



**Northeastern
University**

PUBLIC EVALUATION LAB

Message from the Program Director

The Northeastern University Public Evaluation Lab (NU-PEL) began in 2018 through the support of a Tier 1 grant from the Northeastern University Office of Research Development, Bouvé College of Health Sciences, and the College of Social Sciences and Humanities (CSSH). Faculty from the Institute for Race and Justice, Institute for Health Equity and Social Justice Research, and School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs (SPPUA) came together to create a lab that brings faculty, staff, and students from across the Northeastern University campus with an interest and commitment to developing community partnered evaluation efforts. NU-PEL draws upon a wide range of evaluation strategies and research but shares common commitments to promoting health equity, criminal justice, safety, and social justice through high-impact, community engaged research.

Over these past two years, 2020-21 and 2021-22, we have brought together more than 36 students from a wide range of undergraduate, master's, and doctoral programs across Northeastern University. Together we have developed and provided community-engaged classroom learning, training curricula for students, and mentored-experiential opportunities with more than 23 community partners on evaluation efforts. Additionally, we have developed training and professional development partnerships with the American Evaluation Association (AEA), Greater Boston Evaluation Network (GBEN), and Academic Public Health Volunteer Corps (APHVC).

Throughout these two years, despite it being a mixture of remote, hybrid, and in-person, we were able to establish and sustain meaningful relationships within Northeastern University and externally with community-based organizations. We have made instrumental strides towards our goal of growing and sustaining NU-PEL via partnership with the School of Engineering on the resubmission of the Puerto Rico Testsites for Exploring Contamination Threats (PROTECT) grant as the evaluators of the training core, partnered with the Office of City and Community Engagement for a pilot service-learning course to help meet the needs of community partners and our students, received several evaluation grants with community partners, and expanded our existing network of CSSH and Bouvé faculty for future evaluation collaborations.

Due to the continued unprecedented impacts of COVID-19, our community partners needed our collaborative evaluation support to inform their organizational practices and decision making processes to best move forward. With the incredible support of our multi-generational teams of faculty, staff, and students, we have been able to develop innovative, virtual and hybrid evaluation plans in order to meet the continuously changing needs of our community partners locally and internationally.

We, at NU-PEL, have a strong dedication of community engagement. We remain committed and determined to engaging in culturally responsive evaluation efforts to promote health equity, social justice, equity in education, safety, and criminal justice.

Tiana Yom,
Program Director, NU-PEL
Assistant Research Professor, Health Sciences and SPPUA



Northeastern University
Institute on Race and Justice



Northeastern University
Public Evaluation Lab

Northeastern University
**Institute for Health Equity
and Social Justice Research**

About NU-PEL

The overall mission and vision of NU-PEL is to build a community-academic partnership to improve our communities and the well-being of the people living in them through the use of evaluation research. Alongside building external partnerships with communities, there is increasing involvement with efforts within Northeastern University. Our mission and vision is accomplished by bringing together expertise and resources to advance the theory, practice, and utilization of evaluation through research, education, and service.

Our Areas of Expertise include but not limited to:

- Culturally Responsive Evaluation (CRE)
- Theory-Based Evaluation (TBE)
- Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR)
- Mixed-Methods (Quantitative and Qualitative) Practices
- Training and Evaluation Capacity Building (ECB)
- Evaluation Training and Professional Development

MEET OUR NU-PEL TEAM

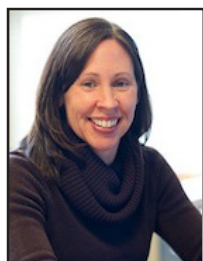
The Leadership Team



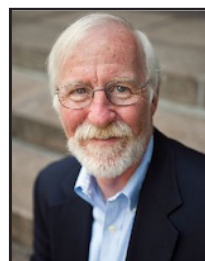
Tiana Yom, EdD, MPH, CHES is the Program Director of the Northeastern University Public Evaluation Lab and an Assistant Research Professor. She is jointly appointed in Bouvé College of Health Sciences and the CSSH. She brings an extensive background of evaluation consultative experiences as well as teaches Techniques of Program Evaluation in SPPUA.



