**Climates of Inequality:**

**Stories of Environmental Justice**

**International Launch Convening**

October 30-November 1, 2019



# Overview

Why does the past matter for the future of climate change? The legacies of environmental justice may hold the key to confronting the climate crisis. We invite you to join communities across Newark and around the world in a memory movement to shape just climate solutions.

**The Exhibition:** The Humanities Action Lab is proud to announce the international launch of *Climates of Inequality: Stories of Environmental Justice*, a multi-media installation created by over 500 students and environmental justice advocates in more than 20 cities. Local teams work together to activate the histories of “frontline” communities: those who have contributed the least to the climate crisis but bear its heaviest burdens. Their multi-media portraits expose the roots of current environmental injustice, and share generations of frontline communities’ strategies for resistance, resilience, and mitigation. Through immersive virtual reality, moving testimony, and historical imagery, visitors can tour sites of climate crisis from Newark to New Orleans and follow local teams as they peel back the layers of history that created them. Participatory installations invite visitors to build sensory environmental maps and “vote” on local environmental policy.

The exhibit will be on view at the Hahne’s Building Grand Court atrium at 54 Halsey Street from October 3-December 15 before traveling to the more than 20 communities that created it, with actions and dialogues at every stop. By compiling local histories in an evolving, internationally traveling exhibit with ongoing events, this project seeks to inspire climate action that understands, and undoes, past environmental harms.

**The Convening:** This fall, for the first time, advocates, students, and scholars from Mayaguez, PR to Milwaukee, WI to Mexico City who created *Climates of Inequality* will gather in Newark to launch the initiative. Over two days, they will share their local histories of environmental justice and develop a collective vision for activating community memory for global climate justice. Sessions will be framed by national and grassroots leaders in climate and environmental justice from Newark and around the country.

**The** [**Humanities Action Lab**](https://www.humanitiesactionlab.org/) **(HAL)**: HAL is a coalition of universities, issue organizations, and public spaces in 23 cities and growing, led from Rutgers University-Newark, that collaborates to produce community-curated public humanities projects on urgent social issues. Through project-based courses, in which students collaborate with local organizations, students and stakeholders in each city develop local chapters of collective international traveling exhibits, web projects, public programs, and other platforms for civic engagement. Projects travel internationally to museums, public libraries, cultural centers, and other spaces in each of the communities that helped create them. Past projects include the [Guantánamo Public Memory Project](http://gitmomemory.org/) and [States of Incarceration](http://statesofincarceration.org/), each reaching over 550,000 in person visitors in 40+ cities.

**Agenda**

Wednesday, October 30

Hahne’s Grand Court and Express Newark
Entrances at 609 Broad St and 54 Halsey St, Newark, NJ

**5:30-6:30 Reception, Hahne’s Grand Court Atrium**

Viewing of *Climates of Inequality: Stories of Environmental Justice* with refreshments.

**6:30-8:30 “Sharing Bread” Welcome Dinner, Express Newark Lecture Hall (*invitation only)*** Co-hosted by Chief Vincent Mann of the Turtle Clan of Ramapough Lunaape Nation and Dean Tim Eatman of the Honors Living and Learning Community at Rutgers-Newark, we will have an evening of delicious food, drink, performance, conversation, respect, and fun. This is a moment to come together and honor the complex histories of Newark and ground us all in regional Indigenous and African American traditions.

Thursday, October 31
Lecture Hall, Express Newark
54 Halsey Street, 2nd Floor | Newark, NJ 07102

**8:30-9:00**

Doors open for check-in and breakfast

**9:00-10:00**

*Welcome and Overview*

* Ras J. Baraka, Mayor of Newark
* Nancy Cantor, Chancellor, Rutgers University-Newark
* Eva Giloi, Senior Advisor to the Dean on Interdisciplinary Initiatives, Rutgers University School of Arts and Sciences-Newark
* Liz Ševčenko, Director, Humanities Action Lab

**10:00-10:30**

*Screening: The Sacrifice Zone*

A short film featuring *Climates of Inequality* partner the Ironbound Community Corporation, organizing residents to regain control of their neighborhood and hold industrial polluters accountable. By *COI* RU-N faculty director and Talking Eyes Media founder Julie Winokur.

