4th Annual Online Health Geography Symposium for PhD and Emerging Researchers

4th Annual Online Health Geography Symposium 2025

International Geographical Union Commission on Health and the Environment (IGU CHE)

10th DECEMBER 2025
12:00 - 15:10 (CET)

11th DECEMBER 2025
12:00 - 15:30 (CET)

Planetary Health: Mapping Our Shared Future

Guidelines & Programme Schedule for the Participants

The online symposium will be held via Microsoft Teams in one plenary room & four breakout sessions, 100+ participants, A keynote on Planetary Health and 57 presentations across diverse and related themes, including: Planetary Health || Urban Health || Migration and Health || Gender and Health || Climate Change and Health || Environment and Health || Infectious Diseases and Health || Health Geography. The program ends with a Publication discussion session featuring Editors, the Health Geography Award ceremony, and closing remarks by the commission chairs.

The latest event information will be shared on the website http://www.healthgeography.org/che-hg-syposium.html.

All are welcome. You are encouraged to exchange ideas and engage with colleagues from around the world. Curiosity is fostered here, so do not hesitate to ask those bugging questions!

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ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Alexandra Cioclu
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Asraful Alam
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Marta Rodeschini
University of Bergamo, Italy

Priyanka Jha
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ORGANIZER

International Geographical Union Commission on Health and the Environment (IGU CHE)

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Welcome to the 4th Annual Online Health Geography Symposium!

Emerging scholars in Health and Health Geography bring fresh perspectives, innovative ideas, and an inspiring commitment to understanding the relationships between health, place, and people. Their work enriches the field and drives it forward in exciting new directions. Yet, despite this vibrant potential, emerging researchers often encounter obstacles when sharing their expertise and growing their academic profiles. Recognizing these challenges and the opportunities offered by an increasingly digital academic landscape the IGU CHE Health Geography Symposium was created as a virtual platform for meaningful exchange. Now in its fourth year, the symposium has become a well-established and warmly regarded event dedicated to supporting and elevating emerging researchers from around the world.

Our intention is simple yet powerful: to provide an open, accessible, and genuinely welcoming space where early career researchers can connect, network, and confidently share their work. The atmosphere of the symposium is intentionally kind, supportive, and community oriented an environment where constructive dialogue is encouraged, and every voice is valued.

By remaining fully online and free of cost, we aim to reduce barriers to travel, visas, safety, and accessibility, ensuring equal opportunities for participation regardless of geographical or personal circumstances. This commitment to inclusivity extends beyond the event itself. Each year, a public call invites students, PhD candidates, postdocs, and faculty members of all ages to join the organising team. Our group operates without hierarchy, embracing friendly, respectful collaboration and creating space for diverse perspectives to shape the event. Some of you may want to join next year's organising committee.

The primary goal of this year’s symposium is to continue building an open digital hub where emerging scholars can share their insights, engage in supportive discussions, and contribute actively to the evolving body of knowledge in Health Geography. We are delighted to welcome you into this community and look forward to the connections, conversations, and ideas that will emerge.

On behalf of the whole organising committee, **thank you for joining us. Your contribution enriches the symposium, and we’re excited to learn from you.**

Eva Pilot

Symposium Chair and Scientific Secretary of the International Geographical Union Commission on Health and the Environment

IGU UGI
International Geographical Union Commission on Health and the Environment (IGU CHE)

Programme Overview

Date	Time (CET)	Plenary Room	Breakout Room 1	Breakout Room 2	Breakout Room 3	Breakout Room 4
DAY- 1						
10th December 2025 (Wednesday)	12:00 - 12:10	Welcome address & Opening Session	*	*	*	*
	12:10 - 12:40	Key Note: Planetary Health	*	*	*	*
	12:50 - 13:50	*	Planetary Health	Urban Health	Gender and Health	Climate Change and Health
	13:50 - 14:00	**Break**				
	14:00 - 15:00	*	Environment and Health	Infectious Diseases and Health	Migration and Health	Health Geography
	15:00	Closing Session	*	*	*	*
DAY- 2						
11th December 2025 (Thursday)	12:00 - 12:10	Welcome	*	*	*	*
	12:10 - 13:10	*	Planetary Health	Urban Health	Gender and Health	Urban Health & Health Geography
	13:10 - 13:20	**Break**				
	13:20 - 14:20	*	Environment and Health	Environment and Health & Health Geography	Health Geography	Health Geography
	14:20 - 15:00	Publication Discussion with Journal Editors	*	*	*	*
	15:00 - 15:10	Health Geography Prize	*	*	*	*
	15:10 - 15:30	Closing Session	*	*	*	*

* Breakout rooms are closed

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PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

How to access the Symposium: Enter the **Microsoft Teams** link below. You will be directly in the plenary room. You can assist with the event taking place in the plenary or go to a breakout room.

