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The Present 3:
PS 4.2 Changing People

Perspectives on environmental justice in planning and delivery of urban forestry goals

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Overview

- Context
  - Urban forest management plans (UFMPs)
  - Environmental justice
- Purpose & Objectives
- Methods
  - Content analysis
  - Interviews (key informant)
- Results
- Conclusions

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Urban Forest Management Plans (UFMPs)

Drivers:

- Harsh growing conditions
- Pests and diseases
- High mortality
- Low biodiversity

Goals:

- Mitigating the effects of climate change
- Improved biodiversity
- Increased tree canopy cover
- Community engagement

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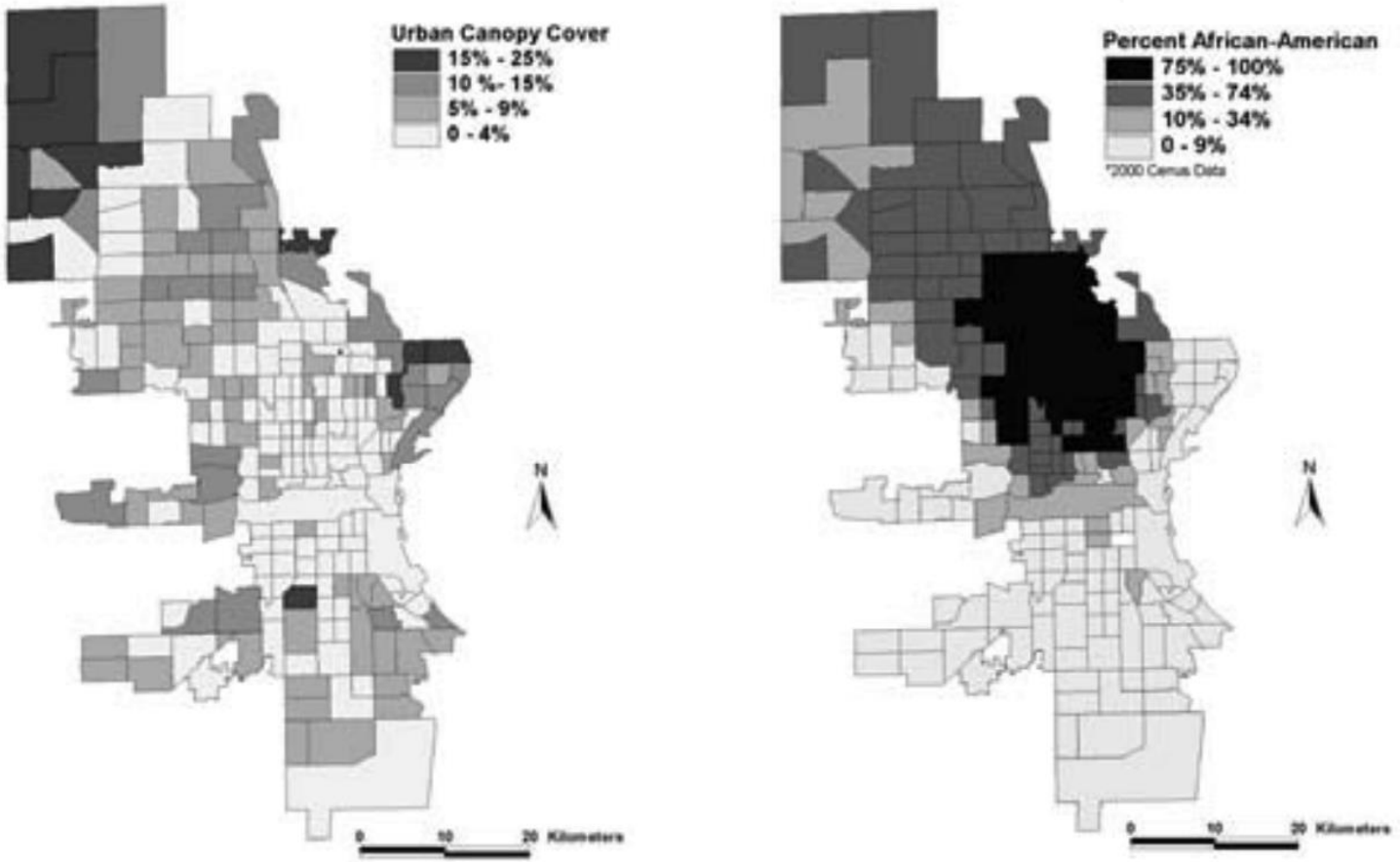
Distributional Justice and Urban Forests

