



UCONN

Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering
Environmental Engineering Program and the Center for
Environmental Sciences and Engineering

Invite you to join us for the
ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING SPRING 2024
COLLOQUIUM SERIES

Friday, February 9, 2024 • 12:10 PM
CAST 212

*Advancing Environmental Justice and Place-making through
Public Science*

By: Dr. Lemir Teron
Associate Professor at Howard University
Department of Earth, Environment and Equity

Abstract: Environmental racism associated with 20th Century urban planning has produced an assortment of threats to marginalized communities. In recent years environmental policies have acknowledged related disparities along with the need for environmental justice to target ‘disadvantaged communities’ for resources and benefits. In order for re-imaginings of place to be democratic and just, environmentally just redevelopment calls for heightened involvement, engagement with and influence from communities that have historically been locked out of planning and for projects to center communities in design, outcomes and benefits. This work must be prefaced by community-guided visioning in which residents are equipped with scientifically supported tools to develop their own development prioritization strategies in order for improved ecological health and community driven interests to be advanced. This talk will highlight the potential for public science partnerships to advance technical expertise in communities in order to: i) better assess environmental threats, ii) identify and prioritize just planning frameworks and iii) link ecological stewardship with technical learning and workforce development.

Bio: Lemir Teron is an associate professor at Howard University in the Department of Earth, Environment and Equity. He holds a PhD in Energy & Environmental Policy from the University of Delaware and completed a NOAA funded postdoc at Florida A&M University, where he also taught at the College of Law. His work is committed to advancing public science and environmental justice, with research interests that include environmental health, energy policy and urban & community forestry. Dr. Teron has received numerous accolades, including; being awarded the 2019 Distinguished Faculty Member for Teaching Excellence Award by the SUNY ESF Undergraduate Student Association, being named a 2020 Unsung Hero at Syracuse University's 35th Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration and 2022 a Champion of Diversity award by the YWCA of Syracuse and Onondaga County (NY). Dr. Teron serves on the NY State Climate Impacts Assessment's Energy Workgroup and he is a Member Scholar at the Center for Progressive Reform. He was named a 2022-2023 Nathan Policy Fellow at the Rockefeller Institute of Government.