

May 7th, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Pollution, Prisons, and the Power of Women: Does Women's Leadership in Government Decrease Emissions Caused by the Prison Industrial Complex?

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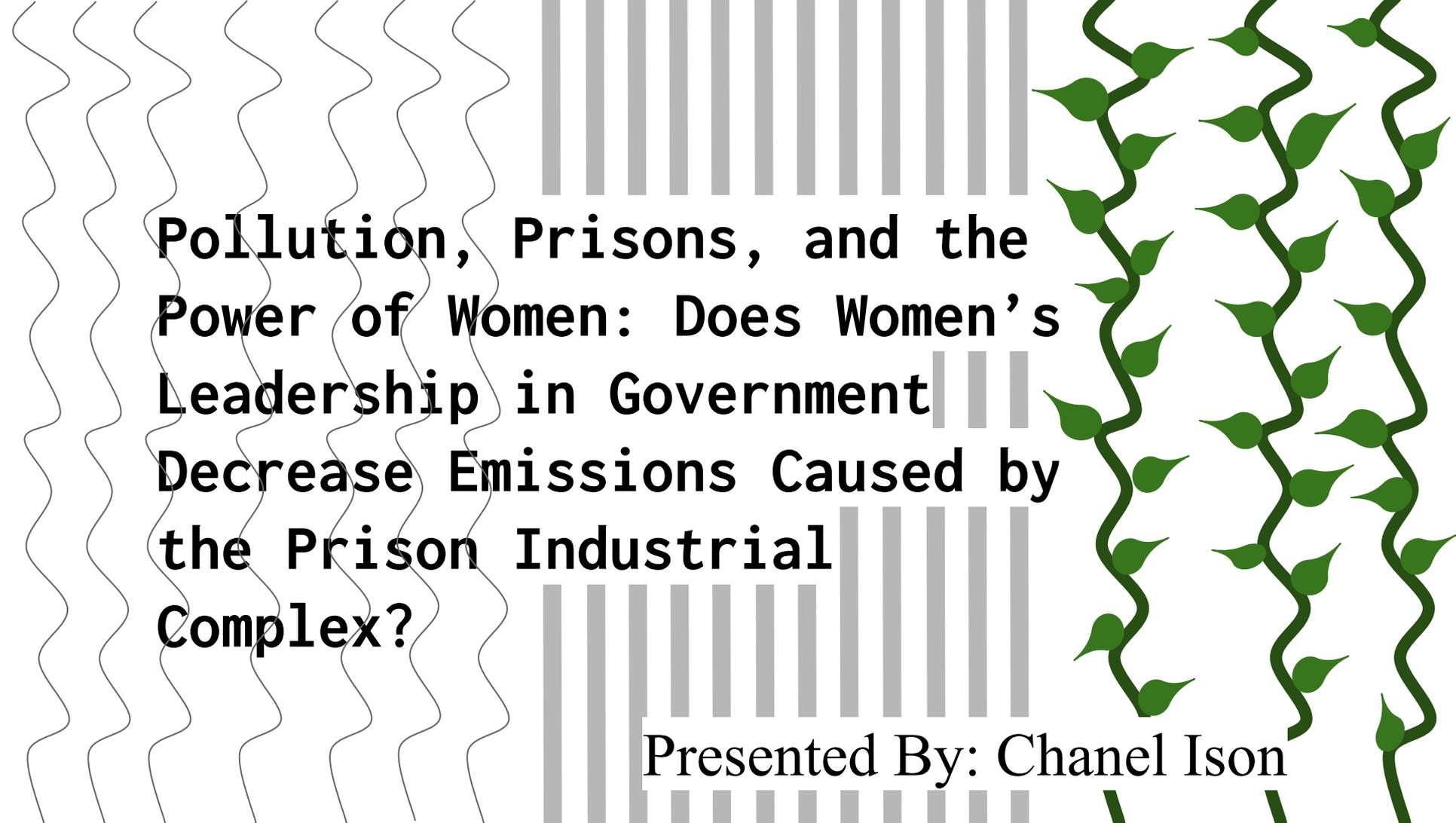
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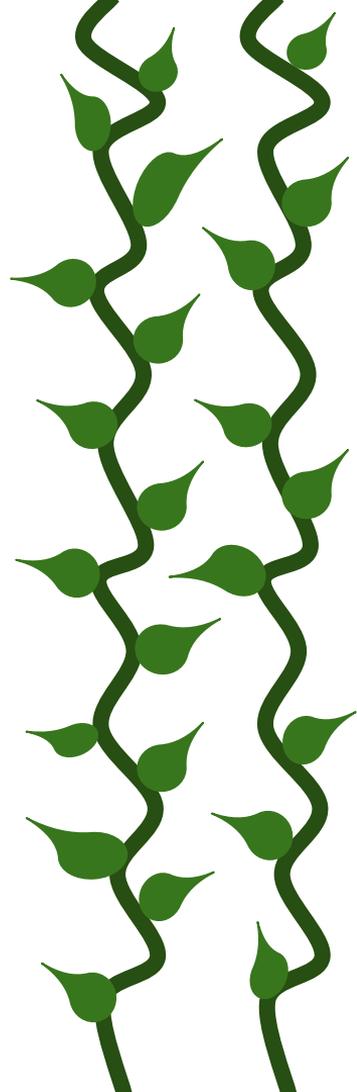
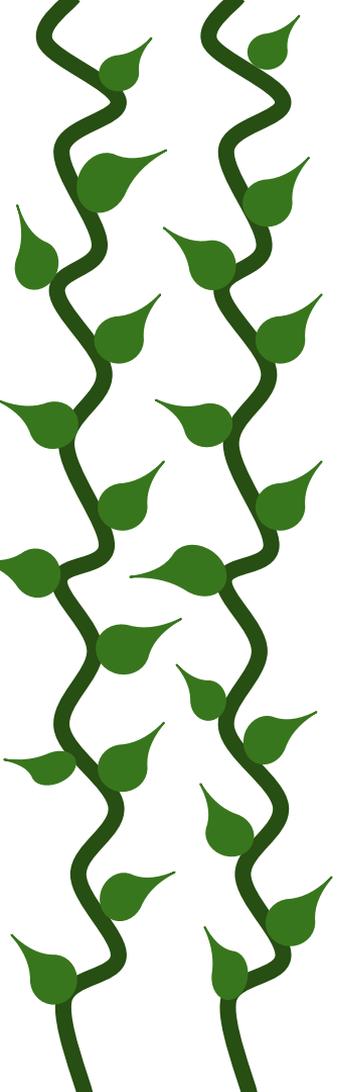