Thursday, October 31, continued

**10:30-11:30**

*Local Stories & Global Lessons: Newark’s Ironbound and Ringwood, NJ*

* Ana Baptista, Assistant Professor of Professional Practice & Chair of Environmental Policy and Sustainability Management Program, The New School
* Chief Vincent Mann, Turtle Clan of the Ramapough Lenape Nation
* Melissa Miles, Ironbound Community Corporation
* Nicky Sheats, director of the Center for the Urban Environment of the John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy at Thomas Edison State University

**11:30-12:30**

*Community building session*

* Facilitator: Marta Esquilin, Associate Dean, Honors Living-Learning Community

What are our goals for working together -- today, tomorrow, and over the coming years? What are our values and commitments for how to work together?

**12:30-1:15**

Lunch

**1:15-2:45**

*Why Does the Past Matter? Learning from Local Stories Session 1*

* Framing
	+ Tamara Tiesha Butler, Michigan State University
* Providence, RI (Pageacoag): Amplifying Narragansett Voices on Land and Survivance
	+ Lorén M. Spears (Tomaquag Museum)
	+ Stefany Garcia (Brown University)
* Mexico City, Mexico: Mexico City, Beyond the Earthquake?: A Recount of the Reconstruction
	+ Laura Georgina Freyermuth Joffre (CIUDADania19s)
	+ Ana Carolina Ruiz Cedeño, Luis Enrique Muciño, Luis Enrique Trejo Razzo, Rocio Isela Cruz Trejo (Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana-Cuajimalpa)
* Milwaukee, WI: Urban Blight as Environmental Injustice
	+ Reginald U Jackson (America’s Black Holocaust Museum)
	+ Camille Mays (Peace Garden Project MKE)
	+ Teonna Cooksey, Tommy Yang, Mallory Ellen Zink (University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee)
* Ringwood, NJ: Ringwood Mines and the Ramapough Lunaape Nation
	+ Chief Vincent Mann (Turtle Clan of the Ramapough Lunaape Nation)
* Newark Environmental Respondent
	+ Tobias Fox (Newark Science & Sustainability (NSAS))
	+ Munirah Bomani (Black Human Rights Campaign)

**2:45-3:00** - Coffee break

Thursday, October 31, continued

**3:00-4:30**

*What can we achieve by acting locally, and connecting our local actions? Learning from Local Stories Session 2*

* Framing:
	+ Esme G. Murdock, San Diego State University
* Magdalena River, Colombia: Entangled Lives, Entangled Hopes
	+ Manuela Rodríguez Serrato, Natalia Giraldo Murillo (Universidad de los Andes and Universidad del Rosario)
* Los Angeles and the Inland Empire, CA: Witnessing the Slow Violence of the Supply Chain
	+ Anthony Victoria, Andrea Vidaurre (Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice)
	+ Audrey Marie Maier, Yvonne Brooke Marquez (University of California, Riverside)
* New Orleans, LA: Standing Up on River Road: Activism in South Louisiana
	+ Marilyn Amar (Gordon Plaza and People's Assembly)
	+ Genevieve M. Butler (Louisiana Bucket Brigade)
	+ Ella Victoria McIntire, Kathryn O'Dwyer, Jenidza Rivera (University of New Orleans)
* Greensboro and Princeville, NC
	+ Alicia LeeCee Jones (Princeville, NC)
	+ Linda Joyner (Princeville, NC)
	+ Marcia Hale (University of North Carolina, Greensboro/FaithAction International House)
* Newark Environmental Respondent
	+ Anthony Diaz (Newark Water Coalition)

**4:30-4:45**

Coffee break

**4:45-5:30**

Closing Activity

**6:00**

*Dinner for Visiting Guests*

Robert Treat Hotel

Friday, November 1

**8:30-9:00**

Doors open for check-in and breakfast

**9:00-10:30**

*How can we build solidarity and share knowledge? Learning from Local Stories Session 3*