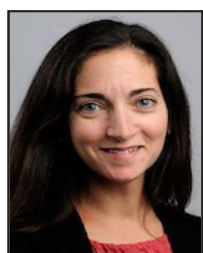
Alisa Lincoln, PhD, MPH is the Director of the Institute for Health Equity and Social Justice Research and a Professor in Bouvé College of Health Sciences and CSSH. She is also the Associate Dean of Research in CSSH. Her research focuses on the mental and physical health of marginalized communities.



Amy Farrell, PhD is the Director of the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice and a Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice in CSSH. Her research examines institutional legitimacy and justice system responses to crimes such as hate crime and human trafficking.



Jack McDevitt, PhD is the Director of the Institute on Race and Justice and a Professor of Practice in School of Criminology and Criminal Justice in CSSH. His research expertise involves ways to assist criminal justice agencies in responding to crime such as hate crime.



Emily Mann, PhD, MSSW is a Teaching Professor in the Human Services program in the CSSH. She is also a Senior Research Associate at the Kitty and Michael Dukakis Center for Urban and Regional Policy. Her current research highlights the impact of education and clinical interventions on youth development.



Suzanne Garverich, MPH is the Program Director of the Institute for Health Equity and Social Justice Research. As a part of her role, she leads the Health Equity Intern (HEI) program. Her work focuses on the mental and physical health of marginalized communities.

Affiliated Faculty



Claudia Santelices, PhD, is an Assistant Teaching Professor in Bouvé College of Health Sciences and a Faculty Scholar at the Institute for Health Equity and Social Justice Research.



Beth Molnar, ScD, SM is the Director of Violence Prevention and Trauma Studies at the Institute for Health Equity and Social Justice Research. She is a Professor in the Department of Health Sciences in Bouvé College of Sciences as well as the Director of the Population Health PhD Program.



Corliss Thompson, PhD, is a Teaching Professor in the College of Professional Studies and a faculty leader in Network for Experiential Teaching (NExT).



Becca Berkey, PhD, is the Director of Community-Engaged Teaching and Research (CETR) and a Lecturer in Human Services.

MEET OUR NU-PEL STUDENT COMMUNITY

Students from the Techniques of Program Evaluation and other Northeastern University students joined NU-PEL to form the NU-PEL Student Community to assist in providing consultative evaluation services to our Northeastern University partners and community organizations.



Candi Wills is a Doctoral Student in the Criminology and Justice Policy Program in the College of Social Sciences and Humanities. Her work with NU-PEL focuses on evaluation research that aims to improve outcomes for children and youth victims of human trafficking. Her work included developing survey instruments and conducting focus group interviews.



Zoë Harris is a Master's Student in Public Health at Bouvé College of Health Sciences. Her work with NU-PEL focuses on evaluation efforts for the Massachusetts Adult Suicide Prevention Project (MASPP), which is funded by the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention (NSSP) grant.



Ramya Kumar is a fourth year pre-med student. Her work with NU-PEL focused on survey development for the Northeastern University Global Health Initiative (NUGHI) evaluation project.



Julia Vasta is a Master's Student in Public Policy at the School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs. Her work with NU-PEL focused on qualitative data collection and analyses as well as conducting literature reviews for the NU Start project.





Isabelle Joy Carrillo is a fifth year student, majoring in Psychology and Linguistics. Her work focused on designing surveys and interview guides as well as presentations for NU Start and CRE projects.



Sky Cupid Douglas is a fourth year undergraduate student, majoring in Psychology. As a Health Equity Intern, her work focused on conducting literature reviews and survey questions for the City of Everett project.



Alex Kane is a 4+1 Master's Student in Public Health in the Bouvé College of Health Sciences. Her work focused on survey development literature reviews for the PROTECT and ROUTES projects.



Olivia Sterns is a 4+1 Master's Student in Public Health in the Bouvé College of Health Sciences. Her work focused on survey design and quantitative data analyses for the NUGHI and Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly (LBFE) evaluation projects.



Sundos Al-Husayni is a fourth year student, majoring in Health Sciences. Her work focused on survey design and development as well as conducting quantitative analyses for the City of Everett Project.



Aaron Chen is a first year pre-med student. As a Health Equity Intern, his work focused on conducting literature reviews for the CRE project.



Maya Dotan is a first year pre-med student. As a Health Equity Intern, her work focused on conducting literature reviews for the CRE project.



