

Background

- Mainstream research and practical approaches generally do not center Black women, and thus, fail to positively and meaningfully impact Black women’s lives.<sup>1-4</sup>
- This reality also applies to the environmental and disaster fields, despite Black women’s disproportionate exposure and susceptibility to the effects of environmental injustices and hazard events.<sup>4-5</sup>
- Furthermore, many studies do not fully consider salient lived experiences of Black women, such as stress and gendered racism, in analyses. Nor do they assess the upstream factors that create the conditions in which Black women live.<sup>1-5</sup>
- A comprehensive framework can help to identify upstream factors and hidden processes that shape environmental and disaster disparities for meaningful improvement through research, practice and policies.<sup>1-4</sup>

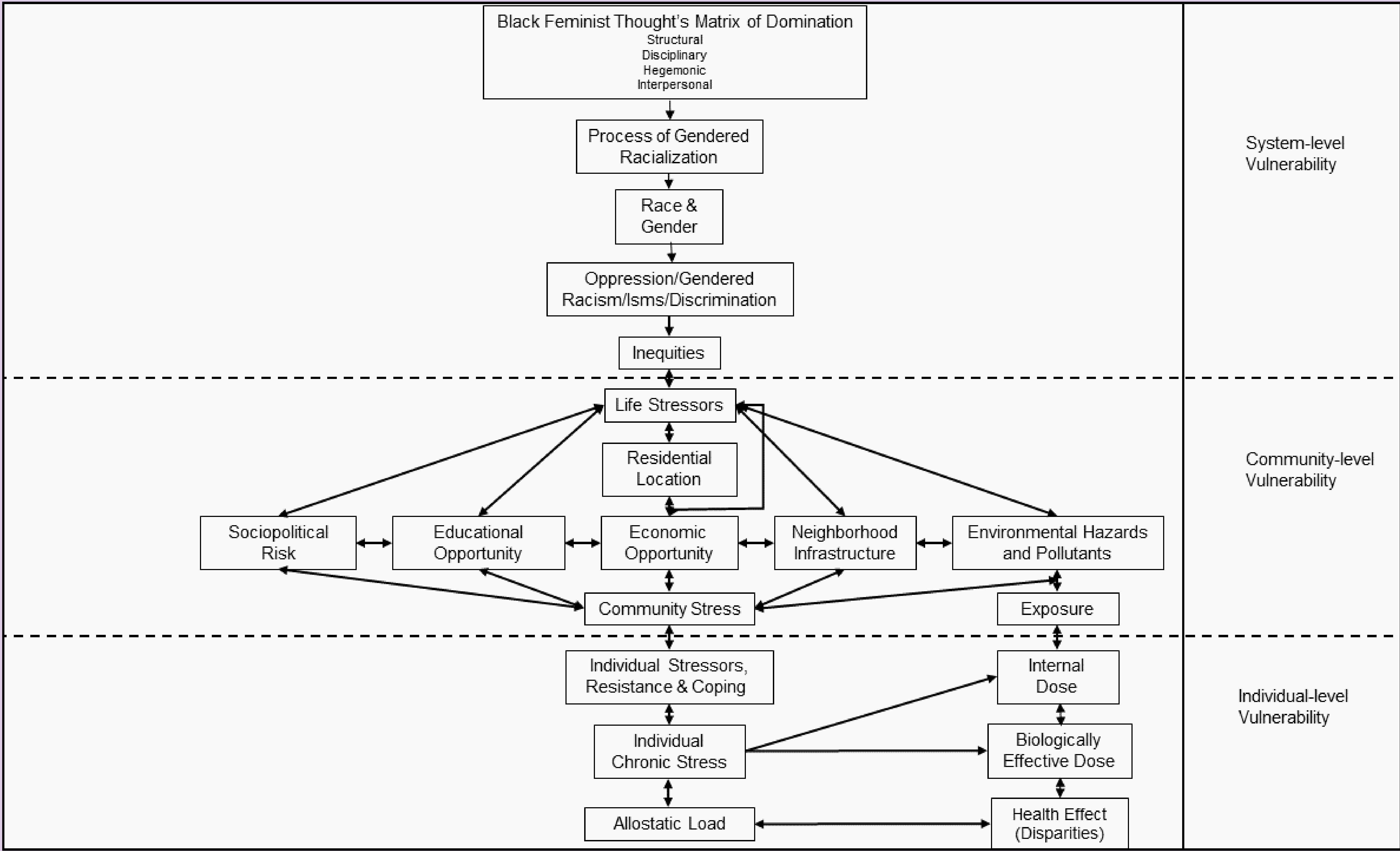
Specific Aim

- To introduce a comprehensive conceptual framework for the environmental and disaster fields to holistically understand, name and address systemic and structural factors that produce biological, and thus health disparities

Methods

- This framework was developed on the basis of the theoretical work of Black feminist thought and the Ecosocial Theory of Distribution. Additionally, the conceptual frameworks, the Environmental Health Disparities and Environmental Riskscape, were utilized.<sup>6-9</sup>
- The development of this framework was guided by my dissertation research as I aimed to measure and contextualize the findings of neighborhood environmental exposures and individual perceptions and experiences of Black women and their health outcomes in Settegast, Houston, TX.
- Existing frameworks did not holistically capture my view of Black women’s experiences so I developed the Black Feminist Environmental Health Riskscape (BFEHR).

A Call to Consider the  
Black Feminist Environmental Health  
Riskscape Framework



Results

- The Black Feminist Environmental Health Riskscape conceptual framework consists of 3 levels of vulnerability: system, community and individual.
- Within each level of vulnerability, structural and social processes and characteristics are outlined that shape inequities.
- The interconnected and often bidirectional relationship of these processes and characteristics illustrates the holistic impact they have on individuals biologically.
- Overall, the BFEHR framework elucidates the structural and social factors that shape our environments and produce biological effects that engender health disparities.

Discussion & Conclusion

- The Black Feminist Environmental Health Riskscape Framework explicates the upstream, and sometimes hidden, structures and processes that shape environments and produce biological effects, and thus, health disparities.
- This framework differs from others by: a) explicitly addressing structural and societal domination, particularly the *ideology* that undergirds racialization and b) illustrating how societal domination operates at multiple levels and the interconnected, bidirectional relationships between the characteristics it shapes.
- BFEHR can be applied as an analytical lens as well as a tool to assist in research, practice and policy development and evaluation.
- This framework is not meant to be ‘the’ framework, but was developed to answer my own call by offering us a lens to ask the right questions, address the right people, and use a critical eye to identify areas of opportunity that get to the root cause of prevalent social and health and well-being issues.
- While BFEHR was created to reflect the landscape of Black women’s lived and environmental experiences, this framework can apply to other populations who experience similar marginalization and oppression.
- I call for environmental and disaster professionals to use this framework, or create their own, to move our fields forward while centering those who are most susceptible.

