
Profile

StarLuna Consulting, LLC is an anti-racism and social equity research, education, and consulting firm. Through StarLuna, I provide the following:

- Action research services on questions related to social equity and governance,
- Education and learning opportunities for organizations interested in integrating equity-centered, justice supporting, and anti-racist approaches in their work cultures, structures, and processes,
- General social equity advising to initiatives or organizations seeking guidance to support equity-centered, justice supporting, anti-racist operations and practices,
- Guidance on working with or centering historically excluded and currently marginalized communities in planning or other processes, and
- Community based learning opportunities around various area of social justice including environmental justice, education justice, and housing justice, among others.

Education

Ph.D., Law and Social Policy <i>Northeastern University</i>	May 2009 <i>Boston, MA</i>
Master of Public Health <i>Boston University School of Public Health</i>	May 2001 <i>Boston, MA</i>
B.S., Health Science, Community Health, <i>cum laude</i> <i>California State University, Los Angeles</i>	June 1999 <i>Los Angeles, CA</i>

StarLuna Consulting, LLC

Stakeholder Engagement and Social Equity <i>Linnean Solutions</i>	February 2022 – Present
In partnership with Linnean Solutions and BSC Group, develop the next iteration of the Municipal Vulnerability Planning process for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs.	
Participatory Action Research <i>Opportunity Communities</i>	August 2021 – Present
Develop and facilitate an action research process in support of the Homes for Equity initiative.	
Social Equity Research and Policy Advising <i>IEc</i>	July 2021 – Present
Design and implement a stakeholder engagement process to support efforts aimed at improving the EPA's Office of Land and Emergency Management's decision making and regulatory processes to better center social equity and environmental justice. In addition, provide general advising on policy issues related to social equity and environmental justice.	
Social Equity Advising <i>Stoss Landscape Urbanism</i>	March 2021 – Present
Provide guidance and support an equity-centered focus in the development of the City of Boston's Urban Forest Plan. Support included creating and supporting the Equity Council, ensuring adequate language access was provided by the City, supporting the lead consultants on Boston specific policy processes, and assist with the development of an equity centered engagement process.	

Environmental Justice Advising <i>Harvard College</i>	April 2021 – Present
Provide guidance and support to the Harvard Forest Research Experiences for Teachers (RET) NSF program in connecting equity in conservation analyses to conservation opportunities in environmental justice communities. Also provide guidance on teacher recruitment and outreach to high school science teachers from historically excluded groups or who teach historically excluded and marginalized students. Evaluate teaching content and tools developed by RET participants and provide support as needed.	
Anti-Racism/ Social Equity Advising <i>Essex County Greenbelt</i>	February 2021 – Present
Facilitate conversations and host anti-racism/ social equity learning sessions with Board and staff of Greenbelt. Review and provide guidance on DEI statements, Land Acknowledgement statements, and the draft Strategic Plan to strengthen anti-racism and social equity language. Facilitate decisionmaking meetings with the DEI committee.	
Learning Collaborative Education <i>Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition (MassLand)</i>	July 2021 – October 2021
Develop and facilitate an interactive 3 session series for members to explore ways to advance equity and inclusion initiatives.	
General Consulting/ Advising <i>Various Community Based Organizations</i>	
Assist communities and organizations in developing or strengthening policies and programs to support equity, inclusion, and belonging efforts. This includes supporting capacity development to understand bias, microaggressions, and intervention strategies; and helping organizations understand and prepare for threats to institutional stability from right-wing extremism and related anti-social philosophies. Provide public learning opportunities in and for communities around civics, erased histories, and the structure of law and policy.	
<hr/> Other/ Prior Consulting¹ <hr/>	
Co-Principle Investigator/ Consultant <i>Conservation Law Foundation</i>	November 2019 – Present <i>Boston, MA</i>
Develop and conduct research to identify and map local geographies of various vulnerable populations in the six New England states to support advocacy efforts aimed at directing transportation and climate investments to benefit those populations of concern.	
Subcontractor <i>All Aces, Inc.</i>	June 2020 – October 2021 <i>Boston, MA</i>
Provides support in the design and implementation a social vulnerability assessment for a regional climate preparedness planning process of the Lower Mystic River region.	
Principle Investigator <i>Barr Foundation</i>	October 2020 – April 2021 <i>Boston, MA</i>
Design and implement an evaluation of community based COVID response and mutual aid efforts in the cities of Boston, Chelsea, and Revere. The overall goal is to understand how community-focused and community-led responses like these can be built upon and reinforced to support equity-centered social resilience.	
Consultant <i>East Boston Social Centers</i>	October 2016 – September 2020
Provide support to non-profit or emerging social enterprises in developing sustainable systems for data collection and analysis for ongoing process and outcome evaluation. Services include conducting a process evaluation of two programs and working with staff and leadership to create or strengthen evaluation systems.	

