

Agents of Change in Environmental Justice



**AGENTS
OF CHANGE**

IN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Yoshira Ornelas Van Horne, PhD

Postdoctoral Research Associate | Department of Population and Public Health Sciences | University of Southern California

Assistant Director | Agents of Change in EJ

March 31st, 2022

Problem:

The culture of science is rooted in Eurocentric, White, patriarchal systems

- **Fosters** structural racism and sexism in academic and scientific institutions
- **Impacts** the type of science being conducted
- **Contributes** to scientific and medical mistrust in society
- **Does not fulfill the** “Science-Society” contract

Solution:

Amplify neglected voices in environmental and climate sciences and help foster a new generation of more diverse and inclusive thought leaders





AGENTS OF CHANGE

IN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Mission:

To empower emerging leaders from historically excluded backgrounds in science and academia to reimagine solutions for a just and healthy planet.

Agents of Change in Environmental Justice

Cultivate new environmental justice leaders

Increase environmental justice literacy among STEM students



Inject new ideas in environmental health and climate fields

Make scientific information more accessible to marginalized communities

Agents of Change in Environmental Justice

Staff and Sponsors



Ami Zota, ScD, MS
Program Director



Brian Bienkowski, MA
Editor



Max Aung, PhD, MPH
Assistant Director



Yoshira Ornelas
Van Horne, PhD
Assistant Director



Samar Ahmad, MPH
Program Associate



Hannah Seo, MA
Assistant Editor



Erin Gomez
Digital Comm. Assistant

Sponsors:

- Marisla Foundation
- Forsythia Foundation
- Passport Foundation
- Beautycounter
- Rachel's Network
- Broad Reach

Fellows At A Glance



31 doctoral students, postdocs, and early career scientists

From marginalized backgrounds including first-generation college graduates; individuals from communities of color; and individuals with disabilities.

Multidisciplinary scholars

- Environmental health
- Epidemiology
- Community health
- Chemistry
- Urban planning
- Medicine
- Sociology
- Engineering
- Education
- Ecology
- Nutrition
- Microbiology

Fellowship Structure

- 9 month fellowship; co-led by Dr. Zota (GW SPH) and Brian Bienkowski (Environmental Health News)
- Fellowship requirements:
 - Write a first-person narrative essay
 - Participate in the Agents of Change podcast, and attend monthly, virtual meetings,
 - Produce an episode of the Agents of Change podcast in collaboration with another fellow.
 - Develop a science translation product focused on educating community groups or policy makers on a particular issue, in collaboration with other fellows.

Eligibility Criteria

- Pursuing scientific work that advances environmental public health, environmental justice, or ecosystem/climate health and justice.
- **Early career scientist** defined as a current doctoral student, medical student, or postdoctoral scientist or an early career practitioner defined as someone working in advocacy, government, research, or private sector for < 5 years since terminal degree
- From **marginalized backgrounds and/or populations underrepresented in science and academia**. Examples of eligible individuals include but are not limited to: first-generation college graduates; individuals from lower socioeconomic backgrounds; individuals from communities of color; and individuals with disabilities.
- Based in the United States; applicants do not need to be US citizens

Call For Applications Is Now Open!

Do you find that public
voices in science are
lacking diversity & want to
help create change?

Apply now:
<https://agentsofchangeinej.org/application/>

Deadline: April 15, 2022



**AGENTS
OF CHANGE**
IN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Join The Conversation



[@AgentschangeEJ](https://twitter.com/AgentschangeEJ)



[@agentsofchangeEJ](https://www.instagram.com/agentsofchangeEJ)



www.linkedin.com/company/agents-of-change-in-ej



agentsofchangeinej@gmail.com

www.agentsofchangeinej.org