Milwaukee, USA



Heynen, N., Perkins, H. A., & Roy, P. (2006). **The political ecology of uneven urban green space: the impact of political economy on race and ethnicity in producing environmental inequality in Milwaukee**. *Urban Affairs Review*, *42*(1), 3-25.

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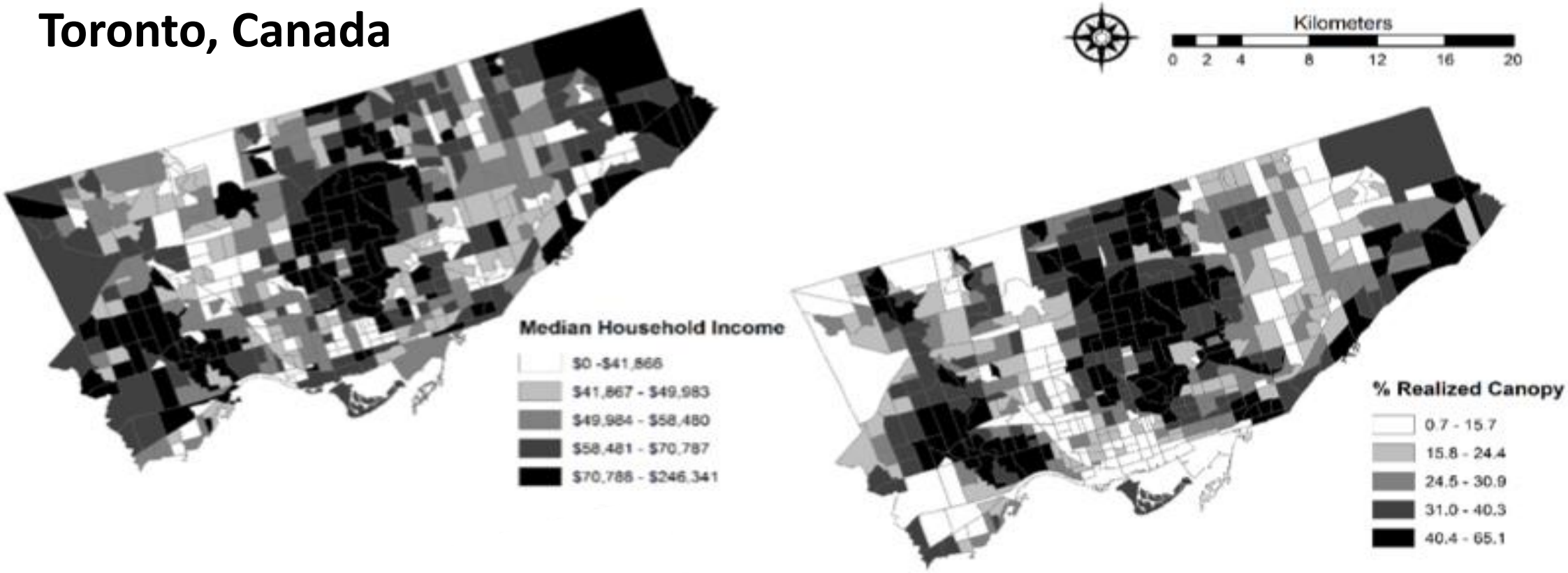
Distributional Justice and Urban Forests

Toronto, Canada



Greene, C. S., Robinson, P. J., & Millward, A. A. (2018). **Canopy of advantage: Who benefits most from city trees?** *Journal of Environmental Management*, *208*, 24-35.