¹Does not include consulting engagements involving non-disclosure agreements.

Managing Consultant June 2016 – June 2019
Youth Dialogues Project East Boston, MA
Develop and manage a youth a youth led research project focused on identifying youth concerns related to safety, health, and general well-being. This project is funded by the Boston Foundation. The report can be found here: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3236543>

Consultant August 2007 - June 2009
Blue Cross-Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation Boston, MA
Develop the indicators for a community health indicators web tool.

Principal Investigator June 2007 - August 2007
East Boston Latino Coalition Boston, MA
Develop and pilot a community based survey of political attitudes within the Latinx community in Boston.

Academic Positions

Associate Professor (Visiting) September 2017 – May 2020
Department of Sociology Salem, MA
Salem State University
Primary responsibilities include teaching undergraduate courses related to social inequality, race and ethnicity, social justice, law and policy, and research methods. I also developed a seminar in Whiteness. In addition, I engage in a variety of service activities to support student or faculty development as requested. I also facilitated the Sociology Department's strategic planning processes, collected and analyzed data for a forthcoming external program review, and assisted the chair in developing successful proposals for faculty lines. Participated in Faculty Learning Community for Diversity, Power Dynamics, and Social Justice designated courses. Also participated in the Latinx Employee Resource Group.

Associate Teaching Professor July 2016 – April 2017
Assistant Teaching Professor March 2012 – June 2016
Doctor of Law and Policy Program Boston, MA
College of Professional Studies, Northeastern University
Primary responsibilities included teaching or supervising nine courses in research methods and overseeing the doctoral thesis process. I have directly supervised 37 dissertations to completion. I developed the competencies for this program, restructured the curriculum to facilitate timely completion of the thesis process, and prepared materials for NEASC accreditation. I also supervised and supported the methods faculty and the thesis advisors. I participated in the creation of the College Faculty Academic Council with primary responsibility in writing the Bylaws for the Council. I was subsequently elected as the Member-at-large officer and later as Parliamentarian.

Lecturer September 2010 – July 2017
School of Nursing Boston, MA
Courses taught: Qualitative Methods (graduate). I have sat on committees for five completed dissertation as the qualitative expert.

Lecturer September 2005 – April 2014
Department of Sociology and Anthropology Boston, MA
Department of Political Science
Law and Public Policy Program
Urban and Regional Policy Program
Northeastern University
Courses taught include: Urban Studies (History and theory; Urban Research; undergraduate), Race and Ethnic Relations (undergraduate), Applied Sociology (undergraduate), Research Methods (graduate), and Qualitative Research Methods (graduate). I also developed new teaching materials for the urban studies program, restructured the PhD dissertation seminar, and developed the competencies for the Masters in Law and Public Policy for the 2012 NEASC accreditation process. I have participated on or directly supervised four dissertations to completion.

Online Lecturer
Department of Sociology
Salem State University

January 2011 – May 2012
Boston, MA

Lecturer
Department of Sociology
University of Massachusetts, Boston

September 2009 – December 2012
Boston, MA

Lecturer II
Department of Sociology
Suffolk University

September 2006 – December 2009
Boston, MA

Administrative Management

Co-Director (Transitional)
Community Bridges

March 2004 -August 2004
Wilmington, DE

Assisted in creating inter-generational collaborative spaces to produce community-based murals in cooperation with community artists. Helped to create a coalition of city and state agencies, environmental cleanup companies, and residents to deal with the soil contamination preventing residents from gardening safely. Responsible for developing and implementing the youth leadership engagement initiatives.

Director
Urban Health and Environment Learning Project (UHELP)
Peoples Settlement Association

February 2003 -February 2004
Wilmington, DE

Organized a regional conference on environmental justice, worked with local churches to organize health screenings, collaborated with the Nursing School at a local university, a community health center, and the Black Nurses Association (Chi Eta Phi) to conduct community health surveys. Helped to organize residents to fight for safety related municipal services (e.g., stop signs). Helped to organize a variety of health and environmental education events, including an HIV/AIDS film festival.

Administrative Assistant (Special Projects)
Edward R. Roybal Comprehensive Health Center
Los Angeles County Department of Health Services

February 1995 - April 1999
East Los Angeles, CA

Support the CEO in a variety of analytic and research intensive projects. I supported clinic operations and budget management through developing and managing assessments and studies. I also helped to prepare materials for JCAHO accreditation.

