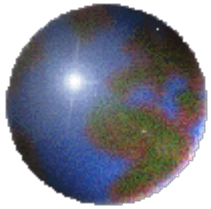


Values, Ethics, and Sustainability

1

Lecture #4



Colin L. Soskolne, PhD
Professor of Epidemiology
School of Public Health
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta

URL: www.colinsoskolne.com

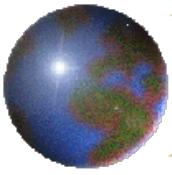
Edmonton Lifelong Learners Association (ELLA)

--- Course Number EL 21 ---

University of Alberta, Education South 165, April 30-May 11, 2012

David Thompson will teach the last week (May 14-18, 2012)

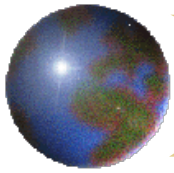




Narrowing the gap

--- what gap?

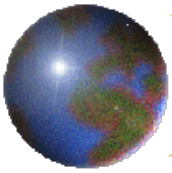




Millennium Development Goals (UN, 2000)

- 1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger**
- 2. Achieve universal primary education**
- 3. Promote gender equality and empower women**
- 4. Reduce child mortality**
- 5. Improve maternal health**
- 6. Combat HIV and AIDS, malaria and other diseases**
- 7. Ensure environmental sustainability**
- 8. Develop a global partnership for development**

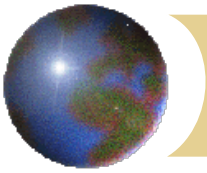




To start, we first must recognize

- ❖ **The non-sustainability of a world that operates currently with a 10:90 split / gap** (*where 90% of research funding goes to diseases affecting 10% of the global population*)
- ❖ **The existence of the Millennium Development Goals, was set in 2000 amid a flurry of idealism and hope**
- ❖ **Disappointing movement towards achieving these 2015 goals**





Focusing on ***DISPARITIES***

*Among others, these raise
profound questions of*

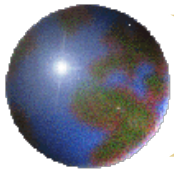


JUSTICE, FAIRNESS



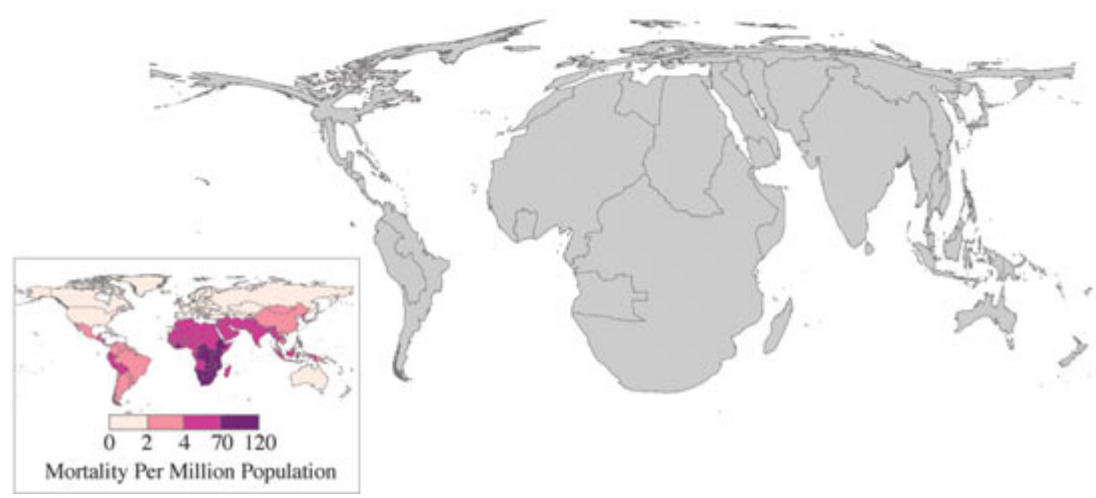
EQUITY

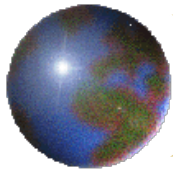




Ethics & Justice Dimensions of Climate Change ⁶

November 6, 2007 (Courtesy J. Patz) -- Cartograms





The Spirit Level: why great equality makes societies stronger

7

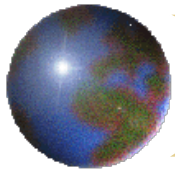
Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett (2010)

✦ <http://www.equalitytrust.org.uk/resources/short-film>

✦ Why Equality? The Evidence

- ✦ Physical Health
- ✦ Mental Health
- ✦ Drug Abuse
- ✦ Education
- ✦ Imprisonment
- ✦ Obesity
- ✦ Social Mobility
- ✦ Trust and Community Life
- ✦ Violence
- ✦ Teenage Births
- ✦ Child Well-being
- ✦ Equality Not Growth
- ✦ Rich and Poor Countries
- ✦ Equality and Global Warming

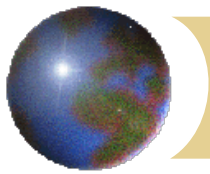




GINI COEFFICIENT

- ✦ Is a measure of statistical dispersion most prominently used as a measure of inequality of income distribution or inequality of wealth distribution. It is defined as a ratio with values between 0 and 1.
- ✦ A low Gini coefficient indicates more equal income or wealth distribution, while a high Gini coefficient indicates more unequal distribution. 0 corresponds to perfect equality (everyone having exactly the same income), and 1 corresponds to perfect inequality (where one person has all the income, while everyone else has zero income).