Emma Rock is a first year student, majoring in Health Sciences and Public Policy. As a Health Equity Intern, her work focused on conducting literature reviews for the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS) Project.



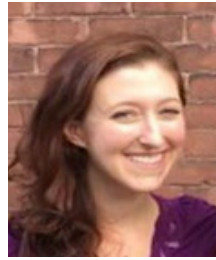
Jack Dalton is a 4+1 Master's Student in Public Health Program in Bouvé College of Health Sciences. His work focused on conducting focus group interviews, analyzing mixed-methods data, and report writing for the LBFE project.



Emma Lundrigan is a fourth year pre-med student. As a Health Equity Intern, her work focused on conducting literature reviews for the CRE project.



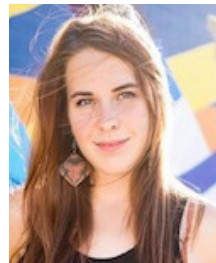
Sushant Kumar is a Doctoral Student in the Policy Program in CSSH. His work focused on survey development, mixed method analyses, and creating reports for PROTECT, the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office Commonwealth's Anti-Trafficking (AGO CAT) Task Force, and MetroWest Health Foundation studies.



Alexandra Alden is a Doctoral Candidate in Sociology in CSSH. Her work with NU-PEL spanned from developing evaluation plans, conducting a landscape analysis, creating logic models, and collecting evaluation data via focus group and in-depth interviews.



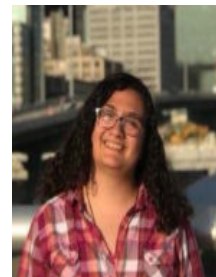
Alissah Sillah is a Master's in Public Health Student at Bouvé College of Health Sciences. Her work focused on conducting focus groups and developing reports for LBFE program evaluation project.



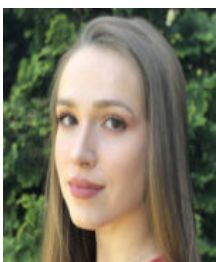
Megan Zelinsky is a Doctoral Candidate in the Population Health Program in Bouvé College of Health Sciences. She focused on assessing sports-based youth development programs through creating evaluation plans, conducting focus groups, and building evaluation capacity.



Gemma McFarland is a Doctoral Student in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Bouvé College of Health Sciences. Her work focused on conducting interviews, leading qualitative data analyses, and developing evaluation plans for the Massachusetts Adult Suicide Prevention Project (MASPP).



Nur Selin Akbulut is a fourth year pre-med student, majoring in Biology. As a Health Equity Intern, her work focused on survey development and report writing for the NUGHI evaluation project.



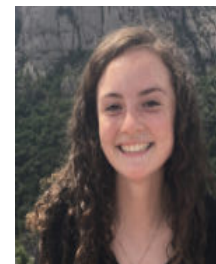
Elena Abatzis is a fourth year undergraduate student, majoring in Psychology. As a Health Equity Intern, her work focused on conducting literature reviews and survey questions for the City of Everett project.



Christina (Hope) Lefebvre is a first year pre-med student, majoring in Cell and Molecular Biology. As a Health Equity Intern, her work focused on conducting literature reviews for the CRE project.



Kaleem Ahmid is a Master's Student in Public Health at Bouvé College of Health Sciences. He was also a double-major in Health Sciences and Philosophy as an NU undergraduate student. His work with NU-PEL focused on evaluation plans for the 826 Boston Writers' Room Program.



Kaitlin Toal is a fourth year undergraduate student in the Bouvé College of Health Sciences. As a Health Equity Intern, she was able to support program evaluation efforts for the PROTECT project.



Lorraine Lacroix-Williamson is a Doctoral Candidate in the Department of Population Health Sciences at Bouvé College of Health Sciences. Her work focused on conducting interviews and supporting qualitative data analyses for the Tier 1 Aging and Isolation study.



Raimy Jaramillo is a Doctoral student in Sociology in CSSH. His work focused on developing surveys, conducting interviews, and creating reports for the PROTECT and ROUTES studies.



David Mejia Cruz is a Master's Student in Public Policy Program in SPPUA. His work focused on qualitative data analysis for the Tier 1 Aging and Isolation study, creating surveys for the Essential Conversations project, and developing executive summary reports for both studies.



