathways to co-produce societies in which we all are recognized and respected."