Scalar Politics
Readings

• Swyngedow & Heynen 2003
  – “Svengdow”
• Gordon 2009
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