Life Near the Highway: Examining Environmental Justice and Equity in Land Use and Transportation Planning

Speaker Biographies

Richard Baldauf is a senior research engineer at the Environmental Protection Agency National Risk Management Research Laboratory. He has over 20 years of experience conducting research on emissions, air quality impacts, and adverse health effects from exposures to air pollution emitted by transportation sources. Baldauf's research focuses on the development of policies and best practices to mitigate air pollution emissions and impacts at local, urban, and global scales, and he has published over 100 journal articles and book chapters on these topics. He has a joint affiliation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Research & Development and the Office of Transportation & Air Quality where he leads trans-disciplinary research teams focusing on air quality measurements, air dispersion modeling, and sustainable urban development. Baldauf also maintains Adjunct Professor appointments at North Carolina State and Texas A&M Universities in the US.

Jayajit Chakraborty is a professor in the Department of Sociology & Anthropology and the founding director of the Socio-Environmental & Geospatial Analysis Laboratory at the University of Texas at El Paso. He is currently serving as a member of the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Science Advisory Board and the first EPA Environmental Justice Science Committee. Chakraborty has a Master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning and PhD in Geography, both from the University of Iowa. His research and scholarship focuses on environmental justice, climate justice, health disparities, and community vulnerability to hazards and disasters. He is particularly interested in applying geospatial tools and spatial statistical techniques for analyzing environmental and social injustices. Chakraborty has published more than 100 journal articles/book chapters and four books, including The Routledge Handbook of Environmental Justice. He is also coauthoring a chapter for the US Government's Fifth National Climate Assessment (NCA5).

Madeleine I. G. Daepp is a senior researcher on the Urban Innovation team at Microsoft Research. Daepp's research focuses on the collaborative use of innovative data sources and technologies to promote health equity and foster climate adaptation in cities. Her team at Microsoft deployed over 100 low-cost air quality sensors across Chicago bus shelters through a collaboration with Chicago Department of Public Health and JCDecaux Chicago, an outdoor advertising agency and the local affiliate of the world's largest provider of street furniture. An urban planning researcher and social epidemiologist, Daepp has published or forthcoming work in publications including Journal of the American Planning Association, American Journal of Public Health, Pediatrics, and Journal of Urban Economics. Daepp holds a PhD from MIT and a MSc from the University of British Columbia.

Harrison Humphreys is the climate programs manager at Air Alliance Houston (AAH). Humphreys is proud to lead AAH's transportation initiatives that will directly affect the livability of his hometown. He's a Political Science graduate from the Baylor University and brings government knowledge to the team, having previously worked as a staffer for the Environmental Regulation Committee within the Texas House of Representatives. In his free time, Humphreys enjoys reading, watching movies, and cooking.

Gabe Samuels is a research assistant in the Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center at the Urban Institute. His research focuses on fair housing, land use, transportation, and environmental justice. Before joining Urban, Samuels was a student at Emory University, where he conducted research on international rebel group dynamics and affordable housing along Atlanta's Buford Highway. He received his BA in international studies and environmental sciences in 2022.