Dr. Joan Marshall Wesley, Associate Professor in Urban and Regional Planning, teaches courses in planning theory and community development and housing. Her work emphasizes the intersection of stakeholder empowerment and community-based participatory research to promote healthy, resilient and sustainable communities. Working collaboratively with planning students and community partners, she has devoted the past 15 years promoting the benefits of reciprocal learning arising from the exchange of ideas, historical knowledge, and professional skills and expertise shared between students and neighborhood residents. A staunch proponent of community empowerment and self-determination, Dr. Wesley's work and teaching methods advance the premise that student engagement with neighborhoods is vital to strong community-university partnerships and empowers communities to create spaces where residents can live, work, play, worship and age in place.

As lead professor in the Community Development and Housing concentration in Urban and Regional Planning, Dr. Wesley has worked in urban and rural communities throughout Mississippi. Her work in community-based participatory research engages local stakeholders and neighborhood residents in mapping local assets and disamenities, while identifying solutions to communities' challenges. More recently, she incorporated specific methodologies to conduct a virtual Revitalization Studio.

Dr. Wesley's independent and collaborative research focuses upon housing and public health; social equity and environmental justice; community based participatory inquiry; and comparative studies on racial/ethnic minorities and underserved populations. She has published, collaboratively and singularly, in several outlets, including *Societies Journal; Progressive Planning; Public Health Research, Practice, and Policy; The Community Development Journal; Race, Gender and Class Journal; American Journal of Science and Engineering; Frontiers in Science;* and *Mississippi Online Journal of Rural and Urban Research.*