Ayanna Miller-Smith is a Doctoral Student in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice in CSSH. Her work focused on supporting YW Boston's strategic evaluation planning and implementation efforts.



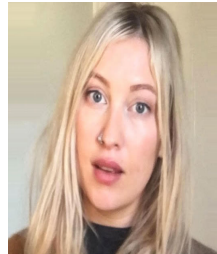
Rachael Lee Shaw is a Doctoral Candidate in Sociology in CSSH. Her work focused on quantitative data analysis and writing reports for the MetroWest Health Foundation study.



Ecom Lu is a 4+1 Master's Student in the Public Health Program in Bouvé College of Health Sciences. As a Health Equity Intern, his work focused on conducting literature reviews for the MetroWest Health Foundation study.



Nihala Razack is a fourth year student in Bouvé College of Health Sciences. As a Health Equity Intern, her work focused on conducting literature reviews for the MetroWest Health Foundation study.



Ashley Houston is a Doctoral Candidate in the Department of Population Health Sciences at Bouvé College of Health Sciences. Her work focused on conducting interviews and supporting qualitative data analysis for the MetroWest Health Foundation study.



Sam Meeker is a Doctoral student in the Department of Population Health Sciences at Bouvé College of Health Sciences. Her work focused on developing evaluation training materials.



Inanna Pickering is a Master's Student in Public Policy Program in SPPUA. Her work focused on conducting focus group interviews and creating surveys for the Digital Dividends LBFE pilot program.



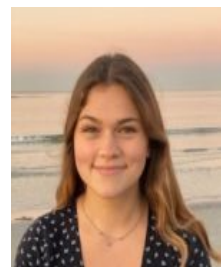
Gilda Gnanaravi is a fourth year student in Bouvé College of Health Sciences. As a Health Equity Intern, her work focused on conducting literature reviews for the PROTECT study.



Norlda Jean is a second year pre-med student in Bouvé College of Health Sciences. As a Health Equity Intern, her work focused on conducting literature reviews for the AGO CAT project.



Heather MacLeish is a Master's Student in the Public Health Program in Bouvé College of Health Sciences. Her work focused on conducting interviews and developing data visualization for the MetroWest Health Foundation study.



Ashley Heacock a second year pre-med student in Bouvé College of Health Sciences. As a Health Equity Intern, her work focused on conducting literature reviews for the AGO CAT project.



Alison Jones is a Master's student in International Affairs. Her work focused on leading the pilot Service-Learning Teaching Assistant (TA) role and developing community partnerships for PPUA 6509: Techniques of Program Evaluation course.



Dipa Desai is a Doctoral student in Public Policy. Her work focused on leading the Teaching Assistant (TA) role and supporting students in PPUA 6509: Techniques of Program Evaluation course.



Vijayeta Singh is a Doctoral candidate in Public Policy. Her work focused on leading the Teaching Assistant (TA) role and supporting students in PPUA 6509: Techniques of Program Evaluation course.



Evelyn Rubinchik is a third year student in Bouvé College of Health Sciences. As a Health Equity Intern, her work focused on conducting literature reviews for the PROTECT study.

NU-PEL's Evaluation Partnerships

YW Boston

**Healing Our Community Collaborative
(HOCC)**

**Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly,
Boston Chapter (LBFE)**

Northeastern O.P.E.N.

You're with Us

Bethel Institute for Social Justice

Boston Public Health Commission

Shooting Touch

The Boston Foundation

University of Massachusetts Boston

**Massachusetts Department of Public
Health (DPH)**

**Center for Crime and Community
Resilience**

Mattapan Food and Fitness Coalition

826 Boston

The Rose Foundation

Boston Public Schools (BPS)

Shield US from Gang Violence

The Pad Project

Institute for Healthcare Improvement

Shield US from Gang Violence

Free. (Free, period)

**Massachusetts Department of Children
and Families (DCF)**

Project R.I.G.H.T.

Compass Working Capital

Asian American Civic Association

The ARC of Massachusetts

Vicarious Trauma Response Initiative

Strong Start Boston

**Tufts Clinical and Translational
Science Institute (CTSI)**

**Massachusetts Department of Mental
Health (DMH)**

The Pad Project

Jobs for Lebanon

Asian Women For Health

The Davis Educational Foundation

You, Inc.

