



## **Call for Book Chapters for proposed Springer Edition on “Geographies of Health, Health Care and Wellbeing”**

The study of health in a non-biomedical perspective has emerged as an important component of research and teaching in social science disciplines. Social Science research in health got a boost from the recommendation of the late WHO ‘Commission on Social Determinants of Health’ which was set up in 2005 to identify strategies that could not only improve health for people around the world, but also reduce differences in health outcome. Health research in this approach has also been facilitated by strengthening of health data collection and management systems. Besides, there are voluminous research based on first-hand quantitative and qualitative information is available.

Within the discipline of Geography, there has been an increasing interest in health research. Traditionally, the sub discipline of geography dealing with health issues was known as ‘Medical Geography’. With the changes in approaches, the ‘cultural turn’ in the sub-discipline and the adoption of the salutogenic paradigm, the nomenclature ‘medical geography’ is gradually getting replaced by the term ‘geography of health’. This sub-discipline involves the application of geographical information, perspectives, and methods to the study of health and disease, their cultural production and spatial distribution and the organization and accessibility of health care. In fact geographers are well equipped to conduct health research, as they have the skills and expertise to study health in different socio-economic and environmental milieu and apply perspectives beyond the biomedical paradigm. Geographers use statistical tools like Multi-variate analysis; Geographic Information Systems and remote sensing to assess the role of space in influencing the health of individuals and communities. Likewise they apply qualitative methods to understand the perception and construction of health and disease. Concepts such as sense of place, therapeutic landscape, and experiential integration have been developed by health geographers to enhance the understanding of the influence of the environment on health. This is reflected in an increasing trend in the application of qualitative research methods and the adoption of social theories to explore and explain the complex nexus of health, health care and disease.

In developing countries of Africa, Latin America and South Asia, geography of health has not gained much importance and momentum. However, most of these countries grapple with multiple health issues such as malnutrition, morbidity, mortality and limited access to health services. Countries of these regions have also been facing a

double burden of “old infectious diseases” while at the same time facing an increasing burden of non-communicable diseases with varying degree across space and socioeconomic groups. Recently, a growing body of literature has indicated towards the increasing impacts of global environmental change and economic globalisation on health in these regions. Therefore, issues related to inequity, inequalities, disparities and vulnerability need to be reexamined.

With this background this book intends to address theoretical and methodological issues in health geography in general and with a special emphasis on developing countries of Africa, Latin America and South Asia in specific.

**The proposed book will cover the below given themes. These themes are suggestive in nature.**

**I. Environmental Health (Ecological Approaches to Health)**

- Impact of environmental exposures on health
- Disease ecologies
- Air and water quality and health
- Climate change and health
- Pandemics special reference to COVID 19
- **Focus: Urban health**

**II. Social Determinants of Health (Social Approaches to Health)**

- Social determinants of health: evidence (disparities/inequities)
- Social environments and mental health
- Spatial analysis of substance abuse and treatment
- Gender and Health
- Cultural approaches towards Health
- Mobilities and health
- **Focus: Changing patterns in care for the elderly**

**III. Geographies of Healthcare Service**

- Health policies
- Health systems organization
- The role of different systems of medicine
- Adequate Access to healthcare
- Health monitoring
- **Focus: Privatization of healthcare**

**IV. Methodological Approaches to Human Health**

- Cartographic Visualisation
- GIS and Health - Applications like Spatiotemporal modeling, Exposure monitoring, Cluster Analysis etc.
- Spatial Statistics for health geographic research

- Health research and the cultural turn
- Qualitative methods in health research
- **Focus: Participatory methods in health research**

#### V. **Geographies of Wellbeing**

- The salutogenic paradigm
- Concept of Therapeutic landscapes and its application in healing process
- Foodscapes: access to healthy food
- Politics of wellbeing, Construction of wellbeing indices and its critique
- **Focus: healthy settings**

#### **We intend to follow the following submission & timeline:**

- Manuscript in MS-Word using 12 fonts (Times New Roman)
- Each figure, tables and plates should be cited in the text with proper sources
- Contributions should be authentic as per the research ethics of anti-plagiarism
- Take permission from original authors/publishers for using secondary made figures/plates/tables etc.
- Abstract with keywords (250 words): **20 February, 2021**
- Submission of Manuscript (between 4000 - 7000 words): **31 March, 2021**
- Submission of Final Manuscripts to Publisher: **31May 2021**

Details of guidelines may be downloaded from the following URL:

<https://resourcecms.springernature.com/springer-ms/rest/v1/content/990/data/v18>

All communication and manuscripts must be submitted to any of the following emails:

[subhakanta@ignou.ac.in](mailto:subhakanta@ignou.ac.in)

[rbsgeo@hotmail.com](mailto:rbsgeo@hotmail.com)

[sibabrata2007@gmail.com](mailto:sibabrata2007@gmail.com)

#### **Editors**

Prof. Subhakanta Mohapatra, Professor in Geography, Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), New Delhi, India, Email: [subhakanta@ignou.ac.in](mailto:subhakanta@ignou.ac.in)

Prof. R. B. Singh Professor in Geography, Secretary General & Treasure, International Geographical Union (IGU), Email: [rbsgeo@hotmail.com](mailto:rbsgeo@hotmail.com)

Prof. Sibabrata Das, Professor in Geography, G. M. University, Sambalpur, Odisha, India, Email: [sibabrata2007@gmail.com](mailto:sibabrata2007@gmail.com)