

HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL EQUITY & DIVERSITY

CACHE researchers also investigate the impact of virtual experiences in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) education and training. Virtual experiences hold significant promise, as evidenced by a systematic review of two decades of research. These immersive environments can be effective tools for reducing racial bias and prejudice. However, as our researchers have shown, their design must be carefully considered to avoid reinforcing existing biases inadvertently.

CACHE is co-directing a NIEHS funded center for environmental justice, in close collaboration with Emory University and Spelman College. Details about the center can be found here: <https://www.nursing.emory.edu/initiatives/charter>

CLIMATE CHANGE

CACHE researchers have also investigated the effectiveness of virtual reality in communicating environmental risk to encourage pro-environmental attitudes and behaviors. These virtual experiences place people in redwood forests, coral reefs, and hurricanes to increase awareness of the grave environmental issues that the world faces today. In one ongoing project, CACHE researchers have developed a virtual environment designed to highlight the long-term devastation caused by hurricanes in the absence of flood insurance. This project is funded by UGA Research Foundation and Sea Grant.