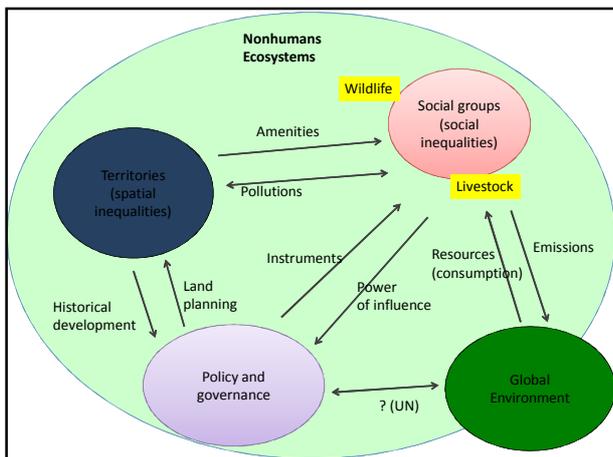
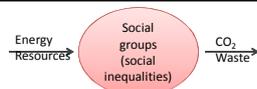


The multidimensionality of ecological inequalities

SUSPENS Project
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 Grégoire Wallenborn
 Centre for Studies on Sustainable Development
 Université Libre de Bruxelles

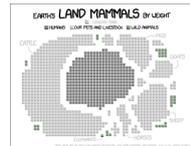
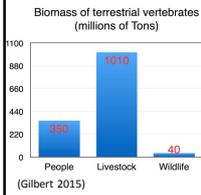


Principles of justice



- Household: black box crossed by flows: input/output model.
- Practice theory: opening the black box
- 3 questions:
 - Who benefits from the economic activities that cause the harm?
 - Who suffers environmental harm?
 - Why is the first group able to impose environmental harm on the second?
- Justice:
 - Distributive: abstract individuals
 - Environmental: recognition + participation
 - Collective identities

The presence of nonhumans



- Making the environment existing: nonhuman living species, material and energy flows, infrastructures, ...
- From anthropocentrism to ecocentrism:
 - Case of food
 - Ecosystems ≠ resources and impacts
- Environmental ethics:
 - New partnership with nature : made also of subjects (not only objects).
 - Generalised inequalities: disparities of capabilities between living species → which capabilities attributed to nonhuman living beings?

Conceptualising social inequalities

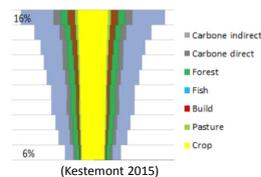
- Social inequalities: distribution of chances and risks among lives of individuals and groups according their social position.
- Distributive variables based on individuals (e.g. income, age, gender, life expectancy).
 - Main variable: income (in deciles)
 - Focus on poverty or extreme wealth?
 - Limits: practices, capabilities, wellbeing.



Income distribution in Belgium (Kestemont 2015)

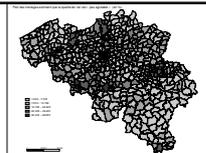
Resource consumption, emissions and waste

- Ecological inequalities: over-consumption and under-consumption (e.g. fuel poverty) observed at different scales
- Environmental impacts correlated to income:
 - Carbon (heating, electricity, mobility)
 - Waste
 - Water
- Usual indicator: ecological footprint
- Averages do not include:
 - Substitution (e.g. ecoproducts)
 - Rebound effects
- Limits:
 - Overconsumption less documented.
 - Infrastructures is absent
 - Generally not related to social practices



Local pollution and environmental justice

- History of the environmental justice movement (from 1980s): a substantial literature has documented the fact that low-income people and “communities of colour” often bear disproportionate environmental harms
- Health distribution, life expectancy



Quality of air not agreeable



Non quiet environment

(Dozzi, Lennert & Wallenborn 2008)

Amenities and land planning

- Access to healthy environment and lifestyles
 - Geography of green spaces
 - Conflicts between humans and nonhumans
- Importance of infrastructures:
 - access to resources
 - Inertia (e.g. electrical grids)
- Issue of the private property of land and “common goods”.

Political instruments and power of influence

- Instrument categories: information, economic, regulation, planning.
- Regressive effects of economic instruments (e.g. carbon tax, energy efficiency, PV)
- Tension between local and global issues (e.g. diesel)
- Five powers of households:
 - Purchasing power: escape from environmental degradation
 - Decision: influence decision makers
 - Agenda: keep question off (or on) the table
 - Value: social norms (shape others’ preference)
 - Event: alter circumstances (fait accompli)
- Who are the spokespersons of nonhumans?

Concluding remarks

- Low carbon transition: new social norms
- Mobilisation of all social groups (beyond averages)
- Attention to:
 - Increasing inequalities and regressive effects
 - Effective participation
 - Place of nonhumans
