Scalar Politics
Readings

• Swyngedow & Heynen 2003
  – “Svengdow”
• Gordon 2009
Geography and Environmental Justice

• What does geography contribute to the debate on environmental justice?
  – Geography interested in the human-environment relationship
  – Geography interested in place, space, landscape, region, territory
  – Territory adds complexity to the discussion of justice/unjust situations
Politics of Scale

• Power is territorial
  – Happens over territories, is bounded
  – Happens at different scales

• Locality is shaped by power at other scales which it does not control
Examples
Communities affected by heavy rail traffic in Canada

- Local communities may object to rail noise, danger
  - Lac Megantic QC
- But railways are federally regulated
  - And are said to serve a national purpose
- Politics of Scale
Meadow on SE corner of Campus

- Fine cattail wetland in remnants of Dufferin Creek
  - Being destroyed by subway construction & planned redevelopment by York University
Scalar Politics

• University granted land and development powers by the province
• Province, feds, city funding the subway expansion
  – Triggers York’s scheme to develop the lands, expand the student body
  – Ontario counting on universities to grow its smart economy
  – [Liberal-connected?] developers cashing in
Gordon

• Argues that EJ is broad in meaning
• Distributional justice
  – Fair/unfair distributions of things
• Responsibility
  – Privileged places export their disamenities
• Recognition and Participation
  – Stigmatized places attract degradation