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## Review of Working Across Lines: Resisting Extreme Energy Extraction

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**Working Across Lines: Resisting Extreme Energy Extraction. Corrie Grosse. Univ of California Press, 2022, paper, 272 pp, ISBN: 9780520388413.**

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*Working Across Lines* is the result of three years of fieldwork that Dr. Grosse conducted in two diverse geographic and social locations: rural Idaho and Santa Barbara County, California. Based on participant observations, ethnographic fieldwork, and more than 100 in-depth interviews, the author presents the experiences and understandings of individuals and groups organized against extreme energy extraction and its relationships with broader climate justice activism.

In conversation with previous literature on environmental and justice movements, Grosse seeks to understand how and why people get involved in activism against energy extraction projects and the processes of self and collective identification within the climate justice movement. One of the aims of Grosse's research is to explore the creative and different ways of resistance and coalition building people develop to navigate and face environmental and social challenges.

The overarching finding of the book shows that beyond the social, economic, and cultural differences between rural Idaho and Santa Barbara, California, in both cases activists were able to build a broad-based network against extractive energy projects by welcoming the individual and social differences rather than homogenizing different motivations, tactics, and strategies. Grosse research shows that the key for success of environmental movements in both places is related to their capacity to work and talk across lines, both political lines in the case of Idaho and intersectional lines in California, focusing on shared core values and identifying the roots of injustices.

The author's novel contribution to the conversation about social and environmental movements is related to the understanding of the process of collective identity and the importance of working across lines towards shared goals despite the social, political, or economic differences. The concept of working and talking across lines and its value to understand why and how environmental social movements bring diverse individuals together are the theoretical contributions that the author makes to the climate justice field.

Based on these key findings, each chapter of the book addresses a different characteristic of the concept of working across lines. After the introduction and the discussion of climate crisis and extreme energy extraction, the author compellingly presents the importance of understanding and analyzing local climate justice movements, their tenets, and organization, and explains the relevance and contribution of her research. The second chapter of the book focuses on the presentation of both case studies: Santa Barbara, California, and rural Idaho. While Grosse successfully discussed both study cases separately and draws conclusions about the similarities of social and organizing processes, it would have been useful to have more information about the demographic composition of each location from the beginning of the book.

Grosse uses chapters three and four to present her analysis of the environmental movement and activists' experiences in Idaho. The author presents the processes of self-identification and the struggles that Idahoans face to identify as activists in a social context where that label doesn't have a positive connotation. At the same time, Grosse discusses the context of political polarization in Idaho, and the United States more broadly, to explain the dynamics of relational organizing and values that shape the social movement against extreme energy extraction and mega loads. Grosse's main findings in Idaho are related to the process of moving from "concerned citizens" to activists and members of the environmental movement that Idahoans navigated, and their capacity to work together across political differences in a rural and political polarized environment.

While in her analysis of the Idaho case study Grosse focuses on how individuals work across political lines and political polarization, in chapter five the author incorporates the analysis of working across intersectional lines focusing on the youth environmental movement in Santa Barbara, California. Throughout the analysis, Grosse shows that in a different social context, individuals work and talk across lines in different ways. Unlike people in Idaho, the activists Grosse interviewed in California are more diverse in terms of race, class, and age, but they also build their relationships based on shared values, trust, and empathy across intersectional lines. The author states that in the environmental movement in Santa Barbara "climate justice activists are acknowledging and embracing difference, exploring intersectionality, in sophisticated ways" (103).

Chapter six continues with the analysis of coalition and movement building from a very interesting perspective: the conflict or contradictions between grassroots and grass-tops organizations. Grosse presents the tensions that arise between these two types of organization based on the internal structures, organization of volunteers, goals, approaches, and scale. The author ended the chapter arguing that it is still possible for these different types of organizations to collaborate and work across lines because of some of their shared main goals and concerns. Finally, Grosse uses chapters seven and eight to present examples of coalition building and analyze different ways of working across lines in each location. While chapter seven highlights motivations, strategies, and tactics of each movement and their strengths and weakness, the last chapter of the book focuses on the lessons learned from those examples and effective and ineffective ways to construct diverse coalitions with enough power to accomplish their goals. The author also discusses connections to place, political economy, and identity that were introduced throughout the book. In the concluding chapter, Grosse summarizes two of the key concepts from her research: working across lines and the creation of inclusive collective identities. She highlights the importance of analyzing climate justice movements and coalition building through these theoretical concepts and invites future research to investigate unlikely alliances in diverse cultural settings that can show the relevance of trust, solidarity and coming together around a shared understanding of right and wrong. The author closes out the book with powerful and hopeful quotes from participants about future scenarios and possibilities related to climate justice activism.

Overall, Grosse does a great job presenting and analyzing different social processes by which activists from Idaho and California work across lines against extreme energy extraction projects. Contextualizing both case studies and highlighting their social, political, historical, and economic differences, the author illuminates the power and usefulness of the theoretical concepts of working and talking across lines to build coalition and enhance local climate justice movements. The key

findings presented in the book show that activists in both locations are concerned about how to work together with people who had different views, identities, priorities, and organizational affiliations. In sum, the author argues and explains how people are working across lines towards climate justice.

Throughout the book, Grosse does a great job presenting her research in conversation with the increasing debate around climate justice movements and political polarization in the United States. Her contribution to the field is both empirical and theoretical and fills a gap by providing tools to think about social movements and environmental justice movements from an approach of working across lines. The book is well-written and organized in an engaging way by which each chapter presents its own theoretical and empirical relevance while being connected with the overall topic and theoretical framework. The author presents different levels of analysis of how people work across lines, their connections to place and to others, and particularly the focus on shared values and beliefs to work towards a common goal against climate change and extreme energy extraction.

Written in an accessible way by an identified “feminist scholar activist” the book can be recommended to broad audiences interested in environmental and climate justice movements, but also more broadly in social movements and coalition building, particularly in the current political context of the United States. Graduate and undergraduate students, particularly in environmental justice and environmental sociology classes, can benefit from this book that adds a perspective on understanding how movements come together in different settings. Since the book provides examples of how people build just and sustainable relationships with each other and the more-than-human world, it can be useful to organizers and climate activists as well.

While Grosse does a good job integrating her research with theoretical approaches and the development of a theoretical concept, her definition of working across lines can sound a little bit utopian because the author doesn’t analyze in depth some of the challenges that the activists pursuing that approach can face. Similarly, the author invites future research to apply this theoretical approach, but it is questionable to what extent her research from two very peculiar case studies in the United States can be extrapolated to other places. In sum, the book shows that a broad-based social movement that inspires and supports diverse participants is the best hope for building a healthy and regenerative world, and it would have been interesting to incorporate conversations about some challenges of the theoretical framework of *working across lines* and its limitations in diverse contexts.

This is very timely research approached from a feminist perspective that shows the importance of shared values on the processes of movement and coalition building, and is an important addition to the literature on environmental and social movements, particularly in the current political context of the United States.