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## **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND ECONOMIC DEGROWTH:**

### **AN ALLIANCE BETWEEN TWO MOVEMENTS**

The flows of energy and materials in the world economy have never been so large as today. This article argues that this increased social metabolism is causing more and more conflicts on resource extraction and waste disposal. This gives rise to a movement for environmental justice around the world. The words “environmental justice” were first used in the United States in the early 1980s for local complaints against “environmental racism”, i.e. the disproportionate pollution burdens in areas primarily inhabited by disadvantaged ethnic groups but the term is now applied to spontaneous movements and EJOs anywhere in the world (and to the networks or coalitions they form across borders), resisting extractive industries and complaining against pollution and climate change. Environmental justice is about intragenerational distribution, not forgetting intergenerational distribution. It includes non-distributional dimensions of justice such as recognition (Schlosberg, 2007) and also avoidance of participatory exclusions (Agarwal, 2001).

The EJOs (environmental justice organizations) are potential allies of the environmental groups in rich countries which criticize the obsession for GDP growth. These groups form the Degrowth movement (Latouche, 2006), one of whose origins lies in the field of ecological economics.