**Massachusetts Executive Office of
Public Safety and Security (EOPSS)**

Fenway Health

**18 Degrees Pittsfield Community
Connection**

Youth Enrichment Services (YES)

Ryu Dan Dojo (RDD)

Teach A Boy (TAB)

Each1Teach1

Kids 4 Peace Boston

**Allston Brighton Community
Development Corporation (CDC)**

Boston Living Center

Dimock Community Health Center



2020-2021 NU-PEL's Evaluation Partnerships

Utilizing an experiential learning model, NU-PEL's faculty and staff led students and students team in working with local and international community organizations to help build evaluation into their organization's programs.

Davis Educational Foundation

NU-PEL and the Center for Advancing Teaching and Learning Through Research (CATLR), co-led the evaluation of grant-funded project, NU Start, a virtual academic learning platform for first year undergraduate students who were unable to travel and participate in-person due to COVID-19 related mandates.

MetroWest Health Foundation

NU-PEL was selected to lead a comprehensive evaluation project to understand and improve upon the current public health infrastructure in the MetroWest region of Massachusetts.

Fenway Health and Healing Our Community Collaborative (HOCC)

NU-PEL was awarded a Tier 1 Mentored Grant to explore and understand the social connections and their impacts on mental health and well-being of Older Persons Living With HIV (OPLWH).

PROTECT (Puerto Rico Testsite for Exploring Contamination Threats)

NU-PEL received a grant to evaluate PROTECT's Training Core, which aims to provide high quality interdisciplinary training and mentoring.

ROUTES (Research Opportunities for Undergraduates: Training in Environmental Health Sciences)

NU-PEL received a grant to evaluate a National Institutes of Health (NIH) funded program, which aims to address need for more environmental health researchers from historically underrepresented minorities.

Office of Massachusetts Attorney General Bureau of Justice Assistance

NU-PEL is working with the Massachusetts Coalition Against Trafficking (CAT) Task Force as an Action Research Partner to analyze the program model, review strategies, and conduct interviews with staff and partners to create an overall performance measurement guide for the CAT-Task Force.

City of Everett, Mayor's Office

NU-PEL worked with the Mayor's Office, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Massachusetts, Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRAC), and Massachusetts Law Reform Institute to develop and implement a pilot Language Access Needs Assessment.

Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS)

NU-PEL is working with EOPSS to help enhance the Commonwealth's response to child sex trafficking. NU-PEL will develop program evaluation instruments for MyLifeMyChoice, Department of Children and Families, and Roxbury Youthworks.

Community Organizations's Perspectives

"NU-PEL worked with 826 Boston to develop an evaluation plan utilizing a writing portfolio assessment tool focused on measuring the development of students' social emotional skills development and writing skills through their participation in 826 Boston's signature publication program, the Young Authors' Book Project."

- Carolyn Navikonis, Director of Programs and Community Engagement

"We can't even express how blown away we were by what the Program Evaluation course students have done for and with AIDS Action Committee! At the start, we really didn't know what the evaluation planning process was going to look like exactly, and we definitely did not have the capacity to create an evaluation plan as detailed and informed as the one the NU-PEL students have created for us. We are so grateful!"

- Alyvia Norris, Policy Advocacy Coordinator

2021-2022 NU-PEL's Evaluation Partnerships

Massachusetts Division of Children and Families (DCF)

NU-PEL is working with DCF on a funded study, which aims to explore the process of creating an index to measure vulnerability and risk to Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) victimization at the neighborhood and community levels.

Salus Populi

NU-PEL is working with IHESJR and Northeastern University Law School to lead an evaluation on a W.K. Kellogg Foundation funded project, Salus Populi. This study aims to provide training on social determinants of health to practicing judges in the United States.

Research Question Network (rQnet)

NU-PEL is leading an evaluation on a National Science Foundation (NSF) funded program, which aims to foster the development of pedagogical approaches to increase the ability of academic researchers to formulate research questions and ideas with potentially transformative outcomes.

PROTECT (Puerto Rico Testsite for Exploring Contamination Threats)

NU-PEL is continuing the evaluation of PROTECT's Training Core, which aims to provide high quality interdisciplinary training and mentoring.

