

THE COMPLICATED HISTORY OF ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM

Many people understand the environment as a force of nature that cannot favor or disfavor different populations. However, similar to all things on Earth, the environment is **subject** to human influences. Unfortunately, these influences often tend to **lower their hands** to the worsts of our society including racism and classism. **This** can ultimately create environmental racism. Robert Bullard in his book *Dumping in Dixie* defines environmental racism as “any **policy**, practice or directive that differentially affects or disadvantages (where intended or unintended) individuals, groups or communities based on race.”

Environmental racism refers to how minority group neighborhoods—populated primarily by people of color and members of low-socioeconomic backgrounds—are burdened with disproportionate numbers of hazards including toxic waste, garbage dumps, and other sources of environmental pollutions and foul odors that lower the quality of life. This can lead to different diseases and cancers. Because of this, as the fight with climate change worsens, minority communities will be disproportionately affected.

These disparities are entirely due to power dynamics. In a study done by Nicholas Carnes in his book *The Cash Ceiling*, he broke down how in 2018, millionaires make up only three percent of the public, yet they control all three branches of the federal government. While more than fifty percent of U.S. citizens hold working-class jobs, less than two percent of Congress has held a blue-collar job before their Congressional career. In addition, no member from the working class has gone on to become a United States President or Supreme Court Justice. Most were millionaires before getting elected or appointed to the position. This disparity also relays over racially. In a study done by Robin DiAngelo in *White Fragility*, she showed that in 2016, 90 percent of Congress is white, and 96 percent of U.S. Governors are white. In addition, the top-10 richest Americans are also white.

This tends to be perpetuated into policies which is one way that environmental racism is perpetuated. This situation is simple. When government officials or other individuals or groups in power are faced with the decision of where to place the newest hazardous waste facility or dump site, they typically do not want it to be placed in their backyard, and instead, they decide to place these hazardous waste facilities and dumpsites in communities filled with people who do not look like them or fall under the same tax bracket.

Environmental racism is also a substantial problem in Canada: You are a family physician doing a locum in northwestern Ontario. Your next patient is a 6-year-old child who presents with chronic fatigue and paresthesia in their extremities. Upon physical examination, you also discover bilateral hearing impairment. You recall reading in the news that, years ago, 10,000 kg of mercury were dumped into the Wabigoon River, thereby polluting downstream water and poisoning the fish that sustain communities such as Asubpeeschoseewagong (Grassy Narrows) First Nation. In addition to other investigations, you conduct a 24-h urine mercury test for the patient and ascertain that they have abnormal mercury levels. How do you treat this patient? How do you respond to this issue at the community level? To what extent do you consider how the environment, history, and economic factors contributed to this patient’s presentation?

The United Nations noted that “marginalized groups, and Indigenous peoples in particular, find themselves on the wrong side of a toxic divide, subject to conditions that would not be acceptable in respect of other groups

in Canada.” There are numerous examples of environmental racism in Canada, resulting in hazardous sites and long-term pollution of the land and water in Indigenous and other racialized communities. Examples include pulp mill effluent having been pumped into Boat Harbour, NS; mercury pollution of the river in Grassy Narrows First Nation in Ontario; and toxic waste having been dumped in the community of Africville in Halifax, NS. Environmental racism has serious physical, emotional, psychological, and spiritual health effects, and in an era of truth and reconciliation, its causes and consequences must be addressed and remediated.

Health care professionals need to be educated in the social, cultural, and historical determinants of health, which includes the true history of Canada. They can identify not only the health effects of environmental racism but also its intersection with other determinants of health such as low income, housing instability, underemployment, and poor access to health care. When a patient presents with a health condition such as cancer or organ damage that may be related to exposure to toxic chemicals, part of the history taking includes ascertaining where the exposure took place and whether a broader community population might be affected. As health advocates, family physicians are called upon to identify the determinants of health that affect a community or population. Therefore, care should be provided not only for the index patient but also, ideally, for the whole community.

