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Karen Cheng is professor of Visual Communication Design at the University of Washington, where she teaches information design and data visualization. Her research, which has been supported by grants from the National Science Foundation, examines how visual design can enhance functional and technical communications such as maps, forms, charts and diagrams. Prof. Cheng has a B.S. from Penn State University in chemical engineering and a M.A. from the University of Cincinnati College of Design, Art, Architecture and Planning.

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Dr. Laura Pechta is a Health Communication Specialist with the Emergency Risk Communication Branch in the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). For the past five years, she has been a member of the research and evaluation team conducting real-time communication surveillance of news and social media and special research and evaluation tasks for fourteen CDC emergency responses, such as the Multi-state Fungal Meningitis Outbreak, Hurricane Sandy, Ebola, and Zika. She has also deployed twice as the Health Communication Lead for the Ebola response in Liberia, doing everything from risk communication technical assistance to public affairs and media support for Liberia’s Ministry of Health Incident Management staff and CDC response teams. Dr. Pechta received her Ph.D. in risk and crisis Communication at Wayne State University and M.A. in organizational communication from Purdue University.
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Dr. Donnie Sackey is an Assistant Professor of Rhetoric & Composition at Wayne State University. He is a senior researcher with Detroit Integrated Vision for Environmental Research through Science and Engagement (D•VERSE) and an affiliated researcher in the Writing, Information, and Digital Experience (WIDE) Research Center. He also serves as an executive board member of the Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition. His research centers on the dynamics of environmental public policy deliberation, environmental justice, and environmental cultural history. Dr. Sackey received dual B.A. degrees, one in Latin and the other in English, from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga in 2006. In 2009 he received a M.A. in critical studies in literacy & pedagogy from Michigan State University. He received his Ph.D. in rhetoric and writing from Michigan State University in 2013.