ROUTES (Research Opportunities for Undergraduates: Training in Environmental Health Sciences)

NU-PEL is continuing the evaluation of the NIH funded program, which aims to address need for more environmental health researchers from historically underrepresented minorities.

Office of Massachusetts Attorney General Bureau of Justice Assistance

NU-PEL is continuing its partnership with the MA AGO CAT Task Force as an Action Research Partner to conduct scenario-based activities with task force members, prepare data visualization materials, and develop an evaluation plan to be utilized in future grant application cycles.

Boston Living Center (BLC)

In addition to working with HOCC for the Tier 1 Mentored Grant, NU-PEL is working with BLC to understand the social connections and their impacts on OPLWH across the Commonwealth.

Liberations Program

NU-PEL is working with Liberations Program to lead an evaluation plan that aim to assess programmatic impacts among Liberation Program members.

Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly (LBFE)

NU-PEL is leading a funded project with the local Boston chapter of LBFE to develop an evaluation plan for their pilot program, Digital Dividends, which is a program aimed to support older adults' technology literacy skills and knowledge.

Tufts Clinical Translational Science Institute (CTSI)

NU-PEL is working with Tufts CTSI to evaluate their new initiatives: Addressing Disparities in Asian Populations through Translational Research (ADAPT) and Collaboration for Research Equity, Sustainability, and Trust (CREST).

Community Organizations's Perspectives

"Working with NU-PEL and the students from Techniques of Program Evaluation has been very eye-opening! This was our first time in creating an evaluation plan and it was incredibly needed as we think through about how to measure and assess our program's impact and success. Grateful for the fresh perspective of our work!"

- Kenzie Blackwell, Director of Free Period Ministry

"Partnering with NU-PEL was exactly what we needed as we were at the beginning stages of our Advocacy Committee. The team asked great questions to get at the heart of what we do and offered an insightful evaluation plan to help us meaningfully and intentionally evaluate our work. We were able to really get things moving with our board members and stakeholder groups because of the clear and cohesive evaluation plan."

- Jordan Ziese, Program Coordinator, YW Boston



Building Evaluation Capacity

NU-PEL is committed to training undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, staff, and community partners in evaluation theory, methods, and techniques and tools to advance the evaluation capacity in the academic and community setting. Throughout these two years, NU-PEL successfully provided a wide array of virtual evaluation training opportunities focusing on qualitative methods, survey development, evaluation methods, theories and techniques.

Techniques of Program Evaluation

In collaboration with SPPUA and CETR team led by Director Becca Berkey, we have created a pilot Service Learning (S-L) master's level program evaluation course. The *Techniques of Program Evaluation* course is grounded in experiential learning, where students gain direct experiences with real-world evaluation strategies and issues through a community-partnered, semester long project. Community partners of this course directly work with and are supported by Dr. Yom, a group of 4-5 students, a S-L teaching assistant, and a doctoral-level teaching assistant.

Culturally Responsive Evaluation (CRE) Professional Development Series

In partnership with the Greater Boston Evaluation Network (GBEN), the American Evaluation Association (AEA) local chapter, we developed trainings on CRE for community organizations and academic institutions. We will continue working with GBEN to provide additional evaluation trainings that intersect the needs of community partners and our evaluation networks. The third year of the CRE series will kick off in Fall 2022. More information about the event logistics will be shared by early Fall 2022.

Evaluation Theory and Techniques

NU-PEL is dedicated to training undergraduate and graduate students in evaluation theory and tools to enable them to provide robust evaluation consultative services to our community partners. The Student Learning Community (SLC) connected virtually to increase students' evaluation knowledge, skills, and opportunities. Furthermore, we have been able to expand training to internal Northeastern groups such as the Office of Research Development. Trainings included topics such as evaluation theory and methods, how to develop and leverage the use of a logic model, and how to utilize evaluation techniques such as validated rubrics and checklists.