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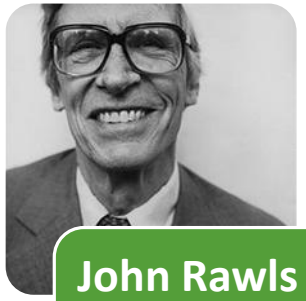
Brief History of Environmental Justice Theory

1971



John Rawls

- Distribution

1990

Iris Young

- Procedure and Recognition

1998

Nancy Fraser

- Procedure and Recognition

2001

Axel Honneth

- Procedure and Recognition

2009

David Schlosberg

- Procedure and Recognition

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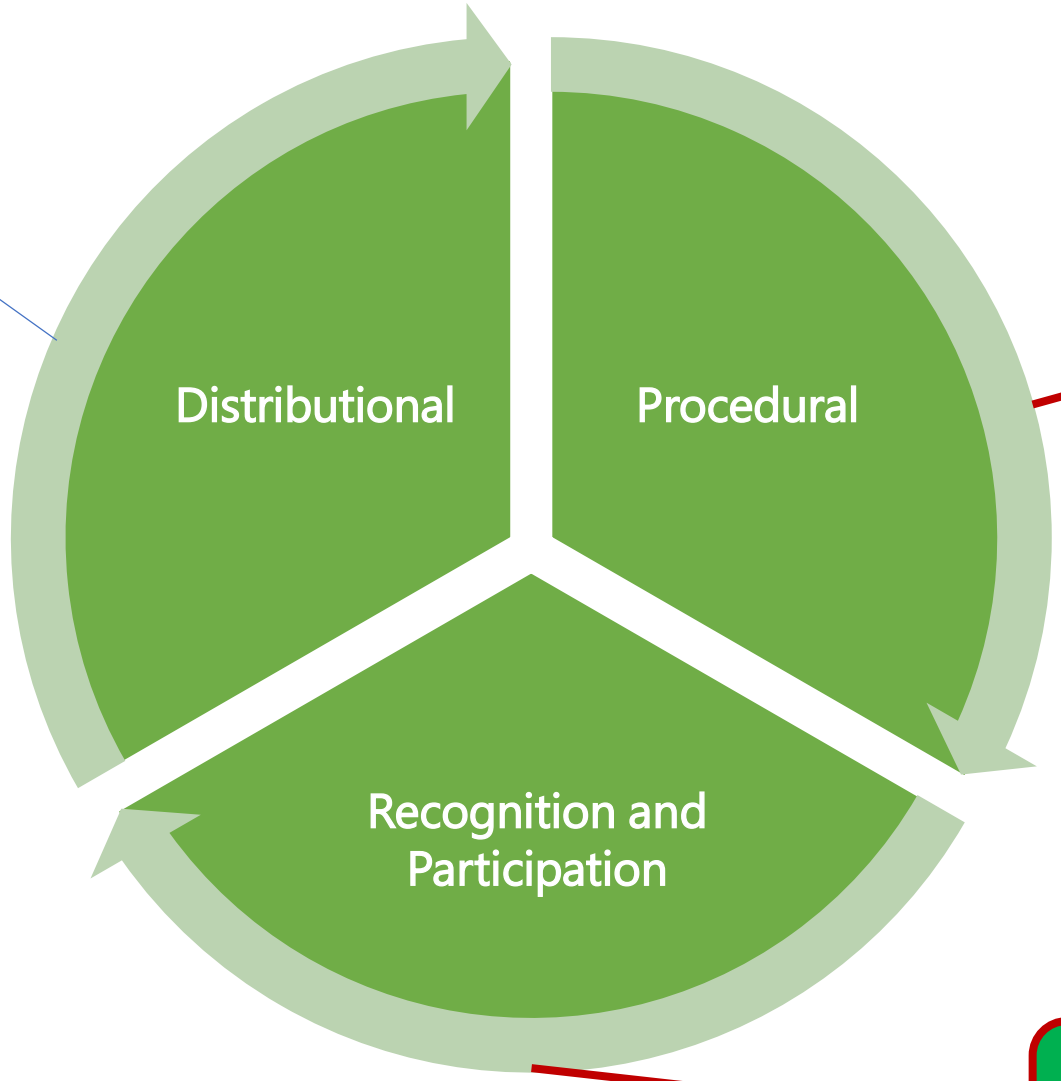
Are trees distributed equitably across neighbourhoods?



