Urban Environmental Equity Project Online Supplement A:

Interview Questions

by B. Cutts[1] & A. Greenlee [2]

[1] Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, Urbana, Illinois USA [2] Department of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, Urbana, Illinois USA email: NRES-UrbanEquity@illinois.edu phone: 217-244-1921

Overview

This supplement provides questions used to guide semi-structured interviews as part of the Urban Environmental Equity Project between February 2014 and February 2015 (to learn more about the overall goals of the project, visit http://publish.illinois.edu/urbanequity/).Researchers conducted a series of video-recorded interviews with stakeholders who live in or work on social and environmental issues within the EPA-designated areas of concern. The primary purpose was to understand how social vulnerability shifts in relation to changes in environmental and place-based vulnerability. Our primary applied objectives were to answer two questions: 1. *Are the concerns communities have about the waterfront being addressed during clean-up efforts?* 2. *How do different groups decide if cleanup is successful?* From a theoretical perspective we wanted to identify local shifts in patterns of social vulnerability, and to connect these to attitudes and perceptions of residents during active remediation efforts.

Interview Questions

Background
- How would you describe the characteristics of the local community (who are the people that make up the local community)?
- How would you draw/define the physical boundaries of your local community?
- How long have you lived / worked within the area?
- What brought you to live / work here?
- What keeps you here?

Perceptions of community change
- What things do you like about this community?
- What things would you like to see change about this community?
- What things have you seen change in this community?
- What types of problems has this community faced in the past? How has it dealt with those problems?
- Who are the leaders in the community? Who drives change? (probe: positive versus negative change drivers, probe: individuals or organizations)

- There is a lot of talk about vulnerable populations having lower access to resources and fewer opportunities to initiate change because of factors outside of their immediate control. How would you describe the social groups that are most vulnerable in your community? (location, race, class, language, religion).
- Have the problems for these people gotten better or worse as the community has changed? Why do you think this is?

Use of open space and waterways
- What are your favorite things to do outside in this community?
- Where do you go to do this?
- Has that place improved or gotten worse over the last ten years? Why?
- Are there things that you would like to see happen in that place which aren't currently happening? Why?

Environmental remediation
- How would you rate the quality of the environment in this area? What things contribute to it? What things detract from it?
- What kinds of things have local, state, and federal government agencies done to help with nearby environmental issues?
- How would you rate the quality of streams and lakes in this area? What things contribute to it? What things detract from it?
- What have you heard about the stream sediment remediation process that's currently happening in the community? (probes: what are community member's saying about it, what other agencies are involved in managing the clean-up process? which community stakeholders have been involved in the clean-up process? are there any stakeholders who you feel should be involved but who aren't?)
- We talked earlier about vulnerable populations having lower access to resources and fewer opportunities to initiate change because of factors outside of their immediate control. How would you describe the social groups that are most vulnerable in relation to environmental? (location, race, class, language, religion).
- Have the problems for these people gotten better or worse as the community has changed? Why do you think this is?
- Is there anything that you would like community leaders to know? (probe: Is there anything you want to know from them?)
- Is there anything that you would like the people organizing the clean up to know? (probe: Is there anything you want to know from them?)
- Is there anything we didn't ask you that we should have?