Scalar Politics
Readings

• Swyngedow & Heynen 2003
  • “Svengdow”
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
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
  • Lac Megantic cannot regulate the railway passing through it

• 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
  • Faculty of Environmental Studies timid about opposing it