It is also crucial to recognize the intersection of colonialism and other determinants of health, specifically those related to the health of Indigenous peoples. Canada’s history has included broken treaty promises, discriminatory acts and policies aimed at assimilation, and the appropriation of land and resources to the exclusion of Indigenous peoples. Colonialism directly affects Indigenous peoples’ health and well-being. In the context of environmental racism, colonialism has led to structural and institutional racism that continues to shape environmental policies and practices today. For example, dozens of First Nations communities in Canada continue to have long-term drinking water advisories. This issue stems from the appropriation of Indigenous peoples’ lands and the relocation of Indigenous peoples to specific areas, called *reserves*, resulting in complex political jurisdictions for responsibilities such as water management. It is now the federal government’s responsibility to address the lack of access to clean drinking water for many Indigenous communities; however, it has failed thus far to create proper and realistic solutions. Adopting a broad perspective of determinants of health cannot be done without recognizing the substantial and ongoing impacts of colonialism on Indigenous peoples’ health. Understanding colonialism as an important determinant of health should help us realize that we must actively work to deconstruct the colonial systems underpinning our society.

Fonte: Adaptado de: Peña-Parr, Victoria. The complicated history of environmental racism. Disponível em: <http://news.unm.edu/news/the-complicated-history-of-environmental-racism>. Acesso em: 26 Feb 2024. Venkataraman, Maya et al. *Environmental racism in Canada*. Disponível em: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9374073/>. Acesso em: 27 Feb 2024.

TEXTO 2**WELCOME TO A GOLDEN AGE**

Almost everyone agreed that the mid-2010s were a terrible time to be a worker. David Graeber, an anthropologist at the London School of Economics, coined the term “bullshit jobs” to describe purposeless work, which he argued was widespread. With the recovery from the global financial crisis of 2007-09 taking time, some 7% of the labour force in The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) club of mostly rich countries lacked work. Wage growth was weak and income inequality seemed to be rising inexorably.

As societies age, labour is becoming scarcer and better rewarded, especially manual work that is hard to replace with technology. Governments are spending big and running economies hot, supporting demands for higher wages, and are likely to continue to do so. Artificial intelligence (AI) is giving workers, particularly less skilled ones, a productivity boost, which could lead to higher wages, too. Some of these trends will reinforce the others: where labour is scarce, for instance, the use of tech is more likely to increase pay. The result will be a transformation in how labour markets work.

To understand why, return to the gloom. When it was at its peak in 2015, so was China’s working-age population, then at 998 million people. Western firms could use the threat of relocation, or pressure from Chinese competitors, to force down wages. David Autor of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and colleagues estimate that this depressed American pay between 2000 and 2007, with a larger hit for those on lower wages. Populist politicians, not least Donald Trump, took advantage, vowing to end China’s job “theft”.

Now China’s working age-population is falling, other poor countries are struggling to build industrial capacity and geopolitical instability is making outsourcing less appealing. The rich world also faces a dearth of workers. Indeed, the number of them aged 20 to 54 (who are likely to be capable of physical labour) has already flattened off. A survey across 41 countries by ManpowerGroup, a staffing firm, finds that 77% of companies are struggling to fill vacancies, twice as many as in 2015. Two-thirds of Polish industrial firms say that worker shortages are one of the main things holding back production. In Germany public-transport services have been reduced owing to a lack of bus and train drivers. In South Korea the old are increasingly staying on the job to avert shortages: some 59% of 55- to 79-year-olds work, up from 53% a decade ago.

Labour has become so precious that businesses are starting to hoard it. A survey of small American companies found that more than 90% seek to retain employees if possible. In Germany, where the economy has stagnated since early last year, some 730,000 positions are advertised at job centres, close to the record high. Unemployment sits at just 3%. In part because of worker shortages, the rich world is experiencing an immigration boom, with its foreign-born population growing at a record pace. Yet such is the size of coming workforce gaps, even immigration on this scale will not plug them.

Germany’s employment agency keeps a tally of jobs that are facing severe worker shortages. So far this year it has added 48 professions to the 152-strong list. Most require technical, rather than academic, education, with shortages most pressing in construction and health care. Japan offers time-limited visas for workers in a dozen

fields, including the making of machine parts and shipbuilding, and the country's wages are rising faster than at any point in the past three decades. The wage premium that accrues to those with a university education is already shrinking; it may now fall faster. Tight labour markets also encourage unions to demand more free time—to the horror of firms already short of staff. German steelworkers will seek a 32-hour work week in forthcoming negotiations, down from 35 hours. In Spain a new government wants to cut the standard 40-hour work week by two and a half hours.