**Pollution, Prisons, and the
Power of Women: Does Women's
Leadership in Government
Decrease Emissions Caused by
the Prison Industrial
Complex?**

Presented By: Chanel Ison

Research Question:

Does the independent effect of mass incarceration emissions decrease when more women are represented in legislative bodies (i.e. as legislators and governors)?



Abstract

Pollution caused by large corporations is the primary reason for environmental degradation and the prison industrial complex is no exception. The purpose of this study is to contextualize the carceral system and its relationship to climate change from a critical ecofeminist perspective. Critical ecofeminism contends that the patriarchal nature of capitalism forces women to generate forms of resistance against essentialist systems--which attributes to their broader understanding of environmental degradation and the oppression of marginalized identities. Using the Fact Sheet Archive on Women in State Legislatures (1997-2016) which reports the percentage of women-identified legislators and governors in the US, this study will explore whether or not the independent effect of mass incarceration emissions decreases when more women are represented in legislative bodies. This work is meant to contribute to growing bodies of knowledge concerning critical environment justice studies, racial capitalism, and other intersectional frameworks.

POLLUTION AND PRISONS

unicor

85 Years Building Brighter Futures



THEN

UNICOR "works" in every sense of the word



NOW

- "Correctional Program"
- "Bringing Jobs Home, Investing in America"
 - Paid less than a dollar per hour (\$0.23-\$1.15 an hour)
 - Build furniture, answer customer service calls
 - Incentivizes mass incarceration
- Working hours increase, increase emissions
- Income inequality increases emissions globally

Methods



- Quantitative Analysis
- Data from the Fact Sheet Archive on Women in State Legislatures (1997-2016)
 - State by state

Critical Ecofeminism



- Critical of essentialist systems (i.e. capitalism and patriarchy)
- More inclusive of marginalized groups than first waves of ecofeminism

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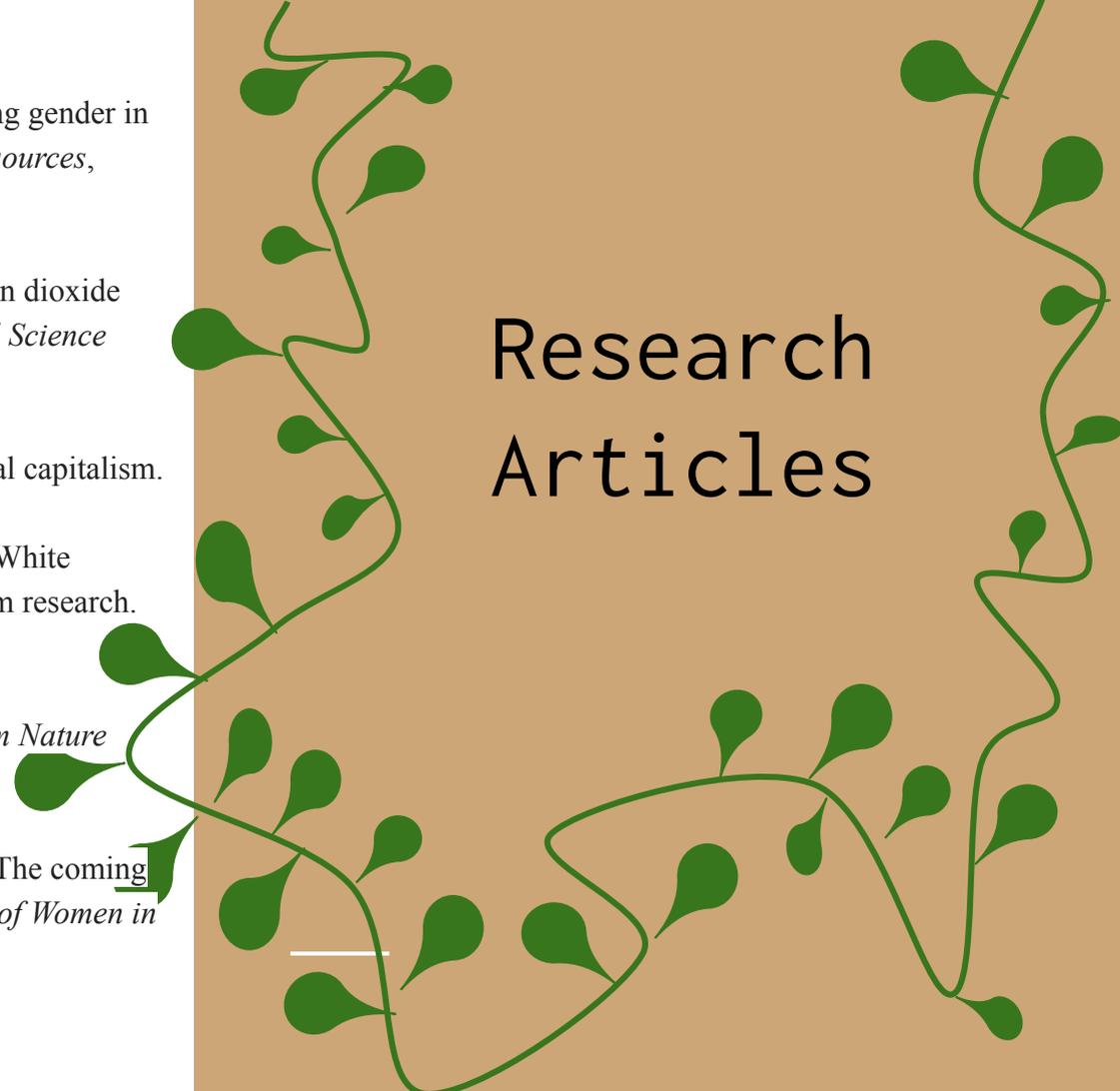
Ergas, C., & York, R. (2012). Women's status and carbon dioxide emissions: A quantitative cross-national analysis. *Social Science Research*, 41(4), 965-976.