Reports

Forthcoming

Investing For Equity: Using an Environmental Justice Approach to Guide Transportation & Climate Investments

Coauthored with Marcos Luna

A report to the Conservation Law Foundation

2021

Opportunities to Invest in Community Resilience for COVID and Climate

Coauthored with Penn Loh

A report to the Barr Foundation

Available at: <https://barrfdn.issuelab.org/resource/opportunities-to-invest-in-community-resilience-for-covid-and-climate.html>

2018

East Boston Youth Dialogues: What Eastie Youth Tell us When we Listen

Coauthored with Armando Martinez and Dominic Lopez-Finet

Available at: <https://zenodo.org/record/3236543>

Refereed or Invited Publications

- “Successful and Thriving Students of Color: Who and What Supports Them.” *NACADA Journal* (under review)
Co-authored with: Kathleen Neville & Timothy Erickson-Oberg
- “Incorporating environmental justice criteria in land conservation.” *Environmental Research Letters* (under review)
Co-authored with: Katherine Sims, Lucy Lee, Margot Lurie, & Jonathan Thompson.
- “Book Review: Doing Community-Based Research: Perspectives from the Field.” *Northeastern Geographer* (forthcoming)
- 2020 “Law & Public Policy: A Gap Between Theory and Teaching?” *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 52 (2): 292-297. doi:10.1017/S1049096519002178
Co-authored with: Edward F. Kammerer, Jr.
- 2016 “Communicating Risks and Benefits in Informed Consent for Research: A Qualitative Study.” *Global Qualitative Nursing Research*, 4. DOI: 2333393617732017
Co-authored with: Lika Nusbaum, Brenda Douglas, Karla Damus, & Michael Paasche-Orlow.

“Married Saudi Arabian Women’s Attitudes and Knowledge Concerning Sexually Transmitted Infections.” *Journal of Womens Health, Issues and Care*, 5 (6). DOI: 10.4172/2325-9795.1000253
Co-authored with: Maram Alghabashi, Tiffany Kim, & Barbara Guthrie.
- 2012 “Book Review: Building American Public Health: Urban Planning: Architecture, and the Quest for Better Health in the United States.” *Northeastern Geographer*, 4 (1): 86-89.
- 2011 “Book Review: Remaking Boston: an Environmental History of the City and its Surroundings.” *Northeastern Geographer*, 3 (December): 133-136. Available at: <http://aagnostval.wpengine.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/remaking-boston.pdf>
- 2010 “Public Participation and Communicative Interaction: The Structural Mechanisms of Institutional Bias.” *Environmental Justice*, 3, no. 4 (December): 135-140. Abstract available at: <http://www.liebertonline.com/doi/abs/10.1089/env.2010.0009>
- 2008 “Environmental Justice Through Youth Empowerment” in *Proceedings of the State of Environmental Justice 2007 Conference* with Jonathan Collado, Erica Downey, Ada Fuentes, Martha Galdamez, Eric Galdamez, Shaundra Miles, Kacthary Sanclemente, Carlos Pemberthy, and Laura Crandall. Available at: http://www.ejconference.net/images/Chelsea_Creek.pdf
- 2005 Book Review: “This is the City: Making Model Citizens in Los Angeles.” *COMM-ORG: The Community Organizing Website*, 11. Available at: <http://comm-org.wisc.edu/papers2005/estrellaluna.htm>
- 2004 “Public Participation in Environmental Decisionmaking” *Delaware Lawyer*, 22, no. 2 (Summer): 11-14. Available at: http://delawarebarfoundation.org/delawyer/Volume22_Number2_Summer2004.pdf
- 2003 “A Just Decision Regarding the Landfill Requires Open Debate” *Delaware Sierra News*, (November/December): 7. Available at: <http://delaware.sierraclub.org/pdf/2003NovDec.pdf>

Books

- 2018 “Promises made: The resettlement of our allies.”
Co-authored with: Carson, J.

Invited Public Presentations, Speaking Engagements, Public Panels

2021

Action Research in Support of Justice
ECOLOGIES + Publics Proseminar
Harvard Graduate School of Design

Advancing an Anti-Racist Agenda in the City of Boston
Engagement Lab
Emerson College

From the Great Depression to the Civil Rights Movement: Boston, Unitarians, and the Struggle for Racial Justice from the 1930s through the 1960s
Racial Justice Learning Circle
First Church of Boston

Environmental Justice – Equity in Law and Policy
Young Professional Summit Panel
NEWEA/ NEWWA

Words Matter: Protest, Insurrection, Coup
Community Conversation
Tufts University Graduate School of Arts & Sciences