Do people have access to accurate information?

Is there fairness and transparency in the process?

Are oppressed groups recognized within the process?

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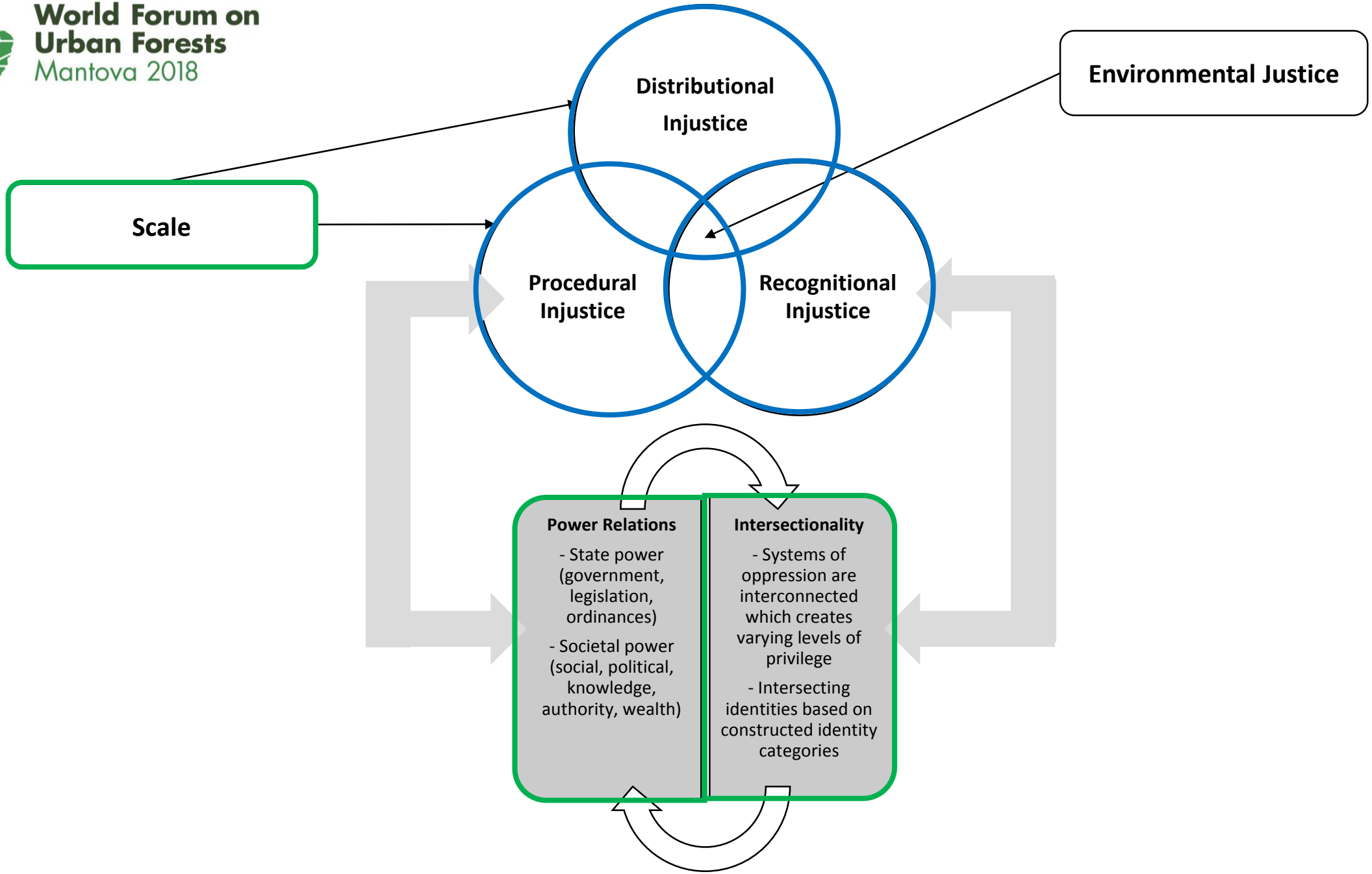

