

The background of the entire page is a teal color. Overlaid on this background are dark, silhouetted branches of a thorny plant, possibly a rose, with several sharp thorns pointing in various directions. The branches and leaves are scattered across the frame, creating a complex, organic pattern.

# The Promise of Multispecies Justice

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editors

The Promise of  
Multispecies Justice

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## Glossary

### Species of Justice

Sophie Chao and Eben Kirksey

**Carceral justice** involves imprisonment. This form of retributive justice entails punishing people for violating the law. Multispecies justice does not involve carceral justice but is instead allied with the prison abolition movement that envisions a world without cages or chains (see Lara).<sup>1</sup>

**Climate justice** foregrounds the disproportionately severe social, economic, health, and intergenerational impacts of climate change on vulnerable human groups. Advocates for climate justice suggest that functioning environments are a necessary condition for the fulfilment of other, intersectional justices—like environmental justice, social justice, and racial justice (see Introduction).<sup>2</sup>

**Competitive justice** highlights the conflicts among different ideals about justice that proliferate within the political asymmetries, contestations, and forms of resistance that accompany the entanglement of species. By identifying conflicts between wildlife management and human flourishing, as well

Line 1 as forms of discrimination within the category of the human itself, identify-  
Line 2 ing competition in the field of justice might help produce future coalitions  
Line 3 within terrains marked by power differentials (see Paredes).<sup>3</sup>

Line 4 **Distributive justice** is classically concerned with the distribution of benefits  
Line 5 and burdens within society. Some approach this model with strict egalitar-  
Line 6 ian principles, while others attend to how context governs the distribution  
Line 7 of wealth and welfare. Emerging theories of bioproportionality expand the  
Line 8 subjects of distributive justice beyond the human to effect an equitable par-  
Line 9 titioning of planetary resources across different species (see introduction).<sup>4</sup>

Line 10  
Line 11 **Ecological justice** calls for recognition of other species as legitimate bearers  
Line 12 of rights and recipients of resources. It seeks to develop institutional arrange-  
Line 13 ments that can accommodate the claims and affordances of diverse creatures  
Line 14 within its decision-making processes.<sup>5</sup>

Line 15 **Environmental justice** aims to counter and redress the various forms of en-  
Line 16 vironmental discrimination that cause marginalized and racialized commu-  
Line 17 nities to bear the disproportionate burden of environmental harms, such as  
Line 18 vulnerability to air pollution and water contamination and exposures to  
Line 19 hazardous waste and toxic chemicals (see Ishiyama and TallBear; also see  
Line 20 introduction).<sup>6</sup>

Line 21  
Line 22 **Generative justice** is a bottom-up justice that emerges from collective re-  
Line 23 sistance to hegemonic forces through peer-to-peer networks, open-source  
Line 24 software movements, queer affiliations, agroecology projects, and Indige-  
Line 25 nous federations. This form of justice celebrates the consequential role of  
Line 26 other life forms—bacteria, plants, fungi, and insects—within nested loops  
Line 27 of multispecies regeneration (see Lee).<sup>7</sup>

Line 28  
Line 29 **Intergenerational justice** is concerned with the scope and nature of relations,  
Line 30 responsibilities, and obligations as these manifest across different genera-  
Line 31 tions.<sup>8</sup> It demands that institutions consider the potential impacts of their  
Line 32 actions on the wellbeing of *future* human and other-than-human generations  
Line 33 *and* their duties and responsibilities to generations past (see Lyons).

Line 34 **Multeworld justice** is grounded in the phenomenology of matter itself. It  
Line 35 approaches justice through the lens of lived experience, within and at the  
Line 36 edges of dynamic worlds. In contrast to framing justice as potentiality, or  
Line 37 what might be, multiworld justice attends to justice as actuality, or what  
Line 38 just is (see Marder).

