

## Twyla Blackmond Larnell

Dr. Twyla Blackmond Larnell received her PhD from Michigan State University in 2013. She is an Assistant Professor of Political Science at Loyola University Chicago. Her research concentrates on the impact of policies on social and economic conditions of low-income and minority communities in urban areas. She co-authored a chapter in *The Urban Agenda* (Michael Pagano, editor). The role of community colleges as a tool for local economic development in these communities was examined. She co-authored a study investigating Chicago's controversial use of Tax Increment Financing in *Economic Development Quarterly*. Dr. Larnell also worked on an analysis of the availability of government subsidized housing in majority-minority areas. The *Journal of Poverty* recently published this study. At present, Prof. Larnell is collecting data on mayoral rhetoric via Twitter post and is analyzing Twitter survey data on Chicagoan's perceptions of local government, policing and economic development to compare perceptions about urban spaces; particularly those composed of different racial groups. Dr. Larnell has been awarded the Gannon Center for Women Leadership Faculty Fellowship and LUC's Office of Research Services Research Support Grant. She was also nominated for the Sujack Teaching Award and named a Master Teacher in 2015.



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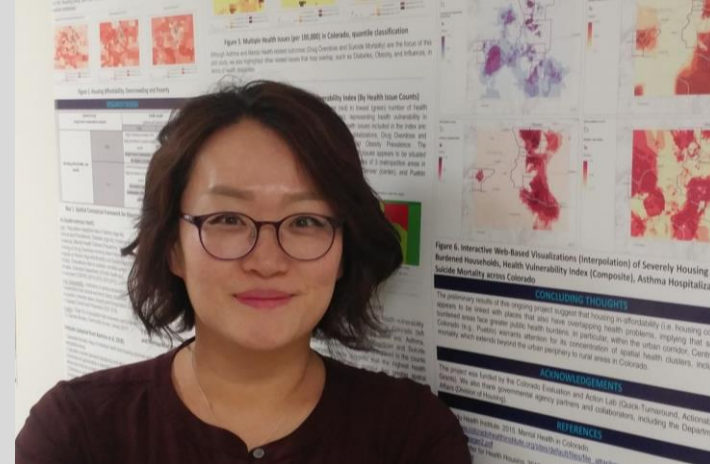
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# Faces of MSU's Global Urban Studies Students





## Jieun Lee

Dr. Jieun Lee is an assistant professor in the Geography, GIS, and Sustainability Department at the University of Northern Colorado. She teaches a variety of courses including Introduction to GIS and GPS, Urban GIS, Geospatial Statistics, Crime Mapping, and Cartography as well as world regional geography courses. Her research focuses on urban environmental and social sustainability, including spatial analysis of built environments, transportation, travel behavior, and accessibility. Through the lens of sustainability, she maintains a particular research interest in class, ethnic/racial, gender and health disparities. Dr. Lee has been involved in various research projects in Detroit, New York City, Seoul and Piura (in Peru). Her recent grant explores interconnectedness between housing affordability and mental health problems in Colorado. She has published in journals such as *Urban Studies*, the *Journal of Urban Design*, the *Journal of Urban Affairs*, and the *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*. She has also authored several book chapters—including in the *Handbook for Teaching and Learning in Geography* and the *Handbook of Global Urban Health*—and has published in the London School of Economics Urban Centre's Politics and Policy blog. Her research work has been widely recognized at national conferences, through various national and international media outlets, as well as in podcast and video interviews.

## Melanie Bowers

Melanie Bowers is an American Politics and Public Policy scholar with academic appointments in the Departments of Political Science and Public Policy and Administration at Rutgers University, Camden. Her research is motivated by a deep desire to understand the political and institutional drivers of inequality and falls into three categories: housing and homelessness policy, LGBTQIA+ politics and policy, and urban politics, with a focus on intergovernmental dynamics and responsiveness. In her current book manuscript, she combines her professional and volunteer experience working in community and economic development with her academic interests in urban politics and housing policy to investigate the drivers of municipal responses to homelessness, arguing that municipal homeless policy reflects rational choices between competing political forces. In addition to the book, her research is currently investigating a variety of questions including how institutional and political arrangements affect localities' ability to reduce homelessness, how state identification laws have influenced transgender political participation, and the drivers of public opinion on transgender rights legislation. Her research has appeared in journals like *Political Behavior*, *Social Science Quarterly*, and *Human Ecology*, among others. In addition to research, she is a dedicated teacher with a particular love for undergraduate education. She was recently honored with a Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching.



## Albert Rice

Dr. AJ Rice completed his Ph.D. in African American and African Studies, with a specialization in Global Urban Studies, at Michigan State University. He is an Assistant Professor of Political Science at University of California, Santa Barbara. Dr. Rice was also a 2020-2021 President's Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of California, Los Angeles in the Department of Political Science. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Relations with honors from the James Madison College at Michigan State University and a Master of Arts degree in Politics from the New School for Social Research. Dr. Rice is an interdisciplinary scholar of Black politics, global urban studies, critical political economy, and Black Studies. His current research examines how resistance to urban dispossession develops in Black cities, and traces how the restructuring of public institutions has contributed to the neo-liberalization of racial capitalism. Dr. Rice has served as a Visiting Instructor at the James Madison College from 2016-2020, and in 2019, was selected as an inaugural fellow for the Transdisciplinary Graduate Fellows Program at the Center for Interdisciplinarity at MSU. His work has been published in *Text and Performance Quarterly*, and he has forthcoming articles in both *Souls: A Critical Journal of Black Politics, Culture, and Society* and the *Popular Culture Studies Journal*.