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Purpose & Objectives

Purpose:

To explore whether and how environmental justice (EJ) goals are being defined, pursued, and implemented in urban forest management plans (UFMPs) and practices.

Objectives:

1) Develop a framework to evaluated UFMPs;
2) Apply framework to UFMPs (Canada and the US) to understand how EJ goals are defined and pursued in policy and practice; and,
3) Investigate, using key informant interviews, conception of EJ goals, and their implementation, by urban forestry practitioners in major Canadian and American cities.

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Method: Content Analysis

- All current, existing UFMPs from Canada and the United States have been collected and are being analyzed
  - 47 Canadian and 54 American
- Directed and manifest approach (latent to be completed)

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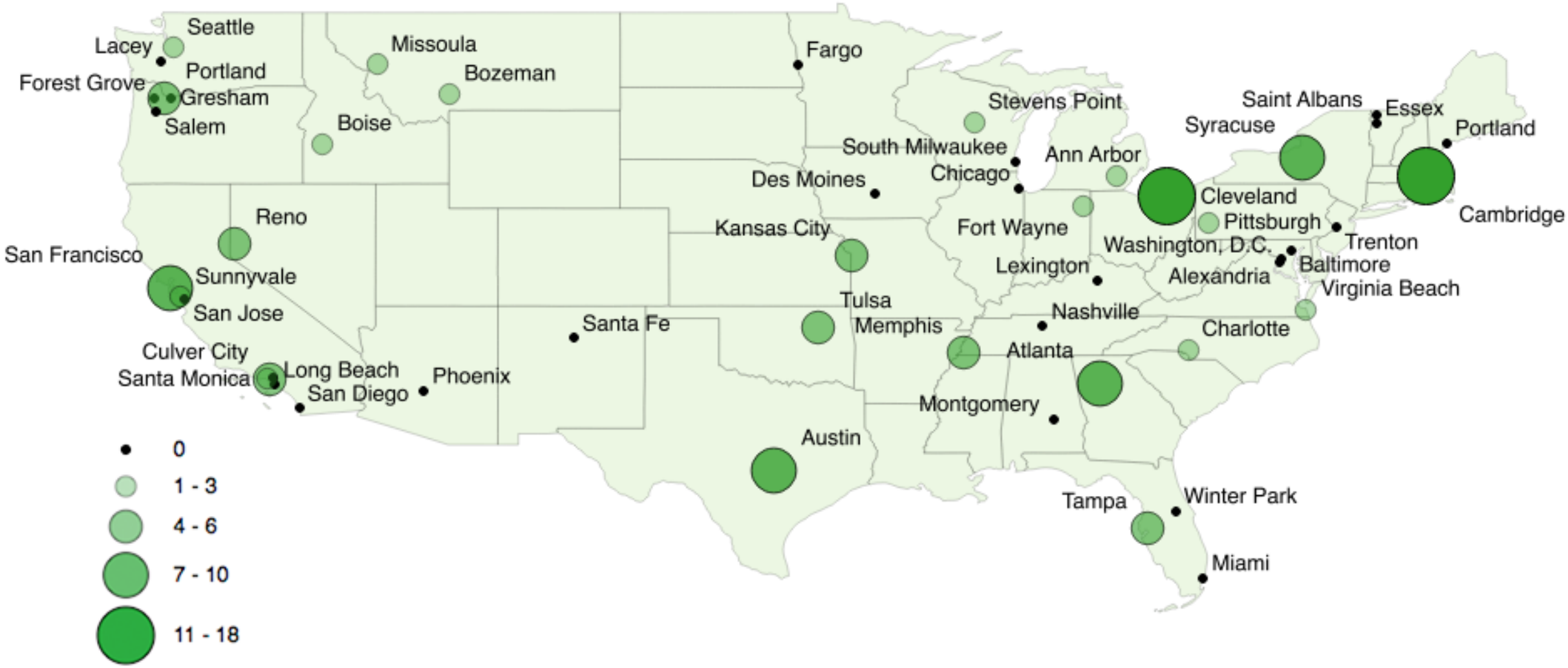
Frequency of Discussion of Distributional Justice in UFMPs