Pulido, L. (2016). Flint, environmental racism, and racial capitalism.

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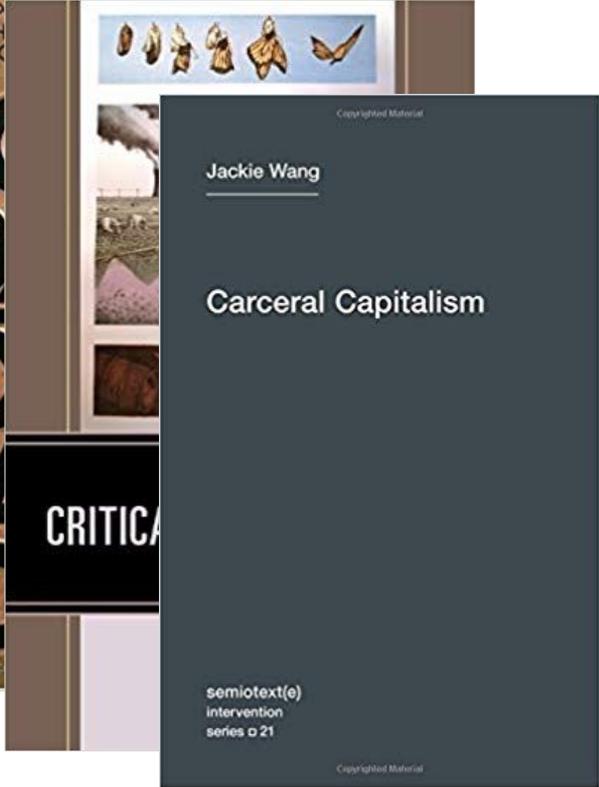
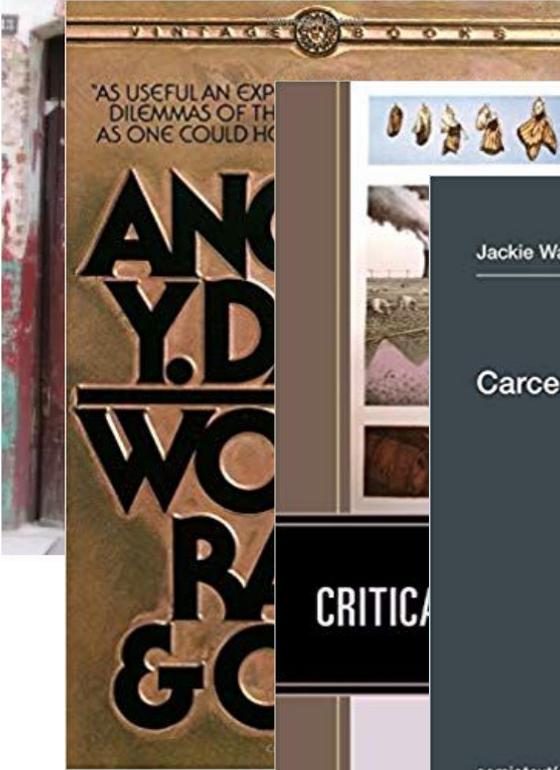
Salleh, A. (2003). Ecofeminism as sociology. *Capitalism Nature Socialism*, 14(1), 61-74.

Seager, J. (2003). Rachel Carson died of breast cancer: The coming of age of feminist environmentalism. *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*, 28(3), 945-972.



Research Articles

ANGELA Y. DAVIS



“Citing your sources is a feminist practice.”
-Dr. Derrais Carter

Davis, A. Y. (2011). *Are Prisons Obsolete?*. Seven Stories Press.

