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# CLOSING THE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE GAP A WORKSHOP ON ADVANCING EVALUATION METHODS

*September 30, 2011 | UCLA Royce Hall*



 #UCLAEJWorkshop



UCLA School of Public Affairs



## PURPOSE

Program evaluation methods have improved the design and effectiveness of a wide range of public policies. Yet despite the adoption of new types of EJ programs, there are relatively few applications of these evaluation methods to improve this first generation of EJ programs. This event will bring together leaders from across the country to 1) examine the current state of EJ programs, 2) assess the current state of EJ program evaluation, and 3) explore strategies to further develop the sub-field of EJ program evaluation.

## SPONSORS and PARTNERS

This event is co-sponsored by the UCLA Luskin Center for Innovation and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Research and Development National Center for Environmental Research. The USC Program for Environmental and Regional Equity also provided financial support and guidance. Other partners include scholars from the UC Berkeley Department of Environmental Science, Policy and Management, the UC Berkeley School of Public Health, and the Metropolitan Futures Initiative in the UC Irvine School of Social Ecology.



EJ Workshop | September 30, 2011

# EVENT PROGRAM

**8:00 a.m. CHECK-IN AND BREAKFAST | Room 306**

**8:30 a.m. INTRODUCTION | Room 314**

**J.R. DeShazo**, *Director of the Luskin Center for Innovation and Associate Professor of Public Policy, UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs*

**8:45 a.m. PANEL 1: BACKGROUND ON EJ POLICIES AND PROGRAMS**

Knowing the breadth and depth of EJ policies and programs is important to develop evaluation strategies, as different types of EJ programs and policies will require different types of evaluation strategies. This first panel will address the overall landscape of EJ programs and policies, discussing the following questions:

- What are EJ policies and programs?
- What policies and programs are not explicitly considered EJ but have EJ consequences?
- What is the landscape of EJ policies and programs at national, state, and local levels?
- Where are the programs and policies concentrated and under what categories?
- How are EJ areas defined in these programs and policies?

**Rachel Morello-Frosch**, *Associate Professor of Public Health & Environmental Science, Policy, and Management, UC Berkeley (Moderator)*

**Robert Verchick**, *Chair in Environmental Law at Loyola University New Orleans*

**Devon Payne-Sturges**, *Assistant Center Director for Human Health ORD/National Center for Environmental Research, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*

**Romel Pascual**, *Deputy Mayor of Environment, Los Angeles Mayor's Office*

**Vernice Miller-Travis**, *Member of the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council, Vice Chair of the Maryland State Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities, and Co-Founder of WE ACT for Environmental Justice*

**10:15 a.m. COMFORT BREAK**

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## 10:30 a.m. PANEL 2: EVALUATION OF EJ POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

This panel will explore the current state of EJ program and policy evaluation and first generation tools, with specific examples of completed evaluation. Panelists will respond to the following:

- What role can evaluation research play in making EJ policies and programs more effective?
- What is the state of EJ program and policy evaluation?
- What are examples of EJ program and policy evaluation?
- Where are the gaps in effectiveness of evaluation and how might we fill these gaps?

**Doug Houston**, *Assistant Professor of Planning, Policy & Design, UC Irvine (Moderator)*

**Katherine Dawes**, *Director, Evaluation Support Division in the EPA Office of Policy*

**Paul Ong**, *Professor of Urban Planning and Asian Studies in the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs*

**Shalini Vajjhala**, *Deputy Assistant Administrator of the EPA Office of International and Tribal Affairs*

**Paul Mohai**, *Professor in the School of Natural Resources and Environment at the University of Michigan*

## 12:00 p.m LUNCH

## 12:45 p.m. PANEL 3: FOUNDATION AND GOVERNMENT PERSPECTIVE

A panel of foundation and government agency representatives will reflect on how evaluation can strengthen program design and implementation. The panel will give an overview of what they are investing in and how their priorities are shaped.

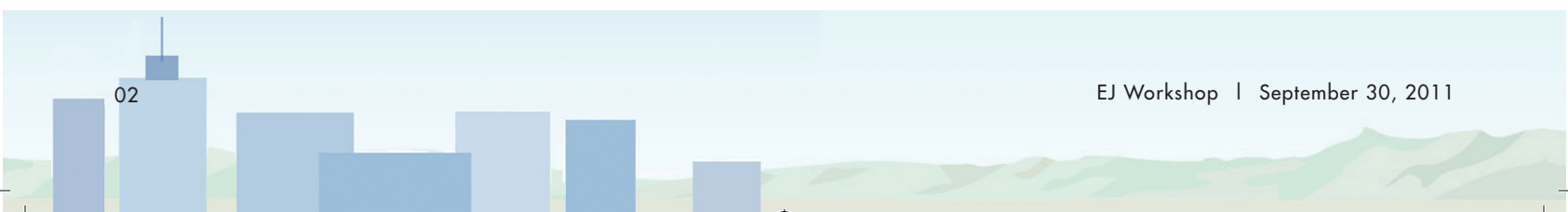
**Manuel Pastor**, *Professor of American Studies and Ethnicity at the University of Southern California and Director of the USC Program for Environmental and Regional Equity (Moderator)*

