

Communities, Climate Change, and Health Equity Workshop Series: Exploring flood adaptation strategies to support health equity

Speaker Biographies

Dr. Priscila Alves is the Lab Manager and Postdoctoral Research Associate of the Stormwater Infrastructure Resilience and Justice (SIRJ) Lab at the School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation/University of Maryland. She holds a PhD in Engineering from the University of Exeter in the United Kingdom, and a MSc in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of Campina Grande (UFCG) in Brazil.

Priscila has vast experience with water resources and environmental engineering. She works with disaster risk reduction and environmental justice, including hydrological modeling, Geographical Information Systems (GIS), Green Infrastructure (GI) and participatory action research. Priscila grew up in Brazil, but also lived in the US and the UK during her professional career. The cultural diversity of these experiences provided her a variety of perspectives of how the disaster risk is rooted in the vulnerabilities and political-institutional conditions of the areas. Her main research interests are in combination of spatial tools, technology, public health, and participatory approaches for disaster risk reduction, especially for the reduction of water-related hazards, such as floods, basement sewage backup events, and water shortage. Her publications include the analysis of mitigation strategies for flood risk reduction, along with the understanding of risk perception and coping capacity of residents, social and institutional vulnerabilities, and the mapping of vulnerable areas for flood and water shortage.

Anne Baker is the Senior Coalition Director at the American Flood Coalition, where she leads teams advancing policy, technical, and engagement strategies to support our Coalition members at the state and local levels.

Anne has over eighteen years of experience in resilience planning and community engagement, including both technical and management roles with the New York-based landscape architecture firm DLANDstudio (SASAKI), and with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), where she served on national flood risk management and public engagement teams. She also served as a Knauss Sea Grant Policy Fellow working jointly with the Coastal States Organization and USACE. Over her academic and professional career, Anne has conducted applied research on resilience planning in the U.S. and abroad. She is a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Accredited Professional and licensed Landscape Architect in the State of New York.

Anne holds a bachelor's degree in architecture from Washington University in St. Louis, a master's degree in landscape architecture from Harvard University, and a master's degree of science in geographic information science from Clark University.

Dr. Jesse E. Bell is the Claire M. Hubbard Professor of Water, Climate, and Health in the Department of Environmental, Agricultural, and Occupational Health at the University of Nebraska Medical Center and the School of Natural Resources within the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He is the director of the Water, Climate and Health Program at UNMC and the director of Water, Climate and Health at the University of Nebraska's Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute. The mission of these programs is to develop interdisciplinary research, education and collaborative solutions to public

health challenges associated with environmental issues in Nebraska and around the world. As the founding director, he has helped grow these programs to over 25 faculty, staff, and students. His expertise and research are focused on understanding how human and natural processes are connected to changes in the environment and climate. Before coming to UNMC, Dr. Bell developed and served in an interagency position between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). During his time in this role, his work built the foundation for novel and innovative approaches to use climate data to assist with health research. He was able to unite each organization's efforts toward better understanding the impact of climate change on health. He has authored more than 70 scientific articles and technical reports, including serving as a lead author for the U.S. Global Change Research Program report "The Impacts of Climate Change on Human Health in the United States: A Scientific Assessment" that was released by the White House in 2016 and an author of Human Health chapter for the congressionally mandated Fifth National Climate Assessment. Dr. Bell is a native Nebraskan and received his Ph.D. is from the University of Oklahoma.

Nicole Boothman-Shepard is passionate about partnering with communities on strategic risk reduction for shocks and stresses and facilitating equitable and transformative community development. She is AECOM's global advisor on disaster risk reduction. Nicole has facilitated the award of \$9.7B in federal funding for all-hazards resilience, rapid response, and resilient recovery for public sector clients. She provides executive advisement on best-value building and infrastructure investments and all aspects of risk avoidance, equitable resilience, and climate adaptation. Sought out for her balance between innovation and risk, Nicole is a FEMA Vanguard Fellow (2024).

Nicole provides strategic advisement on sustainable and resilient building and infrastructure investments that leverage positive social, economic, and environmental co-benefits. She is Vice-Chair of the US Transportation Research Board's (TRB) Resilience Section which leads all emergency management and resilience committees for all modes. Prior to joining the private sector, Nicole was Executive Director of the Rhode Island Service Alliance with a dual appointment as the State's Vulnerable Populations Coordinator for RI Emergency Management Agency.

