

11.373 Science, Politics, & Environmental Policy
Day 12: LOCAL KNOWLEDGE AND POPULAR EPIDEMIOLOGY

I. Local Ecological Knowledge

What, exactly, is local ecological knowledge?

Why do its proponents think LEK is so useful? What is the rationale for using it to make policy decisions?

Can you give some examples of LEK's utility?

Why should scientists be receptive to it? Why might they resist incorporating LEK?

How can scientists integrate LEK into their practice?

--Modeling complex natural systems?

--Does doing so require a major culture shift on the part of scientists?

II. Popular Epidemiology

What is popular epidemiology, and what was the impetus for it?

What are the strengths and weaknesses of popular epidemiology as an approach to understanding environmentally caused health concerns?