Many bosses hope that computers will pick up the slack. AI can perform tasks which require creativity, improvisation and learning, and were previously out of reach for machines. Companies have strong incentives to adopt it. A preliminary study by Dean Alderucci of Carnegie Mellon University and colleagues, using American patent data from 1990 to 2018, found that firms which innovated even with more basic forms of IA had 25% faster employment growth and 40% faster revenue growth than otherwise similar ones.

If the tech helps service workers—in call centres, for example—to be more useful, that will enhance productivity and perhaps job satisfaction as well. Indeed, a recent study by Erik Brynjolfsson of MIT and colleagues finds that such workers manage to resolve 14% more issues per hour when assisted by an AI bot, with the lowest-performers benefiting most from the tool. According to a survey by the OEDC, some 80% of workers in manufacturing and financial services who use AI report that it improves their output. A large majority also say that it improves working conditions.

Some workers will get more of a boost than others. Those in professional services, such as doctors or lawyers, regularly make high-stakes decisions in non-routine circumstances. Since there is often no correct answer, doing so requires judgment as well as extensive training. AI may help people reach the required level of expertise. Imagine AI-assisted nurses taking over tasks from doctors, or coders able to take on more complex assignments. “The positive case is that AI brings a lot more people into higher-paid expert work,” says Mr Autor.

“Technological progress so far has replaced routine tasks, first physically in the 1970s, then office tasks in the 1990s,” says Melanie Arntz of Heidelberg University. “The higher-skilled, meanwhile, sat on the complementary side of the progress, seeing their wages rise as a result.” With the AI revolution, it is likely to be those with fewer qualifications who benefit. And they are precisely the sort that are already seeing higher wages, as firms struggle to attract staff to look after ageing populations and to work in new green industries.

The forces transforming labour markets—demographic change, policy and AI—will interact differently in different conditions. Places with fast-ageing populations will see worker shortages, especially in professions requiring physical labour. So long as macro policies stay expansionary, upward pressure on wages will remain. That will spur AI use, which may also push up wages. Governments will need to remove barriers in regulated professions such as health care, so that these benefits may be enjoyed.

Fonte: Adaptado de: A golden age for workers. Disponível em: <https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2023/11/28/welcome-to-a-golden-age-for-workers> Acesso em: 2 Dez. 2023.

QUESTÕES

As questões de 1 a 5 referem-se ao TEXTO 1:

1) Em relação aos termos destacados no 1º parágrafo, é CORRETO afirmar que

- (A) “subject” pode ser substituído por “topic”, sem alterar o sentido do texto.
- (B) “lower their hands” é usado em sentido figurado no texto.
- (C) “This” refere-se a “society”.
- (D) “policy” pode ser substituído por “politics”, sem alterar o sentido do texto.

2) A que se refere o racismo ambiental?

3) O que apontam os dados estatísticos apresentados no 3º parágrafo?

4) Analise as seguintes afirmativas sobre o racismo ambiental nos Estados Unidos e no Canadá:

- I. Em ambos os países, a saúde é um fator preocupante.
- II. Nos Estados Unidos, as desigualdades financeira e racial são apontadas como causa principal.
- III. Em ambos os países, os povos indígenas são os mais afetados.
- IV. No Canadá, renda e moradia são fatores relevantes no histórico do paciente.

São VERDADEIRAS:

- (A) I e III, apenas.
- (B) I, II e IV, apenas.
- (C) II, III e IV, apenas.
- (D) III e IV, apenas.

5) Sobre o impacto do colonialismo nos povos indígenas no Canadá, é CORRETO afirmar que

- (A) o colonialismo contribuiu para a falta de acesso à água potável em muitas comunidades indígenas devido à gestão complexa das terras e da água.
- (B) as reservas indígenas foram criadas como uma medida para promover a autonomia desses povos.
- (C) o governo tem atuado com sucesso em resposta ao problema da falta de água potável decorrente do colonialismo.
- (D) a gestão da água potável em reservas indígenas é desvinculada das políticas coloniais do passado.

