



Fundamentals of Citizen Science and other Participatory Research Methods

PSC 550 (3-credits)

Are you planning a large-scale research project? Are you creating partnerships with Indigenous or other underserved communities? Are you engaging students or adult audiences in science? Students of any major are invited to this graduate level course to learn more about participatory research methods, which refers to a variety of ways members of the public engage in research. Course topics are relevant to science education (formal and informal), environmental justice, science communication, natural resource conservation, personalized medicine, critical geography, urban planning, and more.

Learning Objectives

1. Students will **compare social and scientific impacts** across disciplines of participatory research such as citizen science, community mapping, volunteer monitoring, crowdsourcing, participatory sensing, community-based participatory research, and more.
2. Students will **critically analyze ethical, legal, and emergent issues** in the participatory science with attention to data quality, informal science learning, and democratization of science in society.
3. Students will **examine the participant experience** through a semester-long research project using existing data. By completing assignments including qualitative coding and synthesizing literature, students can earn co-authorship on a graduate student-led paper.

Course Instructor

Dr. Caren Cooper
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Pronouns: she/her

Class meetings

Wednesdays 3:00-5:45pm
Location TBA
and
Zoom option