In this presentation I will share my experience of using photovoice with students in an environmental science course and how it evolved from a research method to a methodology. As a participatory methodology, photovoice provides a means for young people to critically explore issues that impact their everyday environments. I will discuss my emerging critical identity and share how it mapped onto the photovoice process during two years, addressing specifically my shifts in thinking about what is research. Included are some of the participatory methods utilized in conjunction with photovoice as a means of exploring young people's perceptions of local environments. Data from the second year of photovoice will be explored with a focus on the multiple ways data was utilized by students to generate research topics, narratives, and critical presentations about their urban environment. I will conclude with a discussion of the implications of using photovoice in reframing environmental education as more local and relevant to the lives of young people and the expansive ways we can think about research.

Marissa Bellino was a teacher at the High School for Environmental Studies and is a doctoral candidate in the Urban Education Ph.D program at The Graduate Center, City University of New York. She is currently a Graduate Teaching Fellow teaching a research methods course for pre-service and in-service teachers at Brooklyn College. Marissa has been the recipient of many grants to build and maintain a molecular research laboratory for students to design research projects investigating New York City biodiversity using DNA barcoding techniques. Marissa is also the co-founder and Director of Education and Outreach for The Biodiversity Center of Belize, a branch of the Petters Research Institute, dedicated to developing Belizian human capital through STEM research and education. In 2011 Marissa received the Sloan Award for Excellence in Teaching Science and Mathematics, which recognizes creative mathematics and science teachers who achieve superb results and inspire young people to pursue careers in science and mathematics.