Maintaining an Inclusive Community
Community Conversation
The College of St. Rose

2020

Hard Conversations on Racism – You can do it!
East Boston Community Teach-in

Latinx communities in the time of COVID: Essential, invisible, and expendable
The Color of Life in a Time Of Crisis: Thinking through Racial Disparities During COVID-19, Civil Rights, and Fair Housing Conference and Western
New England University School of Law Center for Social Justice

The Inclusive Classroom Environment
Interise2020: Closing the Gap

2019

Belonging as we Are: Creating Cultures of Inclusion and Belonging for Social Justice
Community Engagement Speaker Colloquium,
Merrimack College

Talking mindfully about Whiteness
TEDx Salem State University
Available at: <https://youtu.be/Ugzu9SKYvls>

Opening Remarks: The Wage Inequality Gap
All Souls Winter Conference
All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church of Braintree

Selected Academic Conference Presentations

2020

High achieving students of color perceptions of how a campus community supports student success
Association for the Study of Higher Education

2019

Democratizing Research for Environmental Justice and Health (Panel)
Frontiers of Democracy

2017

Law & public policy: A gap between theory and teaching?
Northeast Political Science Association

Transportation justice: the work and role of scholars and practitioners in creating transit equity (Panel organizer & chair)
Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting

2016

Innovations in post-master's graduate planning education
Southern New England American Planning Association Annual Meeting

Alternatives in doctoral preparation for social justice related research
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Spring Meeting

Moving from research to action: planning for policy implementation and innovative solutions (Panel organizer & discussant)
New England Political Science Association Annual Meeting

Advocacy & citizen scientists
Resilient Sisterhood Project

2014

Responding to disasters in environmental justice communities: Are community based organizations included in disaster response plans?
International Conference on Disaster Mitigation, Preparedness Response, and Sustainable Reconstruction: The Role of Architectural, Planning, and Engineering Education

Integrating law into a public policy curriculum
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Spring Meeting

2013

Doing community based research
New England-St. Lawrence Valley Geographical Society Annual Meeting

Simulations of climate change adaption in environmental justice communities: Preparing students for the real world
Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting

2012

The geography of participation: why some environmental justice communities lose and why some win
Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting

2011

Incorporating climate change into your curriculum: a project-based approach to learning to develop adaptive solutions for vulnerable populations in urban environments

New England-St. Lawrence Valley Geographical Society Annual Meeting

Mobile workshop: Sea level rise in East Boston

American Planning Association Annual Meeting

A lesson on the difference between theory and practice: developing a web-based community health indicators mapping tool

Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting

The structure and process of participation in environmental permit decisions

International Association of Public Participation

Pro-Bono Consulting, Popular Research, & Public Scholarship

Co-Facilitator 2020 – Present
Mutual Aid Eastie Boston, MA

Coordinate with other main leads on the development and deployment of mutual aid efforts in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Support local businesses navigate procurement and reimbursement processes to deliver halal meals to local families. Coordinate volunteer drivers to deliver meals and groceries. Organize direct disbursements to community members and develop participatory decision-making processes in the use of the funds. Assist in developing coalitions to address social problems created and exacerbated by the pandemic.

Analyst January 2015 – December 2017
Environmental Justice Alliance MA

Conduct geographic analysis to support the revision of the Massachusetts Environmental Justice Policy as required under Executive Order No. 552. Also co-authored comments on one of the proposed policies which can be found here:

<https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2017/11/29/Alternatives%20for%20Community%20and%20Environment%20%28ACE%29%20%28cover%20letter.pdf>

Principle Investigator February 2012 – January 2016
East Boston Community Commons East Boston, MA

Facilitate the planning and implementation of a community based surveys related to community development in East Boston as part of a participatory action research project. Reports can be found at:

<http://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3849111> and <http://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3849165>. Other presentations can be found: <https://sites.google.com/site/eastbostoncommunitycommons/>

Consultant August 2011 – 2015
East Boston Initiative Boston, MA

Conduct preliminary research on the social, economic, and development history of East Boston to support community efforts to build a visitor's center and museum for the neighborhood of East Boston. The slideshow of this effort can be found at: <http://www.slideshare.net/starluna/east-boston-history>

Planning and Facilitation Team February 2012 – November 2014
Collaboration of East Boston residents and Neighbors United for a Better East Boston East Boston, MA

Plan and facilitate community based dialogues and education activities related to public safety.

Consultant August 2013 – October 2013
Action for Regional Equity MA

Facilitate the planning and implementation of a series of community conversations related to regional jobs issues.