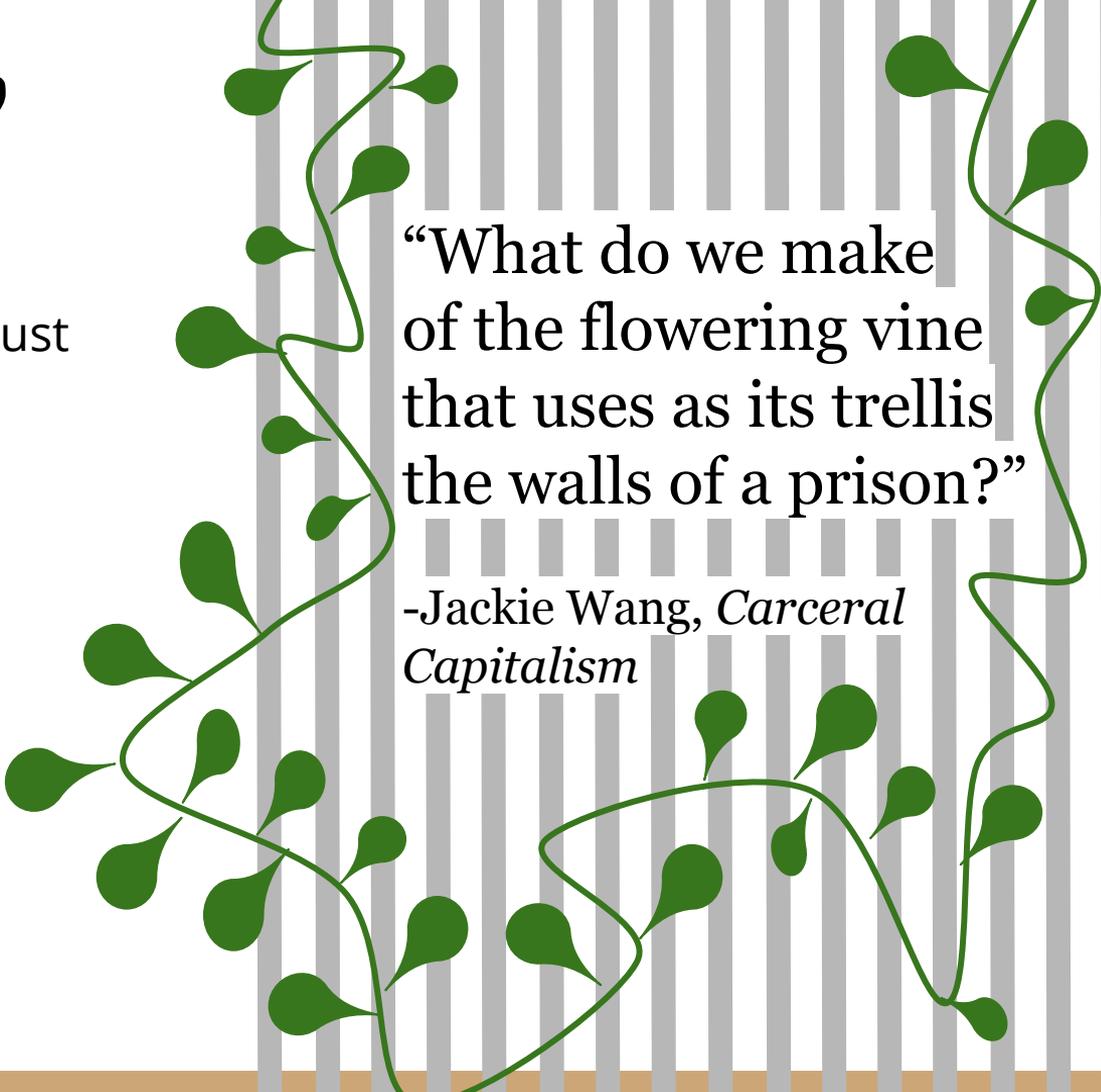
Davis, A. Y. (2011). *Women, Race, & Class*. Vintage.

Gaard, G. (2017). *Critical Ecofeminism*. Lexington Books.

Wang, J. (2018). *Carceral Capitalism* (Vol. 21). MIT Press.

Where is this going?

- Run fixed-effect panel regression models with robust standard errors



“What do we make of the flowering vine that uses as its trellis the walls of a prison?”

-Jackie Wang, *Carceral Capitalism*

Acknowledgements

- Dr. Julius McGee, Sociology
- Dr. Derrais Carter, Black Studies
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