

CARLETON UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY

Sociology 3170/HRSJ 3001
Winter 2026
Social Justice In Action

Instructor: Alexis Shotwell

Office Hours: by appointment through <https://calendly.com/alexis-shotwell>, or email me if the times listed there don't work for you.

Email: alexis.shotwell@carleton.ca

Time: Wednesdays, 11:35-2:25 in person

Brightspace link: <https://brightspace.carleton.ca/d2l/home/373308>

Pre-requisites & Precluded Courses: SOCI 1001 and SOCI 1002, or SOCI 1003 [1.0], or ANTH 1001, or ANTH 1002, and third year standing

Course Description and Objectives:

Current debates in social justice theory and practice. Students will be exposed to social justice principles applied in the community through a variety of approaches.

The class will have three main threads: **Building capacities; Investigating ideas; Learning from movements.** In **building capacities**, we'll practice everything from consensus decision-making to writing up social harm reduction policies. With **investigating ideas** we'll look at core concepts people use to think about collective power, from intersectionality to prefigurative politics. And with **learning from movements** we'll take a social movement as our shared object of understanding (you'll also have the chance to focus on justice work that moves you as part of this strand). For Winter 2026, our shared example will be current movements for climate justice.

Learning objectives: Our overarching objectives include leaving the semester with deeper capacities for action of whatever sort moves us, richer understanding of core ideas in social justice, and more traction for the ongoing project of understanding what moves people to transform our shared world. Each of us will set our own particular learning objectives for the course, and you'll have the option to make collective formations for pursuing shared goals. Because our general orientation is towards social movements here in Ottawa, there will be a lot of room for you to follow your own topical interests.

Includes: Experiential Learning Activity

Reading(s)/Textbook(s):

Alook, Angele, Emily Eaton, David Gray-Donald, Joël Laforest, Crystal Lameman, and Bronwen Tucker. *The End of This World: Climate Justice in So-Called Canada*. Between the Lines, 2023. (freely available online through the library, or **\$25.95 in paper from the Carleton bookstore**).

Fremeaux, Isabelle, and Jay Jordan. *We Are “Nature” Defending Itself: Entangling Art, Activism and Autonomous Zones*. Pluto Press, 2021. (freely available online through the library, or **\$19.95 in paper from the Carleton bookstore**).

Spade, Dean. *Mutual Aid Building Solidarity During This Crisis (and the Next)*. New York, NY: Verso, 2020 (freely available online through the library, or **\$19.95 in paper from the Carleton bookstore**).