International Journal of Feminist Approaches to Bioethics IJFAB

Call for papers for a special issue

**Bioethics for the biosphere: Exploring climate (in)justice**

Special issue editors: Beth Anne Bee & Christoph Rehmann-Sutter

Climate change is a global threat to human and environmental wellbeing. Mitigating this threat and preventing further planetary deterioration through social transformation and policy change raise numerous and urgent issues of ethics and justice from bodily to global scales. What is at stake is how to keep a livable planet. Such issues are at the heart of bioethics, which was once conceived as a means to address global problems through the recognition of interdependency of humans and nature and the preservation of the health and wellbeing of future generations. At the same time, bioethics draws our attention to the injustices and moral atrocities of climate change as a preventable socio-ecological harm (Shklar, 1990, Card 2004, Francis 2021, Cuomo 2017). The climate crisis is hence an issue of intra- and intergenerational justice, as well as an issue of human positioning in the biosphere and ecological-social practices. Yet, while bioethics scholars acknowledge the relevance of climate change to both human and ecological health and thus the role of bioethics (Macpherson 2016, Jennings 2016), the necessity to address these issues through a feminist lens cannot be understated.

Feminist scholars across a range of disciplines have engaged with the ethical dimensions of the climate crisis including justice in geoengineering (Svoboda et al. 2011), intersectional justice and academic responsibility for climate change (Olson 2022), and the lack of attention to issues of race and racism in the climate justice literature (Tuana 2019) to name a few. However, there remains a relative paucity of scholarship that attends to the bioethical dimensions of climate change from a feminist perspective. Feminist bioethicists acknowledge this paucity and have called for greater attention to issues of climate change and have identified several areas of overlap including vulnerability, responsibility, relationality, bodily autonomy, identity, and ethics of care (Sherwin 2008, Rawlinson 2017, MacKay and Tumilty 2022, Rogers et al. 2022).

We therefore invite papers from diverse disciplines that offer critical engagements of the bioethical dimensions of climate change from a feminist perspective to push the field of feminist bioethics forward. Papers shall explore the climate crisis as a complex issue of injustice that transcends generations, extends into the biosphere, and needs to be studied and discussed from diverse feminist bioethics points of view, in the contexts of diverse political-ecological spaces and bodies.

Topics may include but are not limited to: the bio-political and intersectional aspects of climate change and health, including bodily autonomy, vulnerability, and reproductive health; ‘Malthusian’ questions of population growth in the global south; anti-colonial approaches to interrogating biotech and medical discourses and practices related to climate change; the relationship between food and agricultural systems and climate change; and questions of de-growth, the (bio)economy, and the commons.

If interested, please submit an abstract of 200–250 words to Beth A. Bee (beeb@ecu.edu) and Christoph Rehmann-Sutter (christoph.rehmannsutter@uni-luebeck.de) by **Monday, May 1, 2023**.

**References**

Card, C. (2004). Environmental atrocities and non-sentient life. *Ethics and the Environment*, *9*(1), 23-45.

Cuomo, C. J. (2017). Against the idea of an Anthropocene epoch: Ethical, political and scientific concerns. *Biogeosystem Technique*, (4), 4-8.

Francis, B. (2021). Climate Change Injustice. *Environmental Ethics*, 44(1), 5-24. DOI: 10.5840/enviroethics202112230

Jennings, B. (2016). Putting the Bios Back into Bioethics: Prospects for Health and Climate Justice. In C. C. Macpherson (ed) *Bioethical insights into values and policy* (pp. 11-37). Springer.

MacKay, K., & Tumilty, E. (2022). Feminist Bioethics and Activism in the Wake of COVID-19. *IJFAB: International Journal of Feminist Approaches to Bioethics*, *15*(1), 162-163.

Macpherson, C. C. (2016). Why bioethics should address climate change and how it might do so. In *Bioethical Insights into Values and Policy* (pp. 199-216). Springer.

Olson, E. (2022). Crossing from Knowledge to Responsibility for Climate Change. *The Professional Geographer*, *74*(1), 141-142.

Rogers, W. A., Mills, C., Scully, J. L., Carter, S. M., & Entwistle, V. (2022). *The Routledge Handbook of Feminist Bioethics*. Routledge.

Rawlinson, M. C. (2017). The concept of a feminist bioethics: IJFAB at ten. *IJFAB: International Journal of Feminist Approaches to Bioethics*, *10*(1), 1-6.

Sherwin, S. (2008). Whither Bioethics? How Feminism Can Help Reorient Bioethics. *International Journal of Feminist Approaches to Bioethics* 1(1): 7–27.

Shklar, J. N. (1990). *The faces of injustice*. Yale University Press.

Svoboda, T., Keller, K., Goes, M., & Tuana, N. (2011). Sulfate aerosol geoengineering: The question of justice. *Public Affairs Quarterly*, *25*(3), 157-179.

Tuana, N. (2019). Climate apartheid: The forgetting of race in the Anthropocene. *Critical Philosophy of Race*, *7*(1), 1-31.

**Christoph Rehmann-Sutter** (he/him)

Professor of Theory and Ethics in the Biosciences

University of Lübeck

23552 Lübeck, Germany

christoph.rehmannsutter@uni-luebeck.de

www.imgwf.uni-luebeck.de

**Beth Anne Bee** (she/her)

Director, Undergraduate Studies in Geography & Environmental Studies  
Department of Geography, Planning and Environment  
East Carolina University  
Greenville, NC 27858

USA