

# TRANSCENDING DISCIPLINES TO ADVANCE REGIONAL WATER EQUITY

Emily Elliott, *Geology & Environmental Sciences*  
 Jackie Smith, Caitlin Schroering, *Sociology*  
 Marcela Gonzalez-Rivas, *GSPIA*  
 Noble Maseru, *Graduate School of Public Health*  
 Daniel Bain, Eitan Shelef, Eric Perry, *Geology & Envr Sci.*  
 Megan Guy, *Pittsburgh Water Collaboratory*

## Motivation

- In 2010, the United Nations General Assembly recognized the human right to water and sanitation through Resolution 64/292.
- This Resolution recognizes the human right to water and sanitation, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) also include equitable access to water and sanitation.
- The City of Pittsburgh is an early adopter to align their policies into the SDG framework.
- However, the path between adoption and implementation of available, clean, and affordable water goals is not clear.
- Regional sustainability goals will not be met without addressing equity.



## Project Description

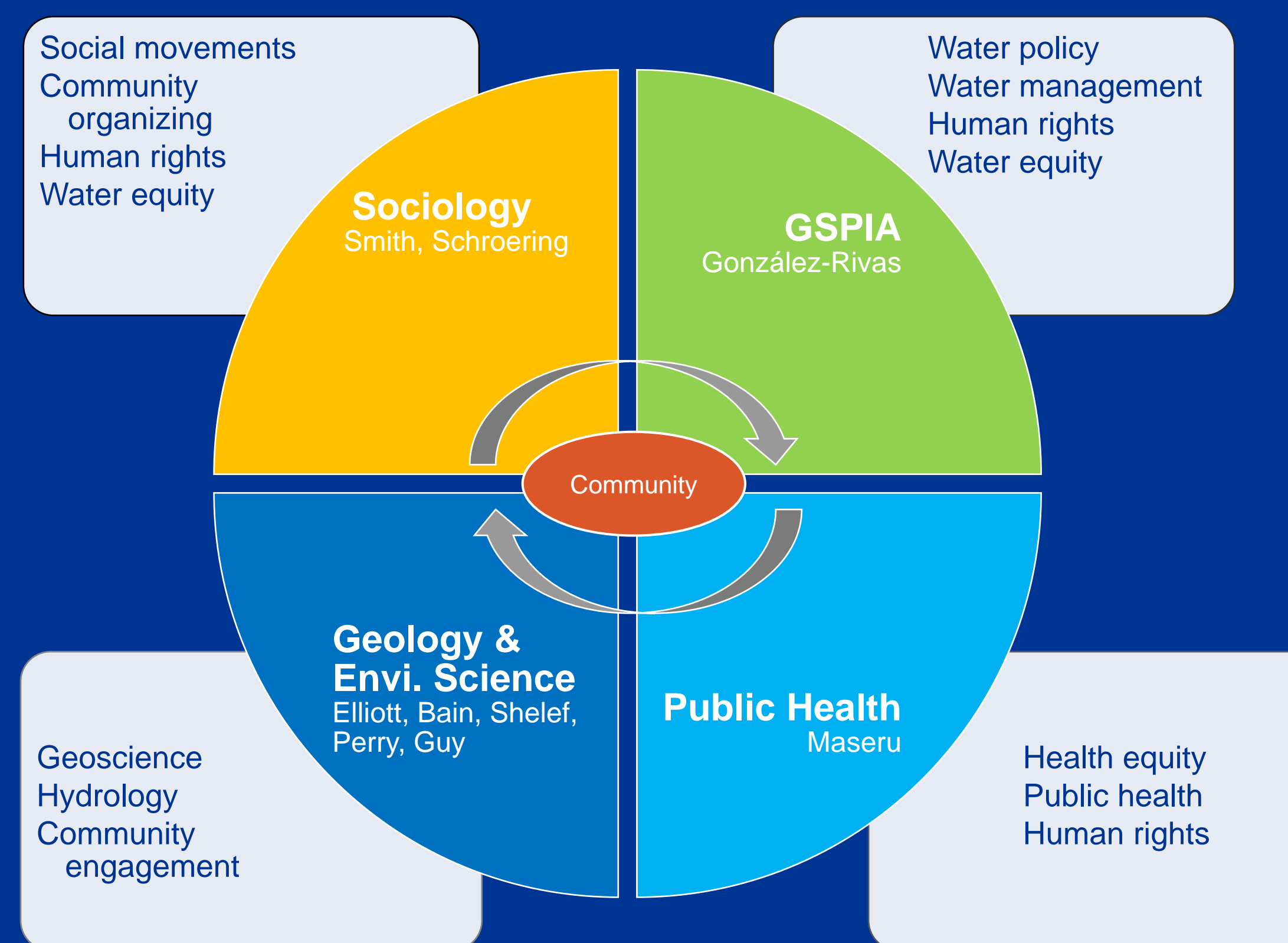
- We will “map the gap” between the ideal (as generalized in SDGs, UN Resolution 64/292) and the reality of clean, affordable, and available water as a human right in the Pittsburgh metropolitan region.
- We will use community engagement as a mechanism to break down barriers across disciplines, academics, and local communities.
- We will host four consensus-building meetings dedicated to the theme “Community and Campus: Water is a Human Right”.
- These meetings will bring together community organizations, civil society organizations, and citizens to discuss water equity challenges, identify knowledge and advocacy-intervention gaps, and create equity-oriented solutions to water challenges.