**Charles Lee**, *Deputy Associate Administrator for Environmental Justice, U.S. EPA*

**Ramtin Arablouei**, *Program Manager for Environmental Health & Environmental Justice, Health and Environmental Funders Network*

**Erin Rogers**, *Environment Program Officer, William and Flora Hewlett Foundation*

**Michele Prichard**, *Director, Common Agenda at Liberty Hill*



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### 1:45 p.m. PANEL 4: BEST PRACTICES FOR EJ PROGRAM DESIGN AND EVALUATION

Recognizing that EJ programs may take a wide range of institutional forms and that these programs are often embedded in complex processes, panelists will discuss four example programs and practices. The panel will explore program components important to consider before devising a strategy to evaluate the effectiveness of the program. Panelists will do the following:

- Give a simple description of an EJ program and its desired effects (outputs and outcomes).
- Describe how one would know if the program is working, and how to measure the magnitude of its effects.
- Explain what factors might affect program success.

**J.R. DeShazo**, *Director of the Luskin Center for Innovation and Associate Professor of Public Policy, UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs (Moderator)*

**Marva King**, *EPA CARE Program Co-Chair, to discuss the EPA's CARE program*

**Nury Martinez**, *Executive Director of Pacoima Beautiful, to give a community perspective on the CARE program*

**Zoë Heller**, *Environmental Protection Specialist with EPA Region 9, to describe the Los Angeles Area Environmental Enforcement Collaborative*

**Adriano Martinez**, *Environmental Justice Project Attorney, Natural Resources Defense Council, to discuss the Harbor Community Benefit Foundation*

**George Alexeeff**, *Acting Director of the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, Cal/EPA, to describe OEHHA's development of a screening methodology to assess cumulative impacts*

### 3:00 p.m. BREAK-OUT GROUPS: DEVELOPING AN EVALUATION STRATEGY

Participants will organize into break-out groups, one per example program described in Panel 4, to discuss considerations, challenges, and methods to evaluate an example EJ program. Discussion questions will include:

- Why it is important to evaluate this type of program? What should be the key objective of the evaluation?
- What are the challenges in evaluating this program?
- What is an ideal approach or method(s) to evaluate this program? What are the steps involved?
- What data is needed and who has it?

### 4:15 p.m. REPORT-OUT FROM THE BREAK-OUT GROUPS

### 4:45 p.m. CLOSING REMARKS

Keynote: **Lisa Garcia**, *Senior Advisor to the Administrator for Environmental Justice, U.S. EPA*

Synthesis: **Manuel Pastor**, *USC Program on Environment and Regional Equity*

### 5:00 p.m. RECEPTION

## SPEAKER BIOS



**George Alexeeff**, Ph.D. is Acting Director of the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) in the California EPA. He provides scientific and policy input on the medical, scientific, and public health risks posed by hazardous substances and acts as a scientific expert on health effects of various contaminants. He is also an adjunct Professor in the Department of Environmental Toxicology at the University of California at Davis. Dr. Alexeeff has recently served on three National Academy of Sciences' Committees, and is a current member of the U.S. EPA Science Advisory Board's Drinking Water Committee. Dr. Alexeeff's professional activities include: former President of the Northern California Chapter of the Society of Toxicology, the past President Genetic and Environmental Toxicology Association of Northern California, and charter member of the Society for Risk Analysis.



**Ramtin Arablouei** works for the Health and Environmental Funders Network (HEFN) as Program Manager for Environmental Health and Environmental Justice. He joined the HEFN staff in 2007. As the lead for HEFN's programmatic offerings, Ramtin has worked closely with a wide array of funders with grant-making interests in environmental health and environmental justice issues. He has represented HEFN at several EJ grantmaking related meetings, including an EJ funder summit at the 2011 American Public Health Association meeting and the Kellogg Foundation sponsored 2010 Environmental Justice Forum at Clark University of Atlanta. Previously, Arablouei served as Coordinator of the St. Mary's Votes project in Southern Maryland. He holds a BA in History & Psychology, cum laude, from St. Mary's College of Maryland (2005).