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Example of Distributional Justice in UFMPs

- **San Francisco**: “Increase the street tree population by half to help create a more equitable distribution of tree canopy and reduce greening inequities in different areas of the city” (p.17).

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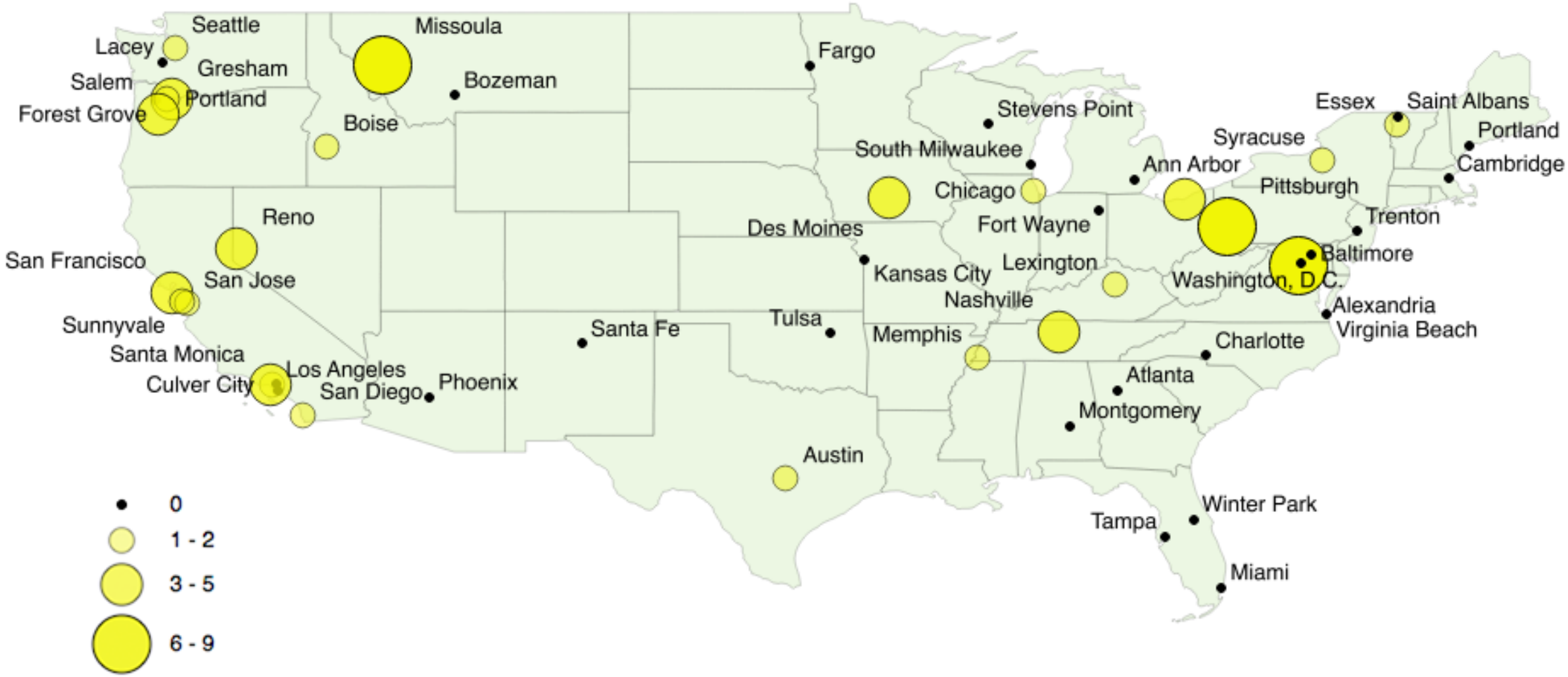
Frequency of Discussion of Procedural Justice in UFMPs



