

*Fairness in Adaptation to Climate Change* by W. Neil Adger, Jouni Paavola, Saleemul Huq and M. J. Mace (eds). London: MIT Press, 2006. 319pp., £16.95, £39.95, ISBN 0 262 01227 8, ISBN 0 262 51193 2

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The volume edited by Adger et al. collects essays dealing with procedural and distributive justice in adaptation to climate change and its implementation in the context of local and international action. The main argument of the book, which somehow summarizes all the contributions to it, is put forward in the conclusion. This holds that there are four cornerstones upon which adaptation justice should be constructed: i) responsibility for climate impacts; ii) the duty to assist vulnerable developing countries to adapt; iii) the principle of putting the most vulnerable first; iv) the principle of universal participation.

After an introductory chapter that underlines the importance of justice in adaptation and provides an overview, the book is divided into three sections. In the first, two chapters describe the bases of climate justice in science and law. The five essays of the second section examine specific ethical aspects of adaptation, such as vulnerability, the identification of winners and losers, the security issue, the financial dimension, and its welfare implications. The third section consists of four case studies that contextualize the arguments developed.

*Fairness in Adaptation to Climate Change* conducts an insightful discussion of the role that justice, through complex webs of institutional, political, economic, social, and cultural relationships, plays in the context of adaptation. This is probably the major strength of the book, which ventures into novel and developing terrain that, as the authors claim (p. xiii), "has been overlooked for so long to the detriment of so many". Another of the book's main merits is its acknowledgment of the importance of procedural justice, which it mainly addresses, though almost entirely empirically, in its third section. This predominantly empirical focus characterizes all the contributions and is a limitation, in that the book lacks systematic theoretical treatment of procedural justice and, more generally, of the ethical underpinnings of adaptation to climate change. Despite the notable effort of the concluding chapter, which puts forward the above-mentioned principles to guide policy-making, a theoretical frame of reference would have probably helped the reader and thus benefited the work.

Overall, this book remains a ground-breaking addition to the growing literature on climate justice, for it draws attention of both academics and practitioners to a field of increasing interest and crucial importance for the advancement of international negotiations processes.