



URGE Policies for Working with Communities of Color for GOEEOE of UofSC

This is what was found by GOEEOE at University of South Carolina on Policies for Working with Communities of Color as well as plans for improved processes and/or needed resources.

Pod members are exclusively graduate students - some PhD, some Master's students. This fact limits some pod members' capacity to design research protocols and execute projects. This summary is based on responses to a google form asking about pod members' practices. It only reflects the replies of some pod members.

- How many pod members were doing work directly with communities of color?
 - Only one of the five respondents was doing work with communities of color directly. This respondent is focusing on the impacts of climate change planning on African American communities in coastal South Carolina. Other responses included potential research on the Eastern Mud Snail, hurricane research using satellite data, arctic and subarctic dynamics, and hydrothermal chimneys. Given the remote nature of these other projects, none include a local correspondent or liaison. The project focused in African American communities is using a local NGO as a starting point, but this project has been limited in scale and closeness to the community because of the pandemic. Most of the work is limited in scope and relationship building potential because it is Master's work, for which data collection is only done for a few months.
- How have you considered accessibility in presenting your results?
 - Many individuals hope to present at a wide variety of events and publish in accessible journals, through which they will try to write in more accessible and understandable ways to people outside academia.
- Have you educated yourself and your group/team about local politics, culture, customs, and knowledge, including the history of colonialism / settler colonialism in the region? Why or why not?
 - The research on African American communities in South Carolina has engaged in the process of becoming more educated on the local politics, culture, and history - understanding these things well is crucial to the research project. Other projects can see including these topics as an



expansion of the work, but so far URGE has been the biggest means of engaging in these topics, especially in a Geoscience context.

- Is respecting culture and customs included as part of your code of conduct? Explain.
 - Respect for other cultures is felt by many on an individual level, but is not part of a project level code of conduct, except for the project that involves human subjects, which was required to submit an IRB, as well as was constructed after taking a course on decolonizing research methodology.
- How will working with communities of color be addressed in future plans?
 - Many individuals are hoping to include communities of color in future work, especially when considering the impacts of the work and the reason for undertaking the work. Many individuals have identified a desire to involve communities of color in the early phases of work in order to better understand the impact of their project.