**Katherine Dawes** has served as the Director of the Evaluation Support Division in the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) since 2000. Katherine is an active member of the Environmental Evaluators Network, the Federal Evaluators, and the American Evaluation Association. Katherine has Masters Degrees in Public Administration (1990) and Geography (1993) from Syracuse University, and a Bachelors of Arts from Dartmouth College (1988). Katherine has worked in a variety of EPA positions since 1990 addressing brownfields, underground storage tanks, and environmental justice. Katherine was a founding board member and former Trustee of the non-profit Environmental Leadership Program.



**J.R. DeShazo** is Director of the UCLA Luskin Center for Innovation. He is also Associate Professor of Public Policy and Vice-chair of the Department of Public Policy in the Luskin School of Public Affairs at UCLA. He holds a Ph.D. in Urban Planning from Harvard University and a M.Sc. in Economics from Oxford University where he was a Rhodes Scholar. He was a faculty associate at the Harvard Institute for International Development (1997-2000). Dr. DeShazo's recent research has focused on local public finance, regulatory reform, climate change policy, and solar energy policy. He advises the Los Angeles City Council and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, among key agencies. He has previously advised the US Environmental Protection Agency, the United Nations, McArthur Foundation, Ford Foundation, and the National Science Foundation, among others.





**Lisa F. Garcia** is Senior Advisor to the Administrator for Environmental Justice. In this role Lisa will help elevate EJ issues, working across programs to integrate and strengthen all of EPA's EJ initiatives. Lisa's work promotes working relationships with EJ communities, and builds strong partnerships to address some of the country's most persistent environmental challenges. Lisa joins EPA after serving as the Chief Advocate for Environmental Justice and Equity at the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation where she developed statewide environmental justice initiatives to tackle critical environmental challenges, and served as co-chair of the Governor's Environmental Justice Interagency Task Force. Lisa also served as Assistant Attorney General for the New York State Attorney General, where she represented various state agencies in environmental litigation matters and defended New York's Brownfields Cleanup Program.



**Zoë Heller** is the Environmental Justice Geographic Information Systems (GIS) coordinator for the US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9 (Pacific Southwest). Zoë helped conceive of and is the project manager for the Region's Los Angeles Area Environmental Enforcement Collaborative, a project focused on increasing inspections and enforcement along the I-710 corridor. As part of the effort to focus EPA resources in this priority area, Zoë manages an EJ grant to DTSC and a Community Action for a Renewed Environment grant to Union de Vecinos. Zoë completed her Master of Public Administration and GIS Certification at Roosevelt University. Prior to working for EPA, she was a Research and Policy Analyst for the Center for Neighborhood Technology in Chicago where she worked on sustainable transportation projects.



**Douglas Houston** is an Assistant Professor of Planning, Policy, and Design at the University of California, Irvine. His research focuses on neighborhood socioeconomic and environmental disparities, urban air quality, and transportation. His recent publications examine the environmental land use, and public health implications of near roadway vehicle-related air pollution, with a focus on community impacts in goods movement corridors near the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach and downtown Los Angeles. He is a member of the steering committee of the UCI School of Social Ecology's Metropolitan Futures Initiative.



**Marva King** is Co-Chair for the Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) Program. Since June 2005, Ms. King has been working in the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Air and Radiation serving as the CARE Grants Team Leader and Program Coordinator until becoming the Co-Chair in 2011. She worked for over 10 years as a Senior Program Analyst in EPA's Office of Environmental Justice managing the EJ Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement Program and the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council. Ms. King recently received a 2010 Child Health Advocate Award from the Children's Environmental Health Network in their community category.

## SPEAKER BIOS



**Charles Lee** is widely recognized as a true pioneer in the annals of environmental justice (EJ), and helped to create the field. He was the principal author of the landmark 1987 report, "Toxic Wastes and Race in the United States," and spearheaded efforts to launch EPA's EJ efforts and to issue Executive Order 12898. He created the United Church of Christ's EJ program and directed EPA's Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ). At OEJ, he led the development of EPA's EJ rulemaking guidance, integration of EJ into EPA's strategic planning process, and collaborative problem solving to achieve healthy and sustainable communities. He currently serves as Deputy Associate Assistant Administrator for Environmental Justice at EPA and leads implementation of Plan EJ 2104, EPA's overarching EJ strategy.



**Adriano Martinez** is an attorney for the Southern California Environmental Justice Project, where he has worked since the summer of 2009. Formerly, beginning September 2004, he was a Project Attorney for the Los Angeles Urban Air Program. His work focuses on improving air quality and reducing environmental impacts on communities in Southern California through the enforcement of state and federal laws, including the Clean Air Act and the California Environmental Quality Act, as well as through advocacy. Adriano was a litigation fellow at NRDC and holds a bachelor's degree in environmental science and policy from Duke University and a law degree from the University of Denver, College of Law.



