

## **CONCURRENT SESSION 7 – HAZARD RESPONSE**

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### **Environmental Justice, Climate Catastrophe, and the Newark Water Crises**

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Beginning in 2016, a public health crisis was declared in the city of Newark, NJ when high lead levels were found in the water supply of Newark public schools. Since then, over 200,000 Newark residents (more than half the city population) have relied on bottled drinking water to meet their daily water needs. This environmental crisis is compounded by the ongoing impacts of Climate Change through storm and flood frequency in the North East. In this paper, based on ethnographic research with the Newark Water Coalition (NWC), a grassroots community-based activist organization working to educate the public and provide water to city residents, I discuss how Black & Latinx activists are raising awareness about the health impacts of the ongoing lead crisis in Newark and how they are working with community members to mitigate harms to an already vulnerable population.

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