* Framing
	+ Suzanne Pierre, The Exploratorium and University of California, Berkeley
* Mayagüez, Puerto Rico: Aftermaths: Community Responses to Climate Disaster
	+ Bryan Ramos Romero, Kiara Michelle Rivera Santiago (University of Puerto Rico)
* New Brunswick, NJ: Climate Justice as Worker Justice
	+ Lou Kimmel (New Labor)
	+ Jennifer Schneider, Ala’ Jitan (History Department, Rutgers University-New Brunswick)
* Albany, NY: The Empire’s Backyard: Power & Pollution in Sheridan Hollow
	+ Merton Simpson (Albany County Legislature)
	+ Bradley Robert Sachs (Skidmore College)
* Oxnard and San Fernando, CA: Reimagining Immigrants and Environmental Justice
	+ Rosa Linda RiVera Furumoto (Parent Pioneers)
	+ Jimmy Ramos, Felipe Lepe, Kimberly Tobar (California State University, Northridge)
	+ Frances Tang (University of California, Santa Barbara)
* Newark Environmental Justice Respondent
	+ Daniel Wiley (Ironbound Community Corporation (ICC))

**10:30-10:45**

Coffee break

**10:45-11:45**

*Why History Matters for the Climate Movement: Lessons from Black Women Climate Leaders*

Conversation moderated by Michael Hill, NJTV, between:

* Rhiana Gunn-Wright, Policy Director at New Consensus
* Adrienne Hollis, lead climate justice analyst for the Climate & Energy Program at the Union of Concerned Scientists
* Jacqui Patterson, Director of the Environmental and Climate Justice Program at the NAACP

**11:45-12:45**

Lunch

Friday, November 1, continued

**12:45-2:15**

*How can we activate our histories to inspire future change? Learning from Local Stories Session 4*

* Framing
	+ Neil Maher (New Jersey Institute for Technology)
* Miami, FL: Mapping Memories: Immigrant Workers Seek Climate Justice
	+ Levis Arnol Torres Villalobos (We Count)
	+ Farah C Yamini, Victoria Gomes (Florida International University)
* Chicago, IL: Resisting Cycles of Environmental Injustice in La Villita
	+ Yanitza Carmona y Correa (Alianza Americas)
	+ Lauren DeJesus, Stephanie Lynn (University of Illinois, Chicago)
* Springfield, MA: Seeking Environmental Justice in the North End
	+ Zulmalee Rivera, Neighbor to Neighbor
	+ Brian Whetstone, Peter Kleeman (University of Massachusetts, Amherst)
* Newark Environmental Justice Respondent
	+ Nicole Scottt-Harris (NJ Environmental Justice Alliance (Greater Newark Region)

**2:15-2:30**

Coffee break

**2:30-4:00**

*How can we activate our collaboration around this project into a memory movement for climate justice? Learning from Local Stories Session 5*

* Framing
	+ Jack Tchen (Rutgers University-Newark)
* Indianapolis, IN: Inequity Along the White River: Local Advocacy for Change
	+ Keenan Rhodes (Kheprw Institute)
	+ Alisha Baginski, Hannah Lundell, Kyrra Clevenger, Megan Perry, Hadia Shaikh, Sarah Shorter (Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis)
* Twin Cities, MN: Engaging Community and Confronting Environmental Injustice
	+ Elsa Ballata, Deacon Deboer, M. Tyler Mcdaniel, Paige Mitchell, Chris Rico (University of Minnesota)
* Philadelphia, PA: 100 Years in the Middle: Stories of Eastwick, Philadelphia
	+ Lucy Corlett (University of Pennsylvania)
* Newark Environmental Justice Respondent
	+ Nathaly Agosto-Filion (Newark Mayor’s Office of Sustainability)

**4:00-4:15**

Coffee break

Friday, November 1, continued

**4:15-5:00**

*Closing Visioning Workshop*

How will we continue and connect our local work as the project travels and grows over the coming years? How can we keep Greater Newark connected to this national movement?