As questões de 6 a 10 referem-se ao TEXTO 2:

6) Segundo estatísticas apresentadas no texto sobre mercado de trabalho, é INCORRETO afirmar que:

- (A) Em meados da década de 2010, em muitos países ricos, as oportunidades de emprego eram poucas e os salários eram irrisórios.
- (B) Entre 2000 e 2007, nos E.U.A, o arrocho salarial atingiu, principalmente, os trabalhadores assalariados.
- (C) A taxa de desemprego pós crise financeira mundial de 2007 a 2009 era de 7% em diversos países ricos.
- (D) O avanço da Inteligência Artificial (IA) indica probabilidades de estagnação na faixa salarial da mão de obra menos qualificada.

7) Na relação mercado de trabalho-faixa etária, as pesquisas apontam que:

- (A) Na Coreia do Sul, atualmente, 53% de trabalhadores entre 55 e 79 anos permanecem no mercado de trabalho.
- (B) Na Alemanha, o setor de transporte público aumentou a oferta de serviços devido à demanda de trabalhadores mais velhos.
- (C) Na Polônia, 2/3 das indústrias tiveram 77% das vagas ofertadas preenchidas por trabalhadores mais jovens.
- (D) Nos países ricos, o número de trabalhadores entre 20 e 54 anos não aumentou.

8) No que diz respeito às movimentações no mercado de trabalho, como o texto descreve a China em 2015 e nos dias atuais?

9) Quais principais informações são utilizadas no texto para ilustrar o cenário atual da mão de obra na Alemanha e no Japão?

10) Analise as seguintes afirmativas em relação às tecnologias e ao uso da IA nas empresas:

- I. As pesquisas de Dean Alderucci da Carnegie Mellon University e outros indicaram que mesmo as empresas que inovaram de forma mais simples de IA tiveram um aumento de 25% do emprego e 40% a mais nos lucros.
- II. Os dados das pesquisas de Erik Brynjolfsson do MIT e outros mostraram que operadores de *call centers* conseguem resolver 14% a mais de problemas por hora quando auxiliados por IA.
- III. David Autor afirma em seus estudos que profissões mais bem pagas e assistidas por IA excluem pessoas porque exigem níveis mais altos de especialização.
- IV. Melanie Arntz da Heidelberg University aponta para o fato de que trabalhadores mais qualificados sempre se beneficiaram dos avanços tecnológicos e que a chegada da IA não beneficiará os menos qualificados.

É CORRETO o que se afirma em:

- (A) III, apenas.
- (B) TODAS as afirmativas.
- (C) I e II, apenas.
- (D) II e IV, apenas.

RASCUNHO

RASCUNHO

CHAVE DE RESPOSTAS

QUESTÃO	
1	<input type="radio"/> A <input checked="" type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D
2	O racismo ambiental refere-se a forma como os bairros de minorias – habitados por pessoas negras e de baixo nível socioeconômico – são sobrecarregados com números desproporcionais de perigos como resíduos tóxicos, lixões, e outras fontes de poluição ambiental e odores fétidos que diminuem a qualidade de vida.
3	Os dados estatísticos apresentados no terceiro parágrafo apontam para as desigualdades econômicas e raciais que demonstram as dinâmicas do poder.
4	<input type="radio"/> A <input checked="" type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D
5	<input checked="" type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D
6	<input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input checked="" type="radio"/> D
7	<input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C <input checked="" type="radio"/> D
8	Em 2015 a China contava com uma população de trabalhadores de 998 milhões. As indústrias do ocidente conseguiam manter os salários mais baixos às custas da ameaça da transferência da produção ou da concorrência chinesa. Atualmente, a situação demográfica é outra e os países mais pobres estão conseguindo construir indústrias. Além disso, a instabilidade geopolítica tornou a terceirização dos serviços menos atrativa, diminuindo, assim, a dependência da China.
9	A Alemanha sofre com a escassez de mão de obra, principalmente nas áreas técnicas, como construção civil e saúde. 730.000 vagas foram anunciadas em agências/postos de emprego. O setor de transporte público diminuiu a oferta de serviços por falta de condutores de ônibus e trens. Há uma lista de 152 posições de trabalho mais críticas que enfrentam a escassez de mão de obra. O Japão está oferecendo vistos temporários para trabalhadores em 12 áreas diferentes, incluindo fabricação de peças de maquinários e construção naval, e os salários vêm aumentando mais rápido do que em qualquer época das últimas 3 décadas. O diploma universitário, que em outros tempos significava um adicional nos salários, vem perdendo valor.
10	<input type="radio"/> A <input type="radio"/> B <input checked="" type="radio"/> C <input type="radio"/> D