Kemp Burdette has been the Cape Fear Riverkeeper for fourteen years, working to protect and improve the water quality of the North Carolina's largest and most diverse watershed. He is a Wilmington native who grew up exploring the waterways and swamps that make our area so special. Kemp has lived and traveled around the world as a US Navy search and rescue swimmer, a Fulbright Scholar, and a Peace Corps volunteer. Kemp is a Board Member of the Waterkeeper Alliance an international clean water advocacy organization fighting to protect the world's waterways. At home and abroad Kemp has always been interested in the way humans interact with their environment.

His academic background is in geology and history, graduating from UNCW magna cum laude with honors, and he holds a master of public administration (MPA), also from UNCW. He also holds a certificate in nonprofit management from Duke University.

Kemp spends most of his free time with his two daughters Olivia and Caroline travelling or exploring the waterways and swamps of the Lower Cape Fear Region.

Dr. Angela M Chalk is a 4th generation 7th Ward resident. She is the Founder and Executive Director of Healthy Community Services, a non-profit organization, located in the 7th Ward of New Orleans, LA.

She serves on the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana Advisory Committee and the Xavier University LaCATS Community Advisory Board. Recently, she was appointed to Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards' Anti-Litter Trash Abatement and Beautification Task Force. She helped co-author policies with the American Geo-Physical Union which will help to guide the National Science Foundation to be more inclusive of Black, Brown and Indigenous communities' work with academic research institutions.

Dr. Chalk received a Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communications, from Dillard University, a Master of Science Health Care Management from the University of New Orleans, and Doctor of Health Administration from Virginia University of Lynchburg. She is AGU Thriving Earth Exchange Fellow and a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Amy Chester has spent more than 25 years in municipal policy, community engagement, real estate development and communications advocating for the built environment.

As the Managing Director of Rebuild by Design, Chester's first task was to lead an international design-driven competition that utilized a truly inclusive and collaborative process to create implementable large-scale infrastructure projects to address the physical and social vulnerabilities exposed by Hurricane Sandy in the Northeast United States. The process resulted in \$930 Million in awards from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development to implement the winning designs, now have over \$4.2 Billion of investment. Under her leadership, Rebuild by Design transformed the competition's collaborative approach into an organization that helps governments and communities replicate its success for a variety of scales in locations around the world to address challenges such as climate change, transportation, housing, community collaboration and equity. Locally, Chester is responsible for the research and strategic direction that led to New York State's \$4 Billion Environmental Bond Act for climate resilience and ecological restoration, as well as founding the NYS Adaptation Practitioners Network for professionals to share best practices.

Previously, Chester worked for NYC Mayor Michael Bloomberg as Chief of Staff to the Deputy Mayor for Legislative Affairs and as a Senior Policy Advisor. In these roles she was responsible for the public engagement strategy of PlaNYC, which included initiatives such as the Million Trees Campaign, congestion pricing, and the Greener, Greater Buildings Plan. Chester's other experiences in New York City government have included positions at the New York City Council, where she successfully ensured the inclusion of affordable housing in large-scale neighborhood rezonings, and at the New York City Housing Authority, where she created development plans to build the Harlem Children's Zone's school, and to redevelop a block of non-traditional public housing. Outside of government, Chester's accomplishments include overseeing the development of a medical home for the Freelancers Union, crafting a democratic process which brought together 5000 New Yorkers for a one-day event to determine the future of the World Trade Center Site called Listening to the City, launching the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance through M&R Strategic Services, and working on numerous electoral campaigns including Hillary Clinton's winning NYS Senate and Barack Obama's presidential campaigns.

Outside of her responsibilities at Rebuild by Design, Chester is a co-founder of Resilience PAC – created to educate and elect candidates who prioritize climate resilience – and has taught at Syracuse University’s School of Architecture.

Branko Kerkez is the Arthur F. Thurnau Associate Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, and the director of the Digital Water Lab at the University of Michigan. His group is working to enable “self-driving” water systems, which autonomously adapt themselves to changing conditions using real-time data and controls. He is the founder of Open-Storm.org, an open-source group dedicated to freely sharing hardware, software, and case studies on smart water systems. He is a recipient of the US National Science Foundation’s CAREER award and was recognized by US National Academy of Engineering as a Gilbreth Lecturer.

