2024 SSSi
Systems Science
for Social Impact

Washington
University in St. Louis
BROWN SCHOOL

GMB **GROUP MODEL BUILDING** track

Overview & Agenda

Instructors: **Ellis Ballard & Kelsey Werner**

The goal of the *Group Model Building* track at SSSI is to provide an introduction to the use of participatory group model building for problem framing and system dynamics model development with a community voice. The course will focus on the design and application of group model building to explore structural drivers of social and health (in)equity.

By the end of the week, participants in the GMB track will be able to:

- Understand the research contribution of participatory system dynamics approaches for exploring structural drivers of social and health (in)equity

- Conceptualize a dynamic problem through simple qualitative system dynamics diagrams

- Consider ethical and practical process design implications for engaging communities in group model building

- Plan future research studies that integrate group model building approaches, with a focus on script selection, design and facilitation considerations, capability development, and uses of models for insight into complex social and health problems

SESSION	TOPICS	ACTIVITIES
0 – **Workshop prep**	Support materials for workshop	Pre-reading, install computing platform for model development, qualitative modeling exercises
1 – **Monday AM**	Orientation to systems thinking and traditions of participation in system dynamics modeling	Sharing preliminary application area for GMB in participant work
2 – **Tuesday AM**	Facilitation of scripted group model building activities	Experiential GMB session
3 – **Tuesday PM**	Group model building design logic	Experiential GMB session (cont'd)
4 – **Wednesday AM**	Uses of models and group model building	Developing and refining a conceptual causal loop diagram
5 – **Wednesday PM**	Example applications of group model building	GMB design activity
6 – **Thursday AM**	Ethical considerations for engaging communities	Case studies
7 – **Thursday PM**	Proposal and contracting considerations	Consultation
8 – **Friday AM**	Building capabilities with teams to implement group model building	Full group presentations & feedback on participant project design