Evaluation Data Share and Community Outreach

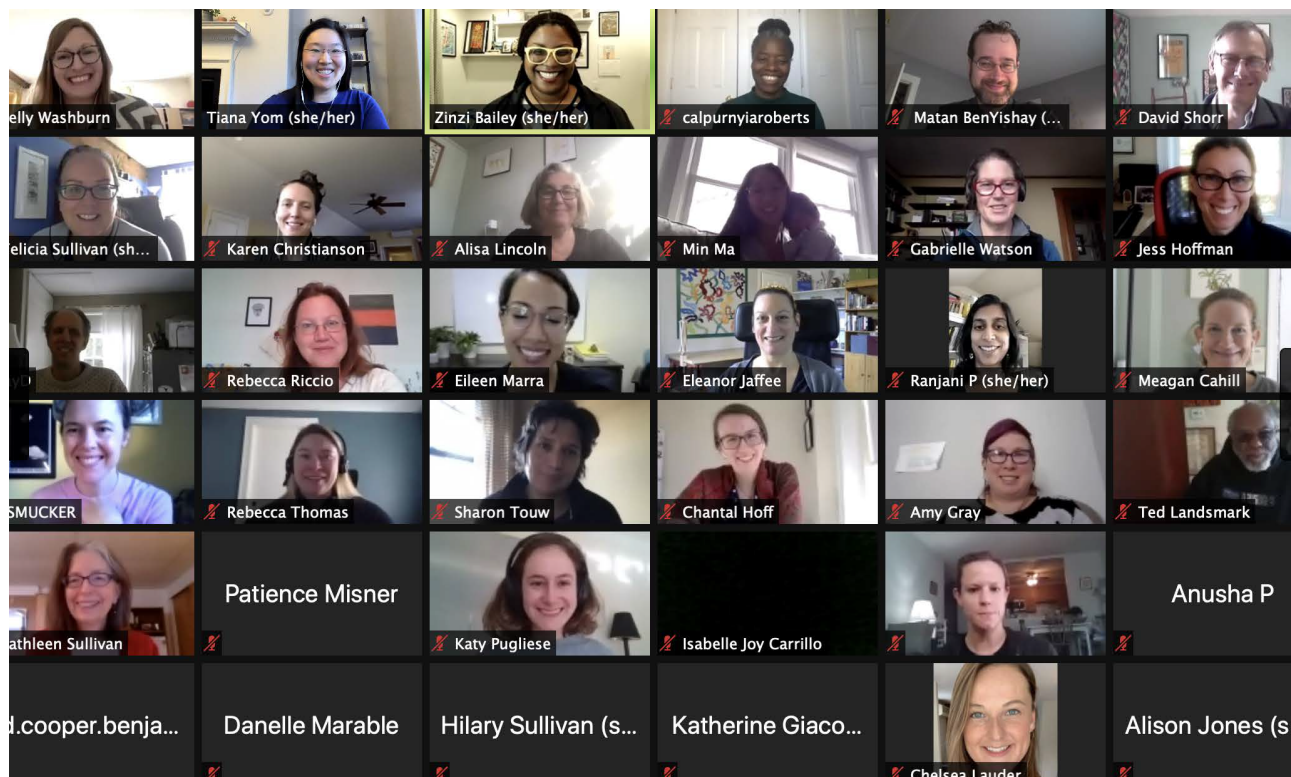
NU-PEL presented with Dr. Danielle Crookes, a Faculty Scholar at IHESJR, Dr. Kathryn Hall, Deputy Executive Director at BPHC, and Dr. Collette Ncube, Assistant Professor at Boston University at the Boston Action Research Initiative (BARI) conference on a panel that showcased various community-centered public health research efforts. In addition, NU-PEL participated at Northeastern University's SOURCE event, which aims to introduce and engage undergraduate students to research.



Left to Right: Sushant Kumar, Olivia Sterns, Dr. Tiana Yom
NU-PEL Table at the Northeastern University SOURCE event, Fall 2021

Looking Ahead for NU-PEL

We will continue our efforts to lead and contribute in evaluation research that embeds diversity, equity, inclusion, accessibility, and belonging. Additionally, we are looking forward to building more community-centered partnerships in evaluation and developing more evaluation trainings and resources to share across our networks and communities.



NU-PEL and GBEN Culturally Responsive Evaluation (CRE) Series First Virtual Event, November 2020

For more information about NU-PEL, visit our website at:

<https://bouve.northeastern.edu/nu-pel/>

To contact us, email us at:

NU-PEL@northeastern.edu