Dr. Maureen Lichtveld, a member of the National Academy of Medicine (NAM), is the Dean of the School of Public Health, the Jonas Salk Chair in Population Health, and Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health at the University of Pittsburgh with over 35 years of expertise in environmental health. As Dean, Dr. Lichtveld oversees seven academic departments, 1000 students, 165 faculty and 320 staff. Her research focuses on environmentally-induced disease, health disparities, climate and health, environmental health policy, disaster preparedness, public health systems, and community resilience. Her expertise in Climate and Health is locally, nationally, and globally recognized. She is actively involved in Caribbean-wide climate and health research and research training examining the impact of climate change on weather patterns and associated contamination of seafood as a food safety and security issue, and climate adaptation associated with the impact of coastal erosion on forced migration of indigenous nations including pregnant women with minimal access to health services. She provides technical expertise to several NAM and NASEM committees, including the NAM Grand Challenge in Climate and Health, and the Climate Security Roundtable. Dean Lichtveld is a member of the NAM Council, and a member of numerous NAM and National Academies of Sciences Engineering and Medicine (NASEM) Boards, Roundtables, and Committees. She is also a member of the National Research Council (NRC). Dean Lichtveld is the Chair of the Consortium of Universities for Global Health (CUGH). She has co-authored the textbook on Environmental Policy and Public Health. Honors include Johns Hopkins University Society of Scholars, CDC Environmental Health Scientist of the Year, and Woman of the Year of the City of New Orleans for her contributions to science.

Abigail Matos-Pagan holds a Doctor of Nursing degree from Rush University, Chicago, and is board-certified as a National Healthcare disaster Professional. Her academic preparation includes a clinical nursing track in critical care in adults, adult nurse practitioner, geriatric health, and a functional role in disaster response. She has extensive experience in acute and hospital care and specializes in mass casualty events. She is the founder of the Coalition of Nurses for Communities in Disaster, where she actively prepares continuing education and simulations in disaster response to improve the collaborative efforts of professionals when responding to a disaster.

Dr. Matos has been teaching in nursing for over 30 years. She has taught in various institutions and places, including undergraduate community colleges in underserved areas in New York and private institutions and public state higher education institutions in Puerto Rico. She is working with the effects of extreme heat on the cardiovascular system of the advanced-age population, focusing on a cost-effective cooling method intervention. Abigail is a respected member of numerous professional organizations, such as the American College of Cardiology, the

American Association of Critical Care Nurses, Sigma Theta Tau International, and Preventive Cardiovascular Nurse Association, and has contributed significantly as board member leader or active member, of these organizations.

She is the Commander of the Puerto Rico Medical Disaster Response Team of the National Disaster Medical System/HHS, which provides her with many opportunities and experiences when deployed to disaster areas. She has been involved in disaster nursing initiatives and has participated in various research and educational endeavors. She is committed to advancing the nursing profession and has earned recognition and awards as a leader in nursing by the College of Professional Nurses in PR; in 2022, she received the Civil Service Award from the Federal Department of Health, Office of Response, National Disaster Medical System for her extensive work responding to COVID-19 in the strategic, preparedness, response, mitigation, and recovery phases at the Federal, national, and local levels. In 2023, she received the Distinguished Citizen Award from the American College of Cardiology Puerto Rico Chapter for contributing to community service during disaster response.

Patricia Mobley, PE is the founder and CEO of Mode Collective. Previously, she was the deputy director and chief engineer at Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, responsible for field service operations, engineering, facilities, fleet, capital construction, and regulatory affairs. Under her leadership, DWSD increased investment in green stormwater infrastructure by \$19 million in ten years. She also increased the renewal of water and sewer infrastructure from 10 miles per year to greater than 50 miles per year. Under her leadership, the City of Detroit passed the first post-construction stormwater ordinance and DWSD implemented a full lead service line replacement program in 2018. That same year, she was appointed to the Michigan Infrastructure Council of which she is currently the chair. Mobley also serves on the Board of Directors for LimnoTech, an environmental and water resources engineering headquartered in Ann Arbor, MI.

E. Benjamin Money, MPH is the SVP for Population Health at the National Association of Community Health Centers serving as executive lead for value-based care, care transformation, social drivers of health, and environmental health. Mr. Money's 40+ year career includes serving as the President and CEO of the North Carolina Community Health Center Association and an appointment as Deputy Secretary for Health Services at the NC Department of Health and Human Services. Ben received his MPH from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and a certificate in Health and Climate Change from the Yale University School of Public Health.