Line 1 **Participatory justice** demands the equal, inclusive, and transparent participa-  
 Line 2 tion of all parties in the development, enactment, and governance of justice-  
 Line 3 related institutions and practices. This framework addresses the challenge  
 Line 4 of reconciling disparate and often conflicting interests, values, and beliefs in  
 Line 5 achieving agreement over what counts as justice (see Lyons).<sup>9</sup>

Line 6 **Patchy justice** materializes in fragments amidst uneven conditions of livability.  
 Line 7 Inspired by ideas about the “Patchy Anthropocene,” this form of justice  
 Line 8 arises through grassroots oppositional movements, feral proliferations,  
 Line 9 and counter-hegemonic hopes that emerge in unstable places and uncertain  
 Line 10 times (see introduction; see afterword).<sup>10</sup>

Line 11 **Procedural justice** involves due processes. Some believe that simply following  
 Line 12 the correct procedure results in an equitable outcome, regardless of  
 Line 13 whether distributive or restorative justice has ultimately been achieved (see  
 Line 14 introduction).<sup>11</sup>

Line 15 **Racial justice** involves the fair treatment of people regardless of their racial  
 Line 16 identity. Beyond the mere absence of inequity and discrimination, racial justice  
 Line 17 calls for the establishment of institutional mechanisms that proactively  
 Line 18 sustain racial equity and reckon fully with the historical and colonial roots  
 Line 19 of racial violence (see Lara; see introduction).<sup>12</sup>

Line 20 **Recognition justice** attends to how different beings gain or lose standing as  
 Line 21 a result of structural, institutional, cultural, legal, and economic regimes and  
 Line 22 attendant hierarchies of worth. It involves recognizing that past and ongoing  
 Line 23 legacies of unequal treatment, discrimination, and exclusion continue  
 Line 24 to produce just conditions of life for some and not others.<sup>13</sup>

Line 25 **Restorative justice** is a response to injustice that focuses on restitution and  
 Line 26 resolution of issues arising from a crime or transgression. Mediation and conflict  
 Line 27 resolution can be used by victims, offenders, and a broader community  
 Line 28 to restore relations creatively (see Clark).<sup>14</sup>

Line 29 **Small justices** are achieved through everyday incremental shifts and slight  
 Line 30 alterations rather than sweeping structural transformations. These micropolitical  
 Line 31 interventions, or microbiopolitical articulations, involve changes in  
 Line 32 daily patterns of thought and behavior.<sup>15</sup> Small justices operate in the middle  
 Line 33 of worlds, mediating rather than remediating multispecies relations. Often  
 Line 34 ambiguous and deceptively mundane, these little justices take difference  
 Line 35 and dissent as starting points for new cosmopolitical possibilities (see Ihar).  
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**Social justice** involves the fair and egalitarian treatment of all members of a given society in relation to questions of equity, access, wellbeing, participation, and rights. Movements for social justice are particularly concerned with achieving recognition, remedy, and redress for segments of society who are systematically marginalized (see introduction).<sup>16</sup>

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**Spectral justice** troubles the boundaries between life, death, and the after-life. The haunting force of ghosts can prompt the living to redress injury and repair damaged relations. Incomplete and inchoate in form and substance, spectral justice involves difficult negotiations across immanent and transcendent realms (see Govindrajan).

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**Substantive justice** involves fair outcomes. Critical race theorists have considered how legal procedures often fail to account for substantive advantages and disadvantages at play across racial lines. Rather than focus on due process, or formal equality before the law, these theorists point to the substance of rulings when considering if justice has been done (see introduction).<sup>17</sup>

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**Transformative justice** aims to achieve change in social, political, technical, or biological systems. Some victims of interpersonal violence or rape have used this approach to educate offenders and community members instead of pursuing punishment through the criminal or carceral system. Perpetrators of injustice may also seek to transform themselves in order to repair what they have damaged (see Clark).<sup>18</sup>

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#### Notes

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1 Brooks, "Retribution"; Hegel, *Philosophy of Right*. Compare with Bennett, *Being Property Once Myself*, 3–4, 8.

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2 Schlosberg and Collins, "From Environmental Justice to Climate Justice"; Shue, *Climate Justice*.

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3 Boisseron, *Afro-Dog*; Celermajer et al., "Justice Through a Multispecies Lens."

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