**Nury Martinez** is the Executive Director of Pacoima Beautiful, a community based environmental justice nonprofit dedicated to the creation of a healthy, environmentally safe and sustainable Northeast San Fernando Valley. With Nury's guidance, Pacoima Beautiful (PB) has established strong organizing capacity and political education that empowers residents to advocate workforce change on their own behalf. Her goal is to improve the community with programs that address the physical sources of pollution, as well as create a healthier, more sustainable community through the implementation of new recreational space. Through support from the EPA CARE Grant Program, PB and its members established partnerships to create a sustainable, consensus-based community action plan for risk reduction of small point sources and diesel emissions from trucks and buses in residential neighborhoods which contribute to asthma in the community.



**Vernice Miller-Travis** is an urban planner focusing on the interrelationship between racial segregation, land use, and environmental protection. She is Principal of the environmental consulting firm Miller-Travis & Associates, a member of the U.S. EPA's National Environmental Justice Advisory Council, and Vice-Chair of the Maryland State Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities. While consulting for the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, she co-authored "Now is the Time: Environmental Injustice in the U.S. and Recommendations for Eliminating Disparities." Previously, Ms. Miller-Travis launched the Ford Foundation's U.S. environmental justice portfolio, directed the Environmental Justice Initiative of the NRDC, co-founded West Harlem Environmental Action (We ACT for Environmental Justice), and helped research, write, and publish the landmark report, "Toxic Wastes and Race in the United States."

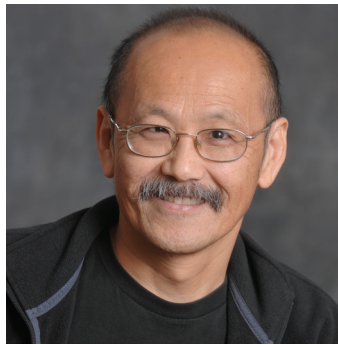




**Paul Mohai** is a Professor in the School of Natural Resources and Environment and a Faculty Associate at the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan. He is a major contributor to the body of quantitative research examining the disproportionate environmental burdens in low income and people of color communities. In 1990, he co-organized with colleague Dr. Bunyan Bryant the historic “Michigan Conference on Race and the Incidence of Environmental Hazards.” Professor Mohai also served on the National Advisory Committee to the First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit, and is currently a member of EPA’s National Environmental Justice Advisory Council. His research involves developing methodologies for assessing environmental disparities, their causes, and the role environmental factors play in accounting for racial and socioeconomic disparities in health.



**Rachel Morello-Frosch** is associate professor of Public Health as well as Environmental Science, Policy and Management, at UC Berkeley. Her research examines social determinants of environmental health disparities among diverse communities in the U.S. A focus of her current work is on the relationship between segregation and environmental health, air pollution and perinatal health, community-based participatory research, and the intersection between climate change, economic restructuring, and community environmental health. In collaboration with academic and community colleagues, Morello-Frosch is developing screening methods for assessing the cumulative impacts of environmental and social stressors to advance decision-making and environmental justice goals in the policy and regulatory arenas. Her forthcoming book (with Phil Brown and Stephen Zavestovski), *Contested Illnesses: Citizens, Science and Health Social Movements*, will be published by UC Press in December.



**Paul Ong** is Professor of Urban Planning and Asian American studies at the University of California, Los Angeles. Professor Ong recently completed an evaluative study of an EJ program adopted by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) as part of AQMD’s regulation to phase in the use of less toxic chemicals at dry cleaning establishments. In addition, Professor Ong has done research on the labor market status of minorities and immigrants, displaced high-tech workers, work and welfare and transportation access. He is currently engaged in several projects, including studies on the effects of neighborhood economies on welfare and work, community economic development in minority communities, and the labor market for healthcare workers. Dr. Ong has served as an advisor to the U.S. Bureau of the Census, the Wellness Foundation and the South Coast Air Quality Management District.



**Romel Pascual** serves as the Deputy Mayor of the Environment for Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa. From 2001-2004, as Assistant Secretary for Environmental Justice for California Environmental Protection Agency, he led the Agency’s effort to develop the state’s first environmental justice program. Prior to joining the Mayor’s Office, Romel managed the environmental justice program for USEPA, Region 9. Romel’s involvement with environmental issues began in community organizations, including the Urban Habitat Program, a non-profit organization based in the Bay Area where he coordinated the Brownfields Leadership and Community Revitalization Project. He also worked with the Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN), conducting research on the impacts of environmental pollution on communities. He has a B.A. in Political Science from UCLA, and MA in City and Regional Planning from UC Berkeley.

