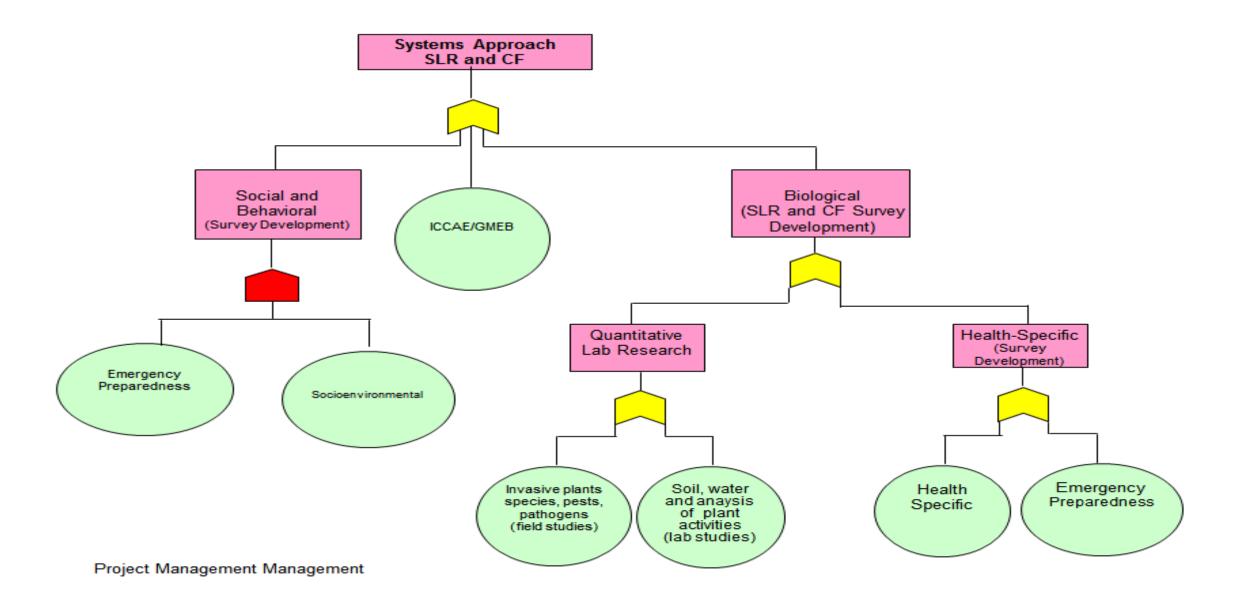


## A Sociological Framework for Understanding Climate Change, Sea-level Rise and Coastal Flooding in the African American Community: A Systems Approach

MIKEL JOHNSON
SOCIOLOGY MAJOR

WEEK 10 COLLABORATION BRIEFING
DHS SUMMER RESEARCH PROJECT



## DHS Project Objectives

- •The mission of the Coastal Resilience Center of Excellence (CRC) is to conduct research and education to enhance the resilience of the nation's people, infrastructure, economies and the natural environment to the impacts of coastal hazards such as floods and hurricanes, including the effects of future climate trends.
  - Improving understanding about why individuals choose to (or not to) implement risk-reduction measures at the household level and what risk-reduction measures they employ.
  - Improving the ability to communicate risk to multiple audiences and take action based on that understanding.
  - Educating the next generation of students that will become hazards researchers and practitioners, emphasizing the development of certificate and degree programs in minority-serving educational institutions.