**6:00**

*Dinner for Visiting Guests*

Robert Treat Hotel

**Participant List**

Nathaly Agosto-Filion, Chief Sustainability Officer, City of Newark

Marilyn Amar, Gordon Plaza and People’s Assembly

Alisha Baginski, student, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis

Elsa Ballata, student, University of Minnesota

Ana Baptista, Assistant Professor of Professional Practice & Chair of Environmental Policy and

Sustainability Management Program, The New School

Munirah Bomani, Newark Coordinator, Black Human Rights Campaign

Genevieve M. Butler, Louisiana Bucket Brigade

Tamara Tiesha Butler, Assistant Professor of English and African American and American

Studies, Michigan State University

Rosa Cabrera, Director of the University of Illinois at Chicago’s Rafael Cintrón Ortiz Latino

Cultural Center, University of Illinois-Chicago

Nancy Cantor, Chancellor, Rutgers University-Newark

Yanitza Carmona y Correa, Alianza Americas

Ana Carolina Ruiz Cedeño, student, Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana-Cuajimalpa

Ricia A Chansky, Associate Professor, Department of English, University of Puerto Rico

Kyrra Clevenger, student, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis

Teonna Cooksey, student, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee

Lucy Corlett, student, University of Pennsylvania

Deacon Deboer, student, University of Minnesota

Lauren DeJesus, student, University of Illinois, Chicago

Anthony Diaz, Co-Founder, Newark Water Coalition

Ira Dickerson, student, Arizona State University

Timothy K. Eatman, Dean, Honors Living-Learning Community, Rutgers University-Newark

Marta Esquillin, Associate Dean, Honors Living-Learning Community, Rutgers

University-Newark

Tobias Fox, Founder and Managing Directory, Newark Science & Sustainability, Inc. (NSAS)

Rosa Linda RiVera Furumoto, Professor of Chicana and Chicano Studies, California State

University, Northridge, Parent Pioneers

Stefany Garcia, Student, Brown University

David Glassberg, Professor, Department of History, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Victoria Gomes, student, Florida International University

Rhiana Gunn-Wright, Policy Director, New Consensus

Marcia Hale, Assistant Professor, Department of Peace and Conflict Studies, University of

North Carolina, Greensboro

Adrienne Hollis, lead climate justice analyst for the Climate & Energy Program at the Union of

Concerned Scientists

Laura Holzman, Associate Professor, Art History and Museum Studies, Indiana

University-Purdue University Indianapolis

Reginald U Jackson, Head Griot, America’s Black Holocaust Museum

Lauryl Jensen, student, Arizona State University

Ala’ Jitan, Student, Rutgers University-New Brunswick

Laura Georgina Freyermuth Joffre, CIUDADania19s

Valerie Ann Johnson, Mott Distinguished Professor, Women's Studies and Director, Africana

Women's Studies Program, Bennett College

Alicia LeeCee Jones, Princeville, NC

Linda Joyner, City Commissioner, Princeville, NC

Lou Kimmel, Executive Director, New Labor

Peter Kleeman, student, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Elizabeth Kryder-Reid, Professor, Anthropology and Museum Studies, Indiana

University-Purdue University Indianapolis

Felipe Lepe, student, California State University, Northridge

Hannah Lundell, student, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis

Stephanie Lynn, student, University of Illinois, Chicago

Neil Maher, Associate Professor and Department Chair of the Federated Department of History,

New Jersey Institute of Technology and Rutgers-Newark

Audrey Marie Maier, student, University of California, Riverside

Chief Vincent Mann, Turtle Clan of the Ramapough Lenape Nation

Yvonne Brooke Marquez, student, University of California, Riverside

Paul Martin, Co-director, Center for Innovation in Informal STEM Learning and Research

Professional, School for the Future of Innovation in Society, Arizona State University

Camille Mays, Community Consultant/Community Organizer, Peace Garden Project MKE

Robert McCaslin

M. Tyler Mcdaniel, student, University of Minnesota

Ella Victoria McIntire, student, University of New Orleans

Melissa Miles, Environmental Justice Manager, Ironbound Community Corporation

Mary Niall Mitchell, Ethel & Herman L. Midlo Chair in New Orleans Studies, Joseph Tregle

