

Climate Justice Through Community and Arts-Based Research: Building Collaborative Solutions for Marginalized Communities on Long Island

Abstract:

The main goal of our seed grant and subsequent applications for a larger grant is to consolidate an interdisciplinary team of social scientists and humanists in the climate arena, around a research agenda that can provide an initial platform and model for sustained collaborative work on climate change at Stony Brook that centers the strengths and contributions of these disciplines.

We also seek to develop genuinely participatory and community-based methodologies to Stony Brook's climate research, grounded in ecofeminism and deep listening practices. The project will research into how climate impacts intersect with socioeconomic inequalities especially in Long Island's marginalized communities. Methods include GIS and other data collection and synthesis as well as interviewing, focus groups and participatory arts-based research interventions, which encourage communities to explore their lived experiences with climate change.

The seed grant will enable our development of collaborative research relationships with two community-based organizations on Long Island that are working to address issues of environmental and socio-economic inequalities: LI Progressive Coalition; and Erase Racism. Working with these groups, we will lay foundations for fundable lines of research and intervention into ways that the impacts of climate change intersect with social and economic inequalities here on Long Island, starting with select marginalized communities with which our collaborating groups have worked. In addition to launching collaborative investigations with these two groups, the seed grant will also enable us to explore how other SBU and Climate Exchange resources can amplify the project's scope, by involving other groups and communities and potentially, other academics in the Greater New York area. The grant or grants for which we will then apply will extend our collaborative investigations to additional groups and communities while opening new avenues for co-creating long term and sustainable solutions to the problems our seed grant work has highlighted.