We will co-create new knowledge with communities and across disciplines to advance the human right to water.

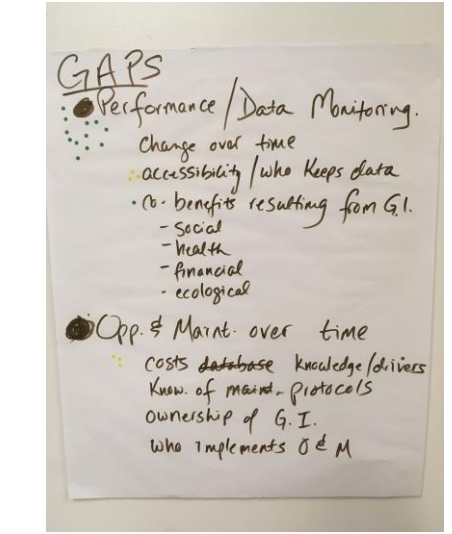
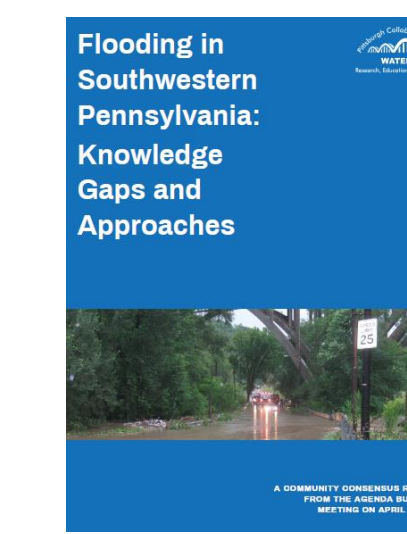


## Water Equity Research Team



## Context

- These meetings will build on findings that emerged out of the Pitt Water Collaboratory's series of consensus-building meetings in 2018-2019 and the U S Water Alliance Pittsburgh Water Equity Task Force meetings dedicated to addressing the challenges of flooding, storm water management, water quality, workforce development, affordability, and water democracy.
- Creating a space for water equity dialogue will allow for more community participants to voice their concerns and co-produce equity-oriented solutions for our region's water challenges.



## Project Deliverables

- An atlas of online maps illustrating water equity challenges in the Pittsburgh metropolitan region.
- A review of “equity” and “representation” in regional water governance structures and synthesis of recommendations for best practices in overcoming persistent inequities during decision-making.
- A report to convey findings and recommendations from the community consensus meetings.
- A peer-reviewed, reflective paper that documents community engaged knowledge co-production process.
- Proposals for major transdisciplinary, team driven opportunities, including NSF's Convergence Research, has potential to sustain and extend project activities.

TIMELINE	Q1 SEP-NOV	Q2 DEC-FEB	Q3 MAR-MAY	Q4 JUN-AUG
Aim 1: Consensus-building meeting 1	Oct			
Aim 1: Consensus-building meeting 2		Dec		
Aim 1: Consensus-building meeting 3			Feb	
Aim 1: Consensus-building meeting 4				Apr
Aim 2: Develop metrics to map social, geophysical dimensions of water inequities				
Aim 2: Gather, refine data for metrics across the Pittsburgh region				
Aim 2: Map metrics and develop atlas format and content				
<b>MILESTONES</b>				
Publish online atlas				
Travel or remote meetings with NSF Program Officers				
Manuscript and Report Preparation				

## Potential Impact

- Establish trust within the Pittsburgh community to document water equity challenges.
- Improve mechanisms for addressing equity in representation and governance
- Create transdisciplinary team at the University to address water equity in Pittsburgh.

## Acknowledgements

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