A political ecology of scale in urban air pollution monitoring

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Abstract

Recent developments in air pollution epidemiology are generating new data on human air pollution exposure and health effects in the city. Based on regression mapping or land use regression (LUR), these data also provide a new window on the urban political ecology of scale. Air pollution itself is understudied in the emergent urban political ecology literature and in this case it is aided by – indeed must rely upon – GIS/spatial analysis. A case study of Vancouver illustrates the scalar contradictions in regulatory versus LUR measurements and estimates leading us finally to consider the wider implications for urban political ecology and environmental governance.

Key words

air pollution; GIS; scale; urban political ecology