

FROM DATA TO IMPACT

Hands-On Methods for Equity-Centered Research and Community Storytelling

Applied Data Science Program · Howard University · Spring 2026

SESSION 1 · DATA STORYTELLING

Data Storytelling in Flourish Studio

Presenter: Kenton Rambsy

Date & Time: Monday, April 2, 2026 | 4:00 – 6:00 PM EST

Format: Virtual (Zoom)

Duration: 2 Hours

Workshop Description

This 2-hour virtual workshop introduces participants to creating interactive data stories using Flourish Studio. Attendees will learn how to transform spreadsheets into compelling visual narratives by organizing data, mapping columns, selecting effective chart types, and structuring a clear story arc. By the end of the session, participants will have developed a short interactive data story and strengthened their ability to analyze and present data with clarity and impact.

Registration: <https://howard.zoom.us/meeting/register/ZmkdSmo0SWqrUCpRsTSb6A>

SESSION 2 · COMMUNITY RESEARCH

Creating and Collecting Community Data

Presenter: Amy Quarkume

Date & Time: Tuesday, April 7, 2026 | 1:00 – 2:00 PM EST

Format: Virtual (Zoom)

Duration: 1 Hour

Workshop Description

This interactive workshop will guide participants through designing ethical, community-centered survey instruments and building practical strategies for collecting meaningful, high-quality data. Attendees will leave with a draft survey framework and tools to align data collection with social impact goals.

Registration: <https://howard.zoom.us/meeting/register/ZamHCKZrRkynQ-hh0OpKQQ>

SESSION 3 · ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Urban Heat Maps: Using GIS to Understand Climate Risk Through a Historically Informed Justice Lens

Presenter: Aisha Jenkins

Date & Time: Wednesday, April 15, 2026 | 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM EST

Format: Virtual (Zoom)

Duration: 2 Hours

Workshop Description

This workshop introduces participants to using ArcGIS Online to analyze urban heat through a historical and ethical lens. Using Richmond, Virginia as a case study, participants examine how present-day heat exposure aligns with patterns of Jim Crow-era disinvestment and redlining, highlighting how historic policy decisions continue to shape environmental risk.

Through guided, hands-on mapping, participants visualize land surface temperature, tree canopy, and impervious surfaces, then layer historic redlining and demographic context to assess who is most affected by extreme heat and why. The workshop centers ethical GIS practice, prompting participants to critically reflect on mapping choices, data limitations,

and the responsibilities of spatial analysis in public-facing work. No prior GIS experience is required, and all activities are conducted in ArcGIS Online.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this workshop, participants will be able to:

- Explain how Jim Crow-era policies and redlining shape present-day urban heat exposure
- Use GIS to identify spatial patterns of climate vulnerability
- Apply an ethics lens to decisions about what gets mapped, emphasized, or omitted
- Interpret maps as products of power, history, and choice... not neutral artifacts

Registration: <https://howard.zoom.us/j/83650672933?pwd=uXWFSERzfyHU5hvWzpCusrvTADqVdn.1>

SESSION 4 · DATA VISUALIZATION

Plotting Clear Figures for Biologists Using Simple R

Presenter: Jinrui Xu

Date & Time: Thursday, April 16, 2026 | 6:00 – 7:00 PM EST

Format: Virtual (Zoom)

Duration: 1 Hour

Registration: <https://howard.zoom.us/meeting/register/a4IJWzmeSjKg7k64eKeZTA>

SESSION 5 · COMPUTATIONAL SOCIAL SCIENCE

Introduction to Computational Studies in Education and the Social Sciences

Presenter: Nathan Alexander

Date & Time: Monday, April 20, 2026 | 5:00 – 7:00 PM EST

Format: Virtual (Zoom)

Duration: 2 Hours

Workshop Description

This workshop introduces participants to computational approaches for studying education and the social sciences using the R programming language. Participants will learn basic research skills, such as how to conduct a systematic literature review and modeling with real-world social and educational data. By the end of the workshop, participants will have updated a reproducible workflow in a markdown file and be able to independently perform basic, introductory research in computational social science.

Registration: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/sgg3kkuYRIG--TrnZPqa6Q#/registration>

SESSION 6 · ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATICS

Introduction to Excel, SQL, and Python for Environmental Informatics

Presenter: Kimberly Deas

Date & Time: Tuesday, April 21, 2026 | 5:00 – 7:00 PM EST

Format: Virtual (Zoom)

Duration: 2 Hours

Registration: https://howard.zoom.us/meeting/register/ltmShY44Q_KOLDTC4iiwBg
