

Taking Science to the Streets: Community Science and Participatory Approaches to Improve Environment, Health, and Quality of Life in Urban Areas

RCE Greater Atlanta Higher Education Learning Community
Virtual Research Seminar

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12:00 Noon - 1:15 PM

Webinar link: <https://bluejeans.com/645289522>

Optional reading: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/29690570/>

Abstract: Environmental justice communities, those disproportionately affected by pollutants, are simultaneously exposed to multiple environmental stressors and also experience social and cultural factors that may heighten their health risks in comparison to other communities. Availability of fine-grained, community-level data is limited to support said communities' appeals for planning and policy changes.

This presentation will describe local community-driven research, advocacy, and public health practice in an environmentally degraded urban community, Northwest Atlanta's Proctor Creek Watershed, in which watershed residents (community researchers), academics, and non-profit organizations leverage local, community knowledge; community science methods; and digital mapping technology to identify and document local environmental hazards and quality of life stressors. This highly collaborative and interdisciplinary work has helped to improve municipal services and address community health concerns while also demonstrating that the democratization of science can help fill critical data gaps about local conditions and pollution sources, advance environmental justice, and impact changes in implementation of urban policies

Na'Taki Osborne-Jelks is assistant professor in the Environmental and Health Sciences Program at Spelman College. As an environmental health scientist and environmental justice scholar, Osborne Jelks investigates urban environmental health disparities; the role that place, race, and social factors play in influencing health; cumulative risk assessment; and the connection between urban watersheds, pollution, the built environment, and health.) Osborne Jelks co-founded the West Atlanta Watershed Alliance (WAWA), and served on the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council.



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