MICHIGAN STATE
U N I V E R S I T Y
Center for Gender in Global Context

presents the Spring 2017
COLLOQUIA SERIES
NEW RESEARCH ON WOMEN AND GENDER
GLOBAL AND LOCAL PERSPECTIVES

FRIDAY, March 3
1:30-3:00PM
303 INTERNATIONAL CENTER

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Department of Sociology/ Environmental Science & Policy Program (ESPP)

The Social Context of Water Access and Affordability in Michigan

The water crises in Flint and Detroit bring light to ongoing struggles in Michigan for access to affordable clean water. In both cases, community members have demanded access to both scientific information as well as the process through which this knowledge is produced on the quality of water in their communities. This presentation will share the development of a community based participatory research project using citizen science methods in Detroit. One aim of this project is to assess water quality in the community associated with water shutoffs. This project is ongoing and the focus of this talk will be on the development of the community advisory board and the process of oversight of the project. We are particularly interested in how citizen science methods approached through a community based participatory research model can impact community organizing efforts towards improving access to water in low-income communities. We share some of the opportunities to this end, as well as some of the challenges encountered through this project.

Jennifer Carrera is an Assistant Professor of Sociology and Environmental Science and Policy at Michigan State University. Her current work uses citizen science and CBPR methods to explore access to affordable and clean water in low-income and minority communities. Her projects include water quality affordability and shutoffs in Detroit, Michigan, failing septic systems in Lowndes County, Alabama, and the relationship between the politics of water governance and health in Flint, Michigan. Dr. Carrera's work aims to articulate everyday practices that produce and reproduce environmental injustices.

This event is free and open to the public.