Mimi Pickering began learning filmmaking at Appalshop in 1971. She is the recipient of numerous awards such as a Guggenheim Fellowship and two Kentucky Arts Council Artist Fellowships. Her film *The Buffalo Creek Flood: An Act of Man* was selected by the Library of Congress for inclusion in the National Film Registry in 2005. Other documentaries include *Chemical Valley*, which aired on the PBS series *P.O.V.*, and *Hazel Dickens: It's Hard to Tell the Singer From the Song*. Most recently Mimi and former Appalshop filmmaker Anne Lewis produced *Anne Braden: Southern Patriot*, a biography of the storied civil rights and civil liberties activist. As Director of Appalshop's Community Media Initiative (CMI), Mimi produces *Making Connections News*, a WMMT program and podcast exploring sustainable economic options for the coalfields. She is also Appalshop team leader for *All Access EKY*, a collaboration to raise awareness and support for comprehensive reproductive health services for people in Appalachian Kentucky, and manages *Prevent Diabetes EKY*, a story-based health promotion initiative.

Charles Sutcliffe joined the National Wildlife Federation as their Senior Advisor for Resilience in 2024 after spending more than a decade in the Louisiana Governor's Office. While in the Governor's Office, Charles worked on policy in support of the CPRA and the coastal program through the 2012, 2017, and 2023 master plans and was the lead staff for the Governor's Advisory Commission. In 2020, Charles was on the governor's small team running the Climate Initiatives Task Force and helping to develop the 2022 Climate Action Plan. In 2020 he also became the state's first Chief Resilience Officer, first working to broaden the state's approach to managing the implications of the coastal crisis, and then later being appointed to the role statewide and across multiple environmental hazards. Charles is from Baton Rouge, LA and attended college at LSU and has a master's degree from New York University.

Margaret Walls is a senior fellow and director of the Climate Risks and Resilience Program and the Environmental Justice Initiative, as well as cohost of RFF's podcast, Resources Radio.

Walls's research focuses on the impacts of extreme weather, floods, hurricanes, and wildfires on people and communities and the design of programs and policies to equitably enhance resilience to such events. She has written about the benefits of natural infrastructure, such as coastal wetlands and riparian buffers, in reducing flood damages and the evaluation of conservation investment decisions in floodplains and coastal zones. She has also evaluated the role of information and disclosure in driving household location decisions in the context of both wildfire and flood risks. In current research, she is focusing on environmental justice challenges associated with wastewater systems in rural communities facing sea level rise and working in partnership with underserved communities to find ways to invest in natural infrastructure to address coastal flooding. She has also conducted an evaluation of the federal government's implementation of the Justice40 directive, the movement to ensure that 40 percent of the benefits of federal climate and energy investments flow to disadvantaged communities. Walls organized and hosted the six-part environmental justice webinar series at RFF, Exposure, in 2021-2022.

Walls has published widely in peer-reviewed journals on a range of natural resource and environmental issues and is the author of 36 book chapters and published reports. She is a Features Coeditor of the Review of Environmental Economics and Policy, a flagship journal of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists. She is a member of the advisory board of Cityscape and the US Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Policy Development and Research, a member of the advisory board for the Washington DC Environmental Justice and Racial Equity (EJRE) Assessment Tool, and a former board member of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists.

Romona Taylor Williams is a professional community and economic development (CED) practitioner with 30 years of experience of working to develop low wealth and predominantly African American communities in urban centers. In November 2015, she and her husband, recording artist, Abba Goel, relocated to Jackson, MS, from St. Louis, when she joined Southern Echo, as Director of Communications and Development until May 2019.

She currently serves as Executive Director for Mississippi Communities United for Prosperity, MCUP and oversees the Achieving Sustainability through Education and Economic Development Solutions (ASEEDS) Model. The ASEEDS model gained national recognition, as a best practice, for successfully mitigating decades of flooding in Duck Hill, MS using green and grey infrastructure technologies and its Creek Rangers program that trains youth ages 8-18 to

be stewards of the environment and future environmentalist through its hybrid STEM program, S.M.A.R.T. (Science, Math, Art, Reading and Technology). Since its inception in 2018, the ASEEDS Creek Rangers and S.M.A.R.T. program has graduated 14 scholars of which 7 were honor students and all are attending colleges and/or universities.

Romona's passion for economic, environmental and social justice has driven her life's work to empower African-Americans and vulnerable communities with the tools and resources they need to transition their communities into healthy and thriving places. Over the years, her work has centered on promoting equitable and inclusive applied research and analysis to impact public policies in community and economic development, consumer protection, education, climate change, environment, health and social justice. Her expertise spans the community and economic development field ranging from affordable housing development and finance, housing counseling, financial education, fair housing and lending policies, Community Reinvestment Act (CRA), and sustainability planning, principles and practices. As an entrepreneur she focuses on inclusive policies and systems that foster growth of minority, disadvantaged and women businesses. She has over 20 years of experience in public and private commercial and residential general contracting.