Professional Service

Member <i>Massachusetts Advisory Committee, US Commission on Civil Rights</i>	2019 – Present <i>Massachusetts</i>
Consejo/ Root Council Member and Policy Advisor <i>Neighbors United for a Better East Boston (NUBE)</i>	June 2008 - Present <i>Boston, MA</i>
Member of Strategic Planning Advisory Committee <i>East Boston Social Centers</i>	May 2018 – May 2019 <i>Boston, MA</i>
Member, Technical Advisory Group - Energy <i>Carbon Free Boston</i>	April 2018 – January 2019 <i>Boston, MA</i>
Consultant and Planning Team Member <i>East Boston 2030 Visioning Group (formerly EB 2020)</i>	November 2013 – December 2016 <i>Boston, MA</i>
Advisory Committee Member <i>Mystic River Watershed Environmental Fund Advisory Committee The Boston Foundation</i>	January 2011- December 2016 <i>Boston, MA</i>
Board Member & Chair <i>Alternatives for Community and Environment (ACE)</i> Other officer positions held: Treasurer and Clerk.	November 2009 – October 2015 <i>Boston, MA</i>
Advisory Committee Member <i>Adaptation Strategy Advisory Committee Metropolitan Area Planning Council Regional Climate Change</i>	October 2012 – September 2014 <i>Boston, MA</i>
Advisory Committee Member <i>East Boston / Chelsea Environmental Fund The Boston Foundation</i>	January 2009- January 2010 <i>Boston, MA</i>
Discussion Facilitator <i>World Wide Views on Global Warming Danish Board of Technology</i>	September 26, 2009 <i>Boston, MA</i>
Member <i>Human Health and Welfare Subcommittee of the Climate Change Adaptation Advisory Committee Facilitated by Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs</i>	June 2009 – December 2009 <i>Massachusetts</i>

Selected Media Interviews/ Mentions

<i>Next Steps for Land Justice in the New England Conservation Community</i> By Jackie Rigley, Highstead https://highstead.net/insights/next-steps-for-land-justice-in-the-new-england-conservation-community	<i>December 17, 2021</i>
<i>Trees: The Critical Infrastructure Low-Income Neighborhoods Lack</i> By Alex Brown, Stateline https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/blogs/stateline/2021/07/06/tree-the-critical-infrastructure-low-income-neighborhoods-lack	<i>July 6, 2021</i>
<i>Stronger Protections Needed for Water Access</i> BNN News https://youtu.be/GQGGR7RWoS4	<i>February 5, 2021</i>

Grassroots response to COVID-19 in East Boston June 16, 2020
 BNN News
<https://youtu.be/BZIHUmWHiYE>

East Boston non-profit provides free meals amid coronavirus pandemic May 26, 2020
 By Nia Hamm, NBC10 Boston
<https://www.nbcboston.com/news/coronavirus/east-boston-non-profit-provides-free-meals-amid-coronavirus-pandemic/2131442/>

Eastbound and gown: As students displace longtime East Bostonians, a community welcomes newcomers but not without some concerns September 10, 2019
 By Erin Nolan, Dig Boston
<https://digboston.com/eastbound-and-gown-as-students-displace-longtime-east-bostonians-a-community-welcomes-newcomers-but-not-without-some-concerns/>

Social Transformation + Community Building + Civic Engagement March 21, 2018
 What's Up Eastie [Radio Show]
<https://whatsupeastie.com/2018/03/21/social-transformation-community-building-civic-engagement/>

The Environment as a Time Bomb October 17, 2017
 Boston College Law School Magazine
<http://lawmagazine.bc.edu/2017/10/the-environment-as-time-bomb/>

Trump is quietly making U.S. flooding even more disastrous August 18, 2017
 By Sarah Sax, Vice News
<https://news.vice.com/story/trump-is-quietly-making-u-s-flooding-even-more-disastrous>

Panel, report decry push for privatization in Massachusetts November 30, 2016
 By Sandra Larson, The Bay State Banner
<http://baystatebanner.com/news/2016/nov/30/panel-report-decry-push-privatization-massachusetts>

Research Interests

Law & Public Policy	Regulation	Social Justice
Public Participation	Urban and Regional Policy	Social Policy
Public Health	Legal and policy history	Social Sustainability
Climate Change Adaptation	Environmental Justice	Organized Extremism

Professional Training

CITI Certification: Human Subjects Research <i>Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative</i>	October 2020
Fundamentals of Facilitation for Racial Justice Work <i>Interaction Institute for Social Change</i>	October 2016
NIH Certification: Protecting Human Research Participants <i>National Institutes of Health Office of Extramural Research</i>	September 2012
Certificate in Public Participation <i>International Association for Public Participation</i>	January 2004 Alexandria, VA