

April 13-14, 2025: Global Environmental Justice Conference

Where Do We Go From Here: Environmental Justice and the Politics of Hope in the Planetary Age.

- Dr. Grant's Approved Paper to be Presented at the Colorado State University Environmental Justice Center.

Abstract Title: ***The Apartheidocene: Countering Eco-Apartheid with Transformative Intercultural Ecologically Democratic Organizing***

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Abstract

The most commonly known name for the new epoch we have entered post-Holocene, is the Anthropocene. As a Critical Black Ecologist I rename this epoch as “the Apartheidocene”. The Apartheidocene as an alternative worldview intervention in the climate crisis nudges us to recognize that we neither contributed equitably to the climate crisis, nor experience equitable impacts. People on the African continent and across the Diaspora are being severely impacted by the climate crisis + polycrisis wherever we live and face the tide of Anti-Blackness thoroughly imbricated in political ecology at all scales, plus the neocolonial hijack of nations with Black majorities (African countries, Haiti, Brazil, Dominican Republic, Jamaica) or large minorities (Colombia, France, Mexico, Suriname, United Kingdom, United States, Venezuela).

To bring climate justice constituencies (climate vulnerable communities and regions) into critical consciousness and collective action around the climate crisis and how it intersects and accelerates the global polycrisis (healthy food, water, health, safety, energy, community, democracy, human rights, land justice), we need a way of understanding what we are up against to organize effectively. This paper will document impacts of the climate crisis on Africa and the Diaspora, and share stories of how people are constructing climate resilient strategies from the bottom up. I will close by inviting people to follow the work of just now forming collective – the Pan African Living Ecologies Action Research Network – which will be composed of leaders of initiatives in peasant, Indigenous, maroon, and urban slum community contexts. The strategy combines autonomous and redistributive intent.

Keywords: Apartheidocene, Climate Justice, Pan African Transformational Adaptation, living ecologies