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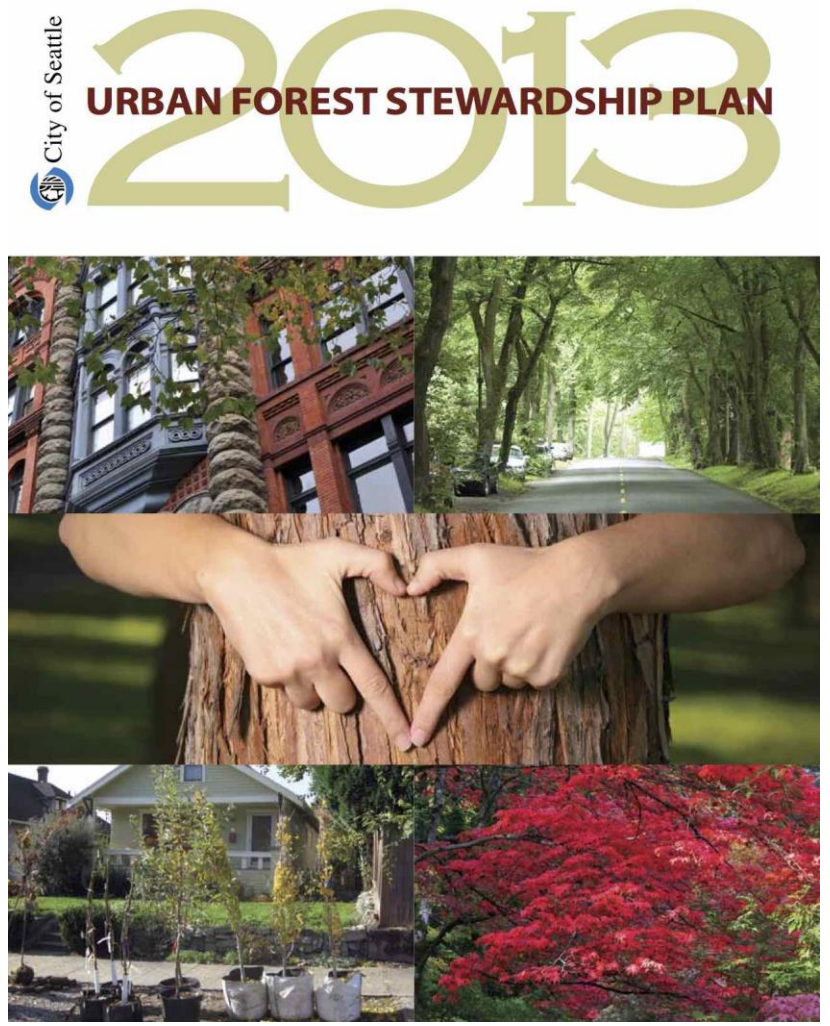
Example of Procedural Justice in UFMPs

- **Seattle**: “Provide information and… facilitate access to urban forest organizations and events throughout the city; and work closely with City departments and community organizations to make urban forest outreach efforts accessible…(p.55).”