# Project Goals

- Provide theoretical framework
- Conduct focus groups within community
- Analyze and interpret project data
- Networking
- Enhance presentation skills

#### Professional Goals

- Enhance research and presentation skills
- Learn how to design focus groups and field studies
- Resume development
- Graduate school and career exploration
- Develop professional relationships

# Green Criminology

- Green Criminology is the analysis of environmental harms from a criminological perspective
- As elsewhere in criminology, this means thinking about offences, offenders and victims who suffers as a result of environmental damage, and how, and also about responses to environmental crimes: policing, punishment, and crime prevention
- The many different foci of green criminology includes: air pollution, water pollution, deforestation, and hazardous waste
- Green crimes cause both direct and indirect forms of harm

# Research Intern Responsibilities

- Review literature on Green Criminology
- Professional training CITI, NIH, Greenhouse Safety
- Develop database of resources on environmental criminology
- Examine green criminology as it relates to sea-level rise in low-income communities
- Presented DHS research project to Sociology class
- Complete and present weekly briefings

#### Timeline of Events: Week 1-3

- Introduction to Project and Laboratory
- Greenhouse Safety Training and Quiz
- CITI Training
- NIH Safety
- Visit VMASC (Virginia Modeling, Analysis, & Simulation Center) with Dr. Behr
- Presented research briefings at NSU and ODU

## Week 1-3 Photos



Week 1- Meeting with the sociology and biology team to discuss background of the DHS project



Week 1- Preparation for my weekly briefing



Week 2- Preparing to give 2<sup>nd</sup> briefing at ODU

### Week 1-3 Photos Cont.



Week 2- Bryan and I completing our NIH Lab Safety training



Week 2- Presenting my week 2 briefing at ODU



Week 3- Social Science team tour of ODU's VMASC (Virginia Modeling, Analysis, & Simulation Center)

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#### Timeline of Events: Week 4 – 6

- Research team meetings with Dr. Holmes to discuss environmental sociology and environmental criminology
- Social science research team developed syllabi resources and an environmental resource database
- Social Science research team worked on weekly briefings for ODU
- Presented week 5 briefing on DHS Summer Research Project to a Sociology class

## Week 4-6 Photos







Week 4 – Meeting with Dr. Holmes to discuss literature reviews

Week 4 – Library research

### Week 4-6 Photos Cont.



Week 5 – Curriculum resource meeting



Week 5 – Practice briefings with biology research team



Week 5 – ODU Briefing



Week 6 – Presenting week 5 briefing to Sociology class

#### Timeline of Events: Week 7-10

- Meeting for student development strategies
- Professional socialization and graduate school session
- Collaboration meeting with sociology and biology research teams
- Student perspectives on graduate school experiences
  - ODU graduate students Isaiah Amos and Donta Council
- IC Scholar perspective on study abroad experience and applying for graduate school
- Presentation of Week 8 briefings at NSU
- Field site visit with Biology Research Team to Paradise Creek Nature Park, Portsmouth, VA

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### Week 7-10 Photos



Week 7- Meeting to discuss resources for curriculum development



Week 7- Meeting in the NSU library to go over future student development strategies



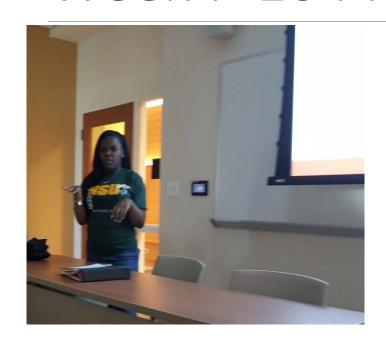
Week 8- Meeting with Dr. Holmes to discuss professional socialization and graduate school strategies



Week 8- Social Science Team and Biology Team met for discussion on graduate school with graduate research students Isaiah Amos and Donta Council

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### Week 7-10 Photos Cont.







Week 8 – Social science team reviewing information about the Elizabeth River Project



Week 8 – Social science team field trip

# Highlights of Program and Experience





#### Lessons Learned

- Developed research and presentation skills
- Increased knowledge and understanding of sociological perspective on the environment
  - 3/5 of the largest hazardous waste facilities in the U.S. are located in poor black neighborhoods.
  - Nine times more than economically advantage children to be exposed to lead levels so high that they can cause severe learning disabilities as well as other neurologic disorders
  - Many corporations are receiving corporate welfare or lenient regulations and tax breaks that allow pollution of local water and air.
  - Sea-Level Rise effects on lower income communities and safety planning
- Preliminary field work for case study
- Research report writing