



The Institute of Australian Geographers Health
Geography Study Group is proud to offer a one day
workshop

Using geography to enhance health research and policy

- Date:** Monday, July 8th 2019
Time: 9.15am – 4.30pm
Where: Room 227, Kwong Lee Dow Building, 234 Queensberry Street, Carlton.
[Click here](#) for map and further directions.
Cost: No charge for attendees
Registration: Register to attend via this link: <https://t.co/2GUC40Rriv>

Please contact **Dr Lukar Thornton** if you require further details:
lukar.thornton@deakin.edu.au

You can also follow the **Health Geography Study Group** on Twitter: [@ANZHlthGeogIAG](https://twitter.com/ANZHlthGeogIAG)

9.15am	Coffee and tea available upon arrival
9.30am	<p>Dr Lukar Thornton¹ & Assoc. Prof Neil Coffee² ¹Deakin University, Australia; ²University of Canberra, Australia Co-convenors, Health Geography Study Group, Institute of Australian Geographers <i>Welcome and introduction</i></p>
Session 1 chaired by Assoc. Prof Neil Coffee, University of Canberra, Australia	
9.45am	<p>Assoc. Prof John Glover Director, Public Health Information Development Unit (PHIDU), Torrens University, Australia <i>A history of health geography in Australia</i></p>
10.10am	<p>Dr Melanie Tomintz Research Manager, GeoHealth Lab, University of Canterbury, New Zealand <i>Where spatial meets health: introducing the GeoHealth Laboratory</i></p> <p>The GeoHealth Laboratory is in its 15th year of operation, and represents a joint venture between the University of Canterbury and the New Zealand Ministry of Health. The partnership is not only unique in the southern hemisphere, but it is also used as a role model internationally. The main aims of this research collaboration are to inform Ministry of Health representatives and the wider health sector, for example District Health Boards, on the spatial and geographical aspects of policy-relevant health topics. This talk will introduce the audience to our current work model outlining the lessons we have learned and the way forward. In addition, some of our recent research areas and projects will be presented.</p>
10.55am	Morning tea

Session 2 chaired by Dr Alison Taylor, University of NSW, Australia	
11.15am	<p>Asst. Professor Michael Widener Canada Research Chair in Transportation & Health, Dept of Geography & Planning, University of Toronto, Canada</p> <p><i>Opportunities to improve research on food behaviours using time geography</i></p> <p>In this talk, I will briefly review core theories from time and transportation geographies, and then link these to research on food shopping and dietary behaviours. Examples using data from our recent Food Activities, Socioeconomics, Time-use, and Transportation (FASTT) Study, conducted in Toronto, Canada, are used to demonstrate the potential of this approach. The FASTT study collected seven days of GPS, health, dietary, and time-use data in two communities with different built environments, and is a first step toward disentangling geography, food purchasing, time use, and eating behaviours.</p>
12.00pm	<p>Australian Bureau of Statistics (sponsor session)</p> <p>Speakers to be confirmed</p>
12.45pm	Lunch
Session 3 chaired by Dr Lukar Thornton, Deakin University, Australia	
1.30pm	<p>Dr Michael Rigby Australian Urban Research Infrastructure Network (AURIN), The University of Melbourne</p> <p><i>Towards a high value open space dataset for Australia</i></p> <p>Other speakers to be confirmed</p>
2.20pm	<p>Dr Saad Alsharrah¹ & Assoc. Prof Neil Coffee² ¹Dasman Diabetes Institute, Kuwait; ²University of Canberra, Australia</p> <p>Title to be confirmed</p>
2.40pm	<p>Dr Tom Clemens Acting Deputy Director, Longitudinal Studies Centre – Scotland. School of Geosciences, University of Edinburgh, UK.</p> <p><i>Studying neighbourhood effects on pregnancy using administrative health records and quasi-experimental methods</i></p> <p>We know that health outcomes vary spatially and that characteristics of neighbourhoods, such as the level of socio-economic deprivation, are strongly associated with health. Whether these effects are due to differences in terms of population composition or whether there exist independent “contextual” effects of neighbourhoods has long been debated by Geographers. The policy implications of this debate remain important; do we focus policy on the area itself or the people in the area? Part of this debate concerns the empirical challenge of isolating one explanation from the other. Much of the available empirical evidence comes from cross-sectional observational studies. These studies compare different people between different areas where it is difficult to control for differences the underlying composition of populations. Administrative health data (i.e. data collected as part of routine healthcare) provides some opportunities to tackle this problem given the full population coverage and the repeated longitudinal collection of records over time. In this talk, I will introduce some recent work where we have used administrative records to improve our understanding of both context and composition effects in the relationship between neighbourhood characteristics and pregnancy outcomes.</p>

3.25pm	Short break
3.35pm	Question and answer focused on translating health geography research to policy (Facilitated by Alison Taylor)
4.15pm	Conclusion

[Health geography: supporting public health policy and planning](#)

Speaker biographies



[Assistant Professor Michael Widener](#)

Dr Widener is a current Canada Research Chair in Transportation & Health and is based within the Department of Geography & Planning at the University of Toronto. Dr Widener is primarily interested in topics related to health, transportation, and urban geography and planning and use a number of methods to explore research problems in these areas.



[Dr Melanie Tomintz](#)

Dr Tomintz is the research manager of the GeoHealth Laboratory (GHL) and the manager of the Geospatial Research Institute at the University of Canterbury, New Zealand. The GHL applies geospatial tools and methods to link different datasets with place and space to add new findings to topics such as immunisation, (childhood) obesity, maternity, long-term health conditions, avoidable hospitalisations, mental health and vaping. We are also interested to include new technologies to our studies, such as Virtual Reality. The research projects are developed in close collaboration with the New Zealand Ministry of Health.



[Dr Tom Clemens](#)

Dr Clemens is a Lecturer in Health Geography at the University of Edinburgh and the acting deputy director of the Longitudinal Studies Centre - Scotland. He has interests in the social and environmental determinants of health and wellbeing and has particular expertise in the analysis of linked secondary administrative health and social data. Current projects include investigating environmental determinants of in-vitro fertilisation treatment outcomes, links between weather patterns and health outcomes and the use of natural experiments in administrative data studies.