

INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH LEADERS

A Robert Wood Johnson Foundation program

Making the Just City: An Examination of Organizing for Equity & Health in Shaw & Orange

Project Location: New Jersey (Orange) and Washington, DC (Shaw)

Project Summary

We propose to understand how two racially and economically diverse communities, Orange in Essex County, New Jersey, and Shaw in Washington, DC, organize and produce community-level mechanisms, such as affordable housing and social capital, to reduce health disparities. These similar-sized communities represent urban environments experiencing distinct types of gentrification at different stages. We are interested in investigating community-level interventions in these environments that attempt to help low- and moderate-income people remain in the communities as they gentrify, and at the same time facilitate social interactions between newcomers and long-term residents of different socio-economic backgrounds.

Team Members

- Dr. Derek Hyra, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Public Administration and Policy, American University, Washington, D.C.
- Dr. Mindy Fullilove, MD, Professor of Clinical Psychiatry and Clinical Social Medical Sciences, Columbia University, and Research Psychiatrist, New York State Psychiatric Institute, New York, New York
- Mr. Dominic Moulden, BA, Resource Organizer, Organizing Neighborhood Equity – ONE D.C., Washington, D.C.



“The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation IRL program connects me with an incredible set of individuals who are deeply committed to discovering ways to reduce health disparities. By participating in the IRL program, I will gain important knowledge about effective ways to promote a culture of health across our country.”

— Derek Hyra

Interdisciplinary Research Leaders

Interdisciplinary Research Leaders is a new leadership development program led by the University of Minnesota with support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. It includes 15 teams, each with two researchers and one community leader. Together they will bridge the myriad factors that have an enormous influence on people’s health—education, neighborhoods, transportation, income, faith, and so on. Their work will address health disparities and build fundamentally healthier communities. **For more information, visit interdisciplinaryresearch-leaders.org or see rwjf.org/changeleaders to learn about additional leadership opportunities.**