## SPEAKER BIOS



**Dr. Manuel Pastor** is Professor of American Studies & Ethnicity at the University of Southern California. Founding director of the Center for Justice, Tolerance, and Community at UC Santa Cruz, Pastor currently directs the Program for Environmental and Regional Equity at USC and is Co-Director of USC's Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration. Pastor's research has generally focused on issues of environmental justice, regional inclusion, and the economic and social conditions facing low-income urban communities. He has received grants from the California Environmental Protection Agency, the California Air Resources Board, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the National Science Foundation, the MacArthur Foundation, the W.T. Grant Foundation, The California Endowment, and many others.



**Devon Payne-Sturges**, Dr.P.H. is the Assistant Center Director for Human Health in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's National Center for Environmental Research. Her areas of research include use of exposure biomonitoring for policy analysis, risk assessment, environmental health indicator development, children's environmental health and environmental health of minority populations. Ms. Payne-Sturges was recently appointed to U.S. EPA's Risk Assessment Forum and is serving on the Cumulative Risk Assessment Tech Panel and as chapter lead for Agency's exposure assessment guidelines focusing on exposures of vulnerable and susceptible populations. She is also Co-Chair of Environmental Justice Technical Guidance workgroup on developing technical guidance on incorporating environmental justice concerns in Agency rule making activities.



**Michele Prichard**, Director of Common Agenda at the Liberty Hill Foundation in Los Angeles, began her involvement with philanthropy in 1982. As Liberty Hill's Executive Director from 1989 to 1997, she helped create new grant programs addressing poverty, racial justice and environmental health. Michele currently serves on the steering committees of the California Health and Environmental Funders Network and the GREEN LA Coalition. She is also the President of the Board of Directors of the Venice Community Housing Corporation. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa appointed Michele to the Harbor Community Benefit Foundation in 2011, a nonprofit dedicated to improving environmental, health and neighborhood conditions in the Port communities of Wilmington and San Pedro, California.



**Erin Rogers** is a program officer in the Hewlett Foundation's Environment Program. Her portfolio supports a broad base of support for clean energy and climate policies, including community-based, public health, national security, faith-based, business, and labor organizations, among others. Before joining the Foundation, Ms. Rogers was the manager of Union of Concerned Scientists' western states climate and energy program. Earlier, she spent a decade working on social and environmental justice issues in Texas. Ms. Rogers graduated from The University of Texas liberal arts honors program and received a master's degree in public administration from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.



**Shalini Vajjhala** is Deputy Assistant Administrator in the Office of International Affairs at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Dr. Vajjhala joined EPA from Resources for the Future (RFF), an environmental and natural resources think tank in Washington, D.C., where she spent four years researching global development and environmental policy issues. Her work covers a wide-range of technical policy issues where coordination and public participation are critical components of policy effectiveness. Her research portfolio includes academic and policy work on climate change adaptation, environmental justice, renewable energy, carbon sequestration risk management, and biofuels policies, among other topics. Dr. Vajjhala has served as the Deputy Associate Director for Energy and Climate at the White House Council on Environmental Quality.



**Rob Verchick** holds the Gauthier-St. Martin Chair in Environmental Law at Loyola University New Orleans. He recently served in the Obama administration as Deputy Associate Administrator for Policy at the EPA, where he helped develop policy on climate change adaptation and on environmental justice. Professor Verchick's scholarship focuses on environmental justice, climate change adaptation, and the developing field of disaster law. His newest book, *Facing Catastrophe: Environmental Action for a Post-Katrina World*, was listed as a CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title of 2010 by the American Library Association. He is a graduate of Stanford University and Harvard Law School.

## WORKSHOP ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Colleen Callahan**, *Deputy Director, UCLA Luskin Center for Innovation, Luskin School of Public Affairs*

**J.R. DeShazo**, *Director, UCLA Luskin Center for Innovation, Luskin School of Public Affairs*

**Douglas Houston**, *Assistant Professor, UC Irvine Department of Planning, Policy & Design and the Metropolitan Futures Initiative*

**Rachel Morello-Frosch**, *Professor, UC Berkeley School of Public Health and the Department of Environmental Science Policy and Management*

**Paul Ong**, *Professor of Urban Planning and Asian Studies, UCLA*

**Manuel Pastor**, *Director, USC Program for Environmental and Regional Equity*

**Devon Payne-Sturges**, *Assistant Center Director for Human Health, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's National Center for Environmental Research*



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