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Frequency of Discussion of Recognitional Justice in UFMPs

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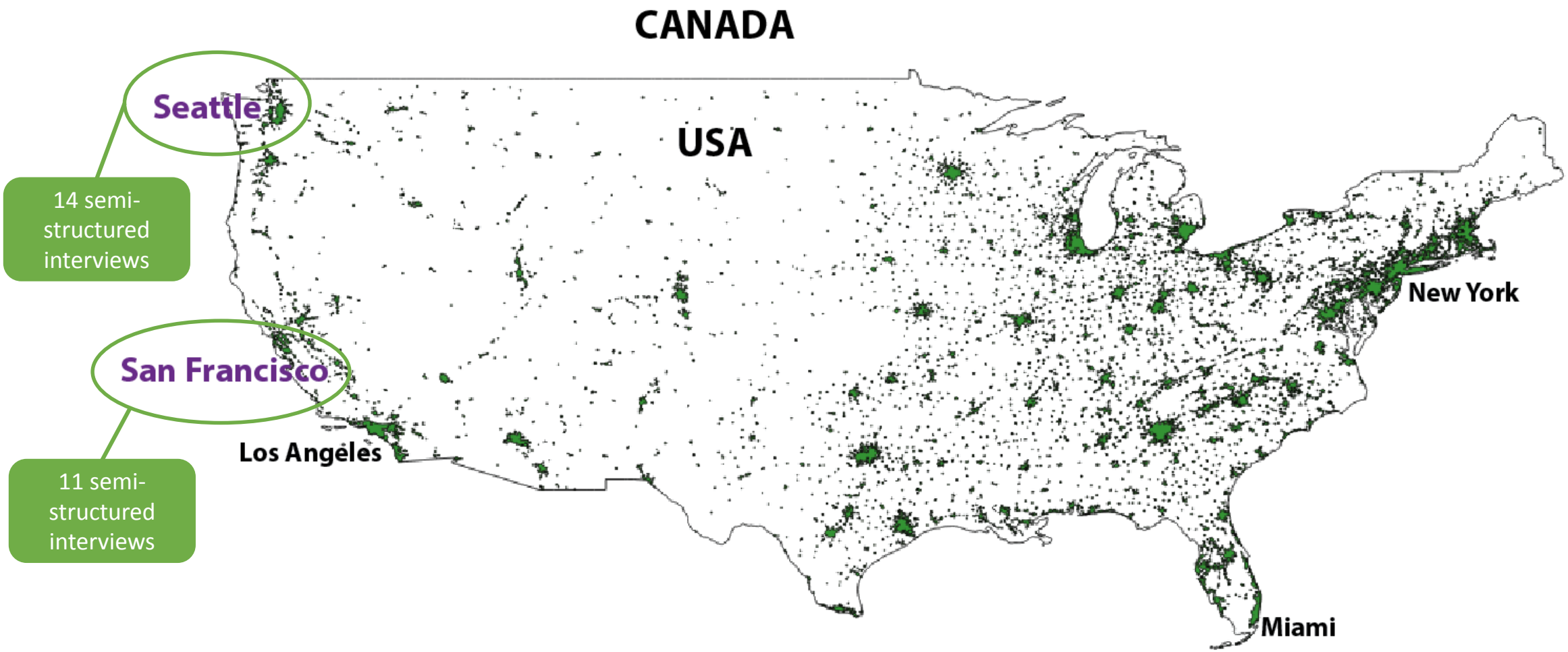
Method:
Key Informant Interviews



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Method:
Key Informant Interviews

Interviews explored:

1) Definitions and measurement of EJ;
2) Collaboration with internal/external organizations, and existing capacity to make decisions that support EJ goals; and,
3) Public consultation and engagement strategies, including awareness of implications involving inclusion/exclusion

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Preliminary Results: San Francisco and Seattle

Theme	San Francisco	Seattle
Definition of distributional justice	✓	✓
Public engagement strategies	✓	✓
Awareness of In/Exclusion	◆	◆
Collaboration and capacity	✗	✗

✓	Similar
◆	Improve
✗	Different

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Why does this matter?

- Democracy: ensuring equitable and fair participation
- Municipal responsibility to build equitable, sustainable cities; this starts with knowing your constituents
  - Trust in decision-making strengthens when more groups are involved
  - Diverse groups typically make better decisions
- Achieve vibrant and accessible urban forests

Photo Credit: Friends of the Urban Forest, 2018

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