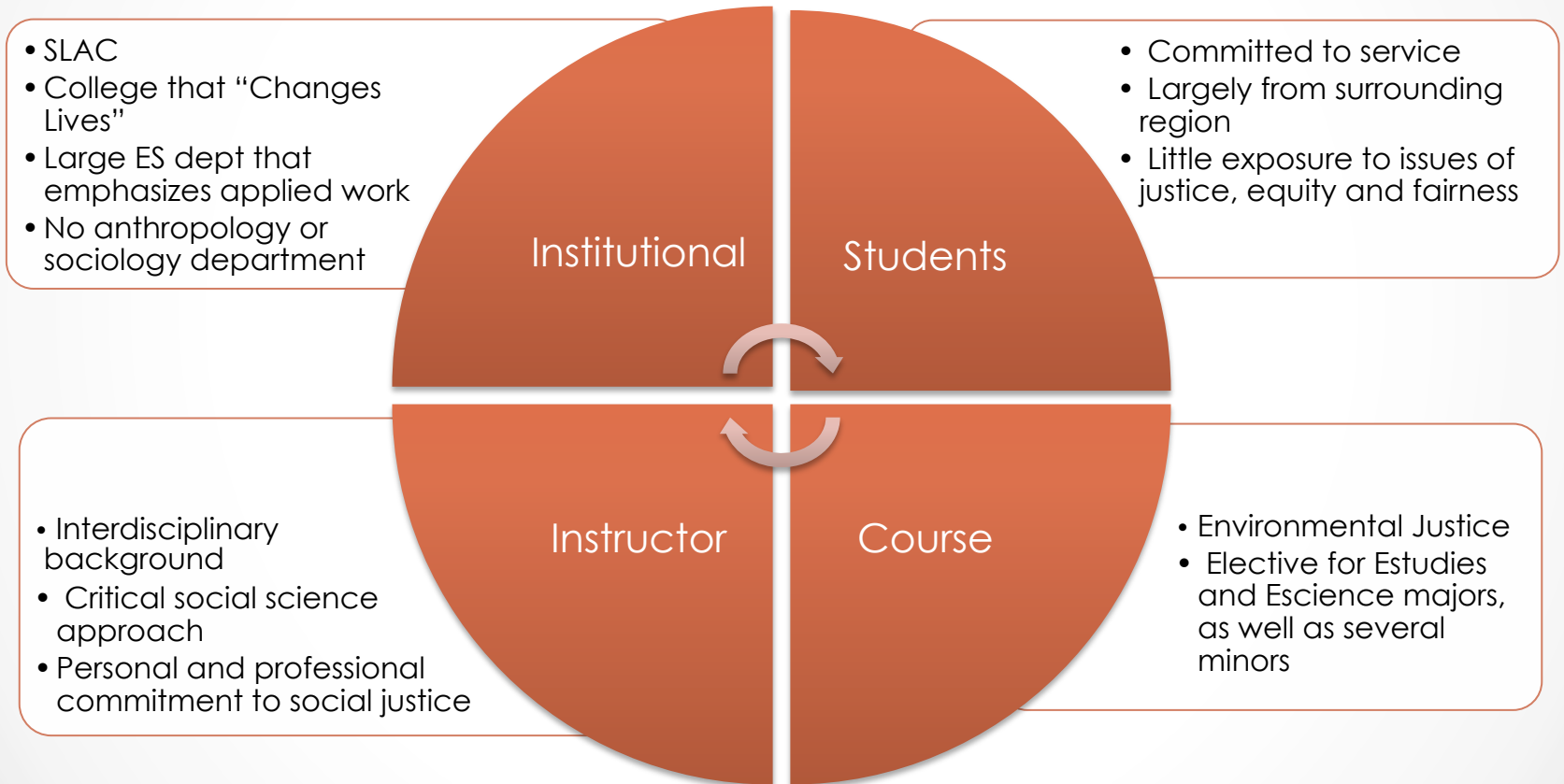


(Tempered) Hope in the Dark

Kate J. Darby, Assistant Professor
Environmental Science, Allegheny College

Context



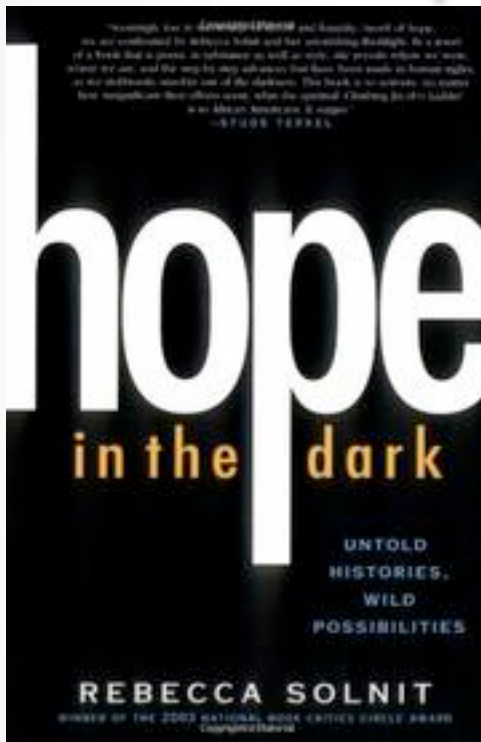
Developing Tools for Action

- Intellectual understanding of EJ process through **readings** and **discussion**
- Supplemental activities in **service** and **advocacy**
- **Exposure** to EJ communities

Emphasis on Empathy and Root Causes



Hope in the Dark



“to hope is dangerous,
and yet it is the
opposite of
fear, for to live
is to risk” - Solnit

“Joy doesn’t
betray but
sustains activism”
- Solnit

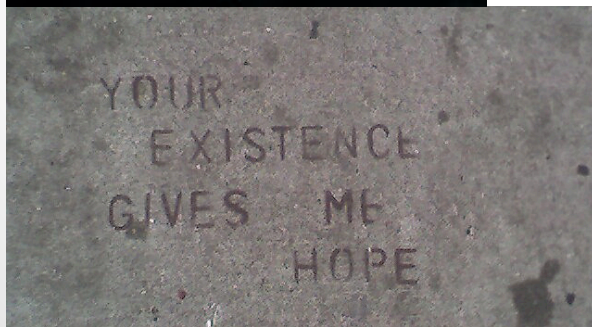
RESURRECTION BY AMAN BISWAS

Yesterday, in the heart of L.A.
There once was a garden.
Yesterday, in the south central L.A.
There once was our home.

In sun-drenched land
We grew carrots and beets.
With sweat-stained shovels
We sowed collards and mustard
greens.

Now:
Families and friends, torn.
Today:
Promises and dreams, broken.

Barren is the land,
So we must wait.
For the time will be ripe,
To revive and resurrect.



Tempered Optimism

- “Buying fair trade coffee will solve global environmental injustice, right?” **Lesson: Individual action (especially through consumption) does little to address structural issues**
- “But there’s a law to prevent this, right?” **Lesson: Issues of justice, equity and fairness are encouraged by EO 12898 and other mechanisms, but is not implemented with regulatory teeth**
- “Well, can’t the EJ community just sue the industrial facility?” **Lesson: Litigation has been a relatively unsuccessful tool for addressing environmental injustice in the U.S.**
- “Ok, then, we’ll have a protest to solve the problem.” **Lesson: “It’s always too soon to go home. And it’s always too soon to calculate effect” (Solnit)**