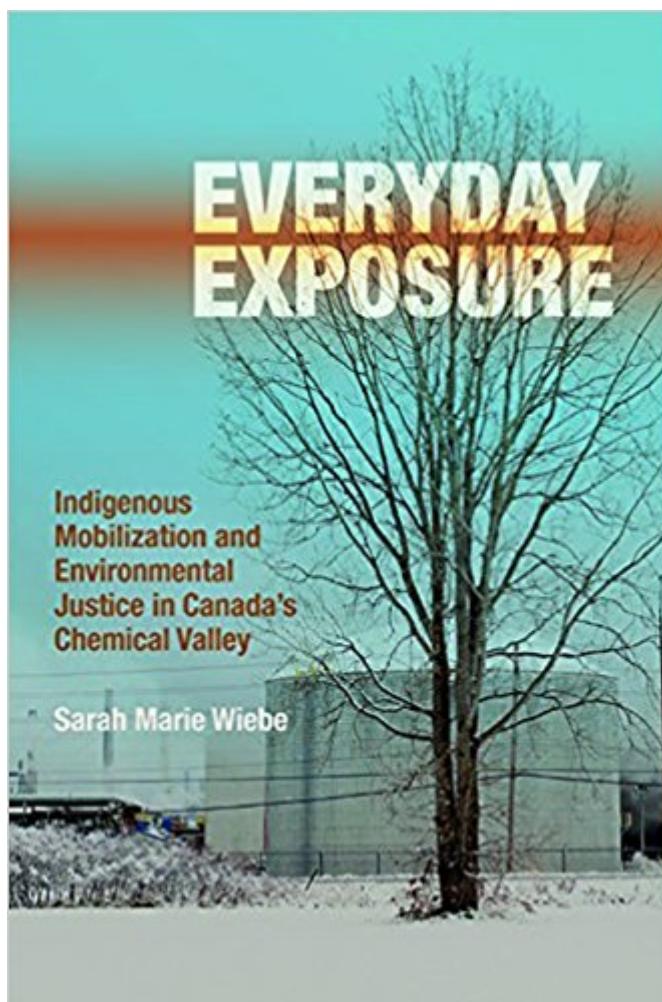


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Everyday Exposure: Indigenous Mobilization And Environmental Justice In Canada's Chemical Valley



Synopsis

Surrounded by Canada's densest concentration of chemical manufacturing plants, members of the Aamjiwnaang First Nation report a declining male birth rate and high incidences of miscarriage, asthma, cancer, and cardiovascular illness. Everyday Exposure uncovers the systemic injustices they face as they fight for environmental justice. Exploring the problems that conflicting levels of jurisdiction pose for the creation of effective policy, analyzing clashes between Indigenous and scientific knowledge, and documenting the experiences of Aamjiwnaang residents as they navigate their toxic environment, this book argues that social and political change requires a transformative policy approach, one that takes the voices of Indigenous citizens seriously.

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Customer Reviews

Near the Ontario-Michigan border, Canada's densest concentration of chemical manufacturing surrounds the Aamjiwnaang First Nation. Living in the polluted heart of Chemical Valley, members of this Indigenous community express concern about a declining rate of male births in addition to abnormal rates of miscarriage, asthma, cancer, and cardiovascular and respiratory illnesses. While starvation policies and smallpox-laced blankets might be an acknowledged part of Canada's past, this book reveals how the colonial legacy of inflicting harm on Indigenous bodies persists through a system that fails to adequately address health and ecological suffering in First Nations communities. Everyday Exposure uncovers the systemic injustices faced on a daily basis in Aamjiwnaang. By exploring the problems that Canada's

conflicting levels of jurisdiction pose for the creation of environmental justice policy, analyzing clashes between Indigenous and scientific knowledge, and documenting the experiences of Aamjiwnaang residents as they navigate their toxic environment, this book argues that social and political change requires an experiential and transformative “sensing policy” approach, one that takes the voices of Indigenous citizens seriously.

Every once in a while, an outstanding work of scholarship comes along that transforms the way a seemingly intractable injustice is seen and, in so doing, also transforms the way it should be approached and addressed by all concerned. Such a work is *Everyday Exposure*. (From the Foreword by James Tully) By documenting the environmental injustice experienced by the Aamjiwnaang First Nation in Ontario’s Chemical Valley, *Everyday Exposure* uncovers the jurisdictional framework that institutionalizes reproductive injustice in First Nations communities across Canada. Wiebe makes a compelling case for why policy makers should consider more than just scientific knowledge as a basis for action. (Deborah McGregor is Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Environmental Justice at Osgoode Hall Law School and a professor in the Faculty of Environmental Studies at York University) This insightful book is a must-read for anyone interested in Indigenous environmental justice. With sensitivity and imagination, Sarah Marie Wiebe grounds her argument for changing how we approach policy making in a much-needed discussion about the legacies of colonialism faced by Indigenous people in Canada. (Ravi de Costa is associate dean of research in the Faculty of Environmental Studies at York University)

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