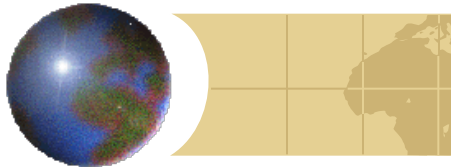




Selected countries GINI %

Japan	24.9	United Kingdom	36.0
Sweden	25.0	Iran	43.0
Germany	28.3	United States	46.6
France	32.7	Argentina	52.2
Pakistan	33.0	Mexico	54.6
Canada	33.1	South Africa	57.8
Switzerland	33.1	Namibia	70.7





Climate change questioned in schools mailout

U.S. think-tank says it's trying to inject 'balance' by sending out 11,000 brochures and DVDs

MIKE DE SOUZA
Canwest News Service
OTTAWA

An American think-tank has sent out more than 11,000 brochures and DVDs to Canadian schools urging them to teach their students that scientists are exaggerating how human activity is the driving force behind global warming.

The Chicago-based Heartland Institute said its goal is to ensure that students are provided with a "balanced" education about "an important and controversial issue," but critics, including a leading climate scientist, described it as a campaign of misinformation.

The mailout, sent in February, included results from international surveys of climate scientists conducted in 1996 and 2003, along with a 10-minute DVD called *Unstoppable Solar Cycles, The Real Story of Greenland*.

"It took me a while to figure out what they were up to," said Eric Betteridge, who teaches at Hillcrest High School in Ottawa.

The Heartland Institute says that it purchased a database list of addresses of 11,250 schools from across the country, including about 10,000 private or faith-based schools, for a massive mail campaign aimed at Canadian children in all provinces.

"All the kids in our schools are being taught that climate change is a serious crisis and that we've got to reduce our CO₂ and they're being taught (that) quite falsely," said Jay Lehr, the science director at the Heartland Institute who sent the package.

"We would like to educate people and basically give them the other side of the issue, so we send out materials only in hope of a little balance."

The Sierra Club of Canada said that the Heartland Institute's information was far from being balanced.

"It's alarming that an American think-tank is distributing misinformation on the most important issue of our time in Canadian schools, to actually create an illusion that there is a scientific debate," said Emilie Moorhouse, a spokeswoman for the environmental group.

The Heartland Institute describes itself as a national non-profit research and education organization whose mission is "to discover, develop, and promote free-market solutions to social and economic problems."

The brochure and DVD said that scientists were "deeply divided" about "the notion that climate change is mostly the result of human activities." It also suggested that the sun was the main factor behind recent warming recorded on the planet.

The package does not make reference to the conclusions reached by governments and scientists from around the world in their 2007 assessment of the latest peer-reviewed research on climate change.

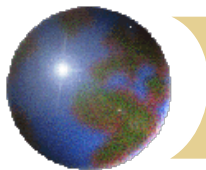
The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change wrote that global warming is unequivocal and that there is a 90-per-cent chance it is being caused by humans.

After reviewing the Heartland Institute package, Betteridge said he was left feeling both amused and distressed that someone would try to promote this material to children in the classroom.

"I think I would be concerned because it was well written," he said.

The Heartland Institute has received \$791,000 in funding from Exxon-Mobil since 1998, according to a recent analysis by Greenpeace USA.





China, India attack Western climate 'hypocrites'

Daily Telegraph

BEIJING, NEW DELHI

China is insisting that rich countries commit to large cuts in emissions of greenhouse gases, while declining to put a ceiling on its own levels.

Four months before the Copenhagen negotiations, which aim to produce a successor to the Kyoto treaty, China's chief climate change negotiator confirmed that the world's leading polluter was holding out for developed countries to reduce emissions by 40 per cent by 2020 from 1990 levels.

"We have all along believed that due to the historical responsibility of the developed nations, they must continue to take the lead with large reductions beyond 2012," said Yu Qingtai.

While China has developed green energy industries, it has also resisted any regulations that would dampen growth. It is not required to set emission targets since its per-capita rate is still far lower than those in Western countries.

Meanwhile, India's climate change envoy said Wednesday that "hypocritical" Western countries must sacrifice some luxuries before asking developing countries to cut their greenhouse gas emissions.

Shyam Saran said the country would not take any measures that could restrict its growth. Instead, he said it would fund developments to reduce carbon emissions, increase green power generation and improve energy efficiency.

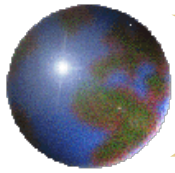
He added that any further measures demanded by developed countries would be taken only if full funding and technological support were provided.

Saran said his government planned to bring electricity to remote villages by transforming agricultural waste into power. But he said the government would not yield to pressure from the "hypocritical" West.

"No one is prepared to touch their living standards," he said. "If Europe or the US increased fuel prices by \$1 a litre, it would make a substantial change in private transport, a major source of emissions."







*The “I = P * A * T” Identity*

**“INTEGRITY” EQUALS “POPULATION” TIMES
“AFFLUENCE” TIMES “TECHNOLOGY”**

Ehrlich's & Holdren, 1971

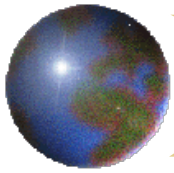
- ✦ **Exposes bias and self-interest when “North” blames “South”, and vice versa**
- ✦ **We must recognize our collective interest on this fragile planet and, whether we are “North” or “South”, we all have to change our ways in rather profound ways if our goal is “sustainability”**
- ✦ **Else, it is like rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic as we approach the iceberg that causes us to sink**





*Life boat ethics, leading to
gated communities and
fortress nations as disparities
continue to widen and we
become increasingly
polarized*





The Story of Stuff (21 minutes)

✚ <http://www.storyofstuff.org/movies-all/story-of-stuff/>

✚ **Discussion to follow**





Questions?