Professor in Early American History, and Associate Professor, Department of History,

University of New Orleans

Paige Mitchell, student, University of Minnesota

Maria Moreno, Professor of Socioterritorial Studies, Universidad Autonoma

Metropolitana-Cuajimalpa

Luis Enrique Muciño, student, Universidad Autonoma Metropolitana-Cuajimalpa

Catalina Munoz, Associate Professor, Department of History, Universidad de los Andes and

Universidad Del Rosario

Esme G. Murdock, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, San Diego State University

Natalia Giraldo Murillo, student, Universidad de los Andes and Universidad del Rosario

Kevin Murphy, Associate Professor, Department of History, University of Minnesota

Kristin O’Brassil-Kulfan, Instructor of Public History and Coordinator of the Internship Program,

Rutgers University-New Brunswick

Kathryn O'Dwyer, student, University of New Orleans

Lisa Sun-Hee Park, Professor and Chair, Department of Asian American Studies, University of

California, Santa Barbara

Jacqui Patterson, Director, Environmental and Climate Justice Program, NAACP

Megan Perry, student, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis

Suzanne Pierre, Environmental Scientist/Senior Environmental Educator, The Exploratorium,

UC President's Postdoctoral Fellow, University of California, Berkeley

Ronald Potvin, Assistant Director and Curator, John Nicholas Brown Center for Public

Humanities and Cultural Heritage, Brown University

Jimmy Ramos, student, California State University, Northridge

Luis Enrique Trejo Razzo, student, Universidad Autonoma Metropolitana-Cuajimalpa

Gray Read, MAA Director and Associate Professor, Department of Architecture, Florida

International University

Keenan Rhodes, Intern and Equity Fellow, Kheprw Institute

Chris Rico, student, University of Minnesota

Jenidza Rivera, student, University of New Orleans

Zulmalee Rivera, Springfield Organizer, Neighbor to Neighbor

Kelle Roberts, student, Arizona State University

Bryan Ramos Romero, student, University of Puerto Rico

Stevie Ruiz, Assistant Professor, Department of Chicana and Chicano Studies, California State

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Jennifer Schneider, student, Rutgers University-New Brunswick

Andrew Schneller, Assistant Professor, Environmental Studies and Science, Skidmore College

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Manuela Rodríguez Serrato, student, Universidad de los Andes and Universidad del Rosario

Hadia Shaikh, student, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis

Nicky Sheats, director of the Center for the Urban Environment of the John S. Watson Institute

for Public Policy at Thomas Edison State University (NJEJA)

Sarah Shorter, student, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis

Merton Simpson, Representative of the 2nd Legislative District, Albany County Legislature

Lorén M. Spears, Executive Director, Tomaquag Museum

Jennifer Stampe, Associate Director of Public Engagement and Science Learning, Bell Museum

Frances Tang, student, University of California, Santa Barbara

Vaishnavi Reddy Tangella, student, New School

Jack Tchen, Inaugural Clement A. Price Chair in Public History and the Humanities Director,

Professor of History, Rutgers University-Newark

Mark Tebeau, Associate Professor of History, Arizona State University

Kimberly Tobar, student, California State University, Northridge

Rocio Isela Cruz Trejo, student, Universidad Autonoma Metropolitana-Cuajimalpa

Christine Twing, student, Arizona State University

Anthony Victoria, Director of Communications, Center for Community Action and

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Andrea Vidaurre, Policy Analyst, Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice

Levis Arnol Torres Villalobos, We Count

Brian Whetstone, student, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Bethany Wiggin, Associate Professor, Germanic Languages and Literatures and Founding

Director, Penn Program in Environmental Humanities, University of Pennsylvania

Daniel Wiley, Community Organizer & Housing Justice Program Manager,

Ironbound Community Corporation

Julie Winokur, Executive Director, Talking Eyes Media

Farah C Yamini, student, Florida International University

Tommy Yang, student, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee

Eldon Yeakel, student, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis

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