Join the symposium 10 minutes before the start!

Online Link and access details you need:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetupjoin/19%3ameeting_ZDBjNmE3ODktZjc3ZS00ZWU3LWIxZjUtMTNhZjA2OTBhMWZh%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2263ac4101-dd05-4771-bcd6-2e2a5421e5fa%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%223f4a52b5-ddce-4266-911d-f0f14e8bc575%22%7d

Meeting ID: 310 866 117 789 63 Password: 3jg6Mj6j

10th December (Wednesday), 2025

Time (CET)		
12:00 - 12:40	**OPENING SESSION**	
Plenary room	Eva Pilot Symposium Chair	Welcome address and remarks on behalf of International Geographical Union (IGU) Commission on Health and the Environment
	Key Note Roger Frutos	Anthropogenic Planetary alteration and infectious diseases
12:50 - 13:50	**SESSION - 1**	
Breakout Room 1	**Planetary Health** **Chair:** Matthew Hobbs	**Planetary Health in Respect to Global Sustainability: Challenges and Pathways** *Deepa Ghosh, Vidyasagar University, Medinipore,west Bengal, India.* **Cultural Heritage and Urban Transformation: A Geographical Interpretation of Ajmer's Historic Core in the Context of Planetary Well-Being** *Himani Pathariya, Research Scholar, Banasthali Vidyapith, Rajasthan, India.* **Listening to Earth's Vital Signs in the 21st Century: From Crisis to Cure** *Vijay Laxmi, University of Kota, Rajasthan, India.* **Exploring the relationship between climate change and water scarcity** *Bhavya Sree Sirikonda, School of Design, Alliance University, India*

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Breakout Room 2	**Urban Health** **Chair:** Shahnaz Basheer	**Local food governance: the role of local government in enabling healthy, food resilient communities** *Cassie Welch, University of Otago, New Zealand* **How does aviation development affect urban health? Evidence from dual machine learning** *Chen Peng, East China Normal University, China* **An analysis of environmental risk factors for hypertension in Kaduna Metropolis** *Babaraus Doyani, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune, India.* **Socio-economic determinants of urban health in Ranchi: an integrated health geography perspective** *Shephali Prakash, St. Xavier's College Autonomous Mahuadanr, Latehar, Jharkhand , India.*
Breakout Room 3	**Gender and Health** **Chair:** Debaroti Das	**Transport Exclusion and Maternal Health: Evidence from Pregnant Women in Oyo State, Nigeria** *Olabisi Olapoju, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria* **A Cross-Sectional Study of Menstrual Hygiene Practices and Beliefs Among Adolescent Girls at Higher Secondary Level in Selected Schools of Rural, Semi Urban and Urban Regions of Palakkad District, Kerala, India** *Sreelakshmi Sreekala, Department of Geography, Govt Arts and Science College,University of Calicut, Kerala, India* **Occupational Health Hazards and Socio-Economic vulnerability among tribal Women Bricks Kiln Workers in Latehar district of Jharkhand (India): A Case Study** *Dr. Md Areful Hoque, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous) Mahuadanr Jharkhand, India* **Rural-Urban Differentials in Maternal Healthcare Services Utilization in Sub-Saharan Africa** *Yemi Adewoyin, University of Nigeria, Nigeria.*
Breakout Room 4	**Climate Change and Health** **Chair:** Asraful Alam	**Assessment of Microclimatic and Ecological Conditions and Their Influence within The Kabba Development Corridor** *Saliu Oludare Abubakar, Kogi State University, Kabba, Nigeria.* **Cartographic insights present in international heat-health plans (2021-2025)** *Caio Leal, Laboratory of Geography, Health and Environment, University of Brasília, Brazil.* **Healing Traditions and Climate Change: A Systematic Review of Tibetan Medicine in Monpa Community** *Smriti Shreya, Jamia Millia Islamia, A Central University, India.*
13:50 – 14:00	**BREAK**	
14:00 - 15:00	**SESSION - 2**	

Breakout Room 1	**Environment and Health** **Chair:** Narendra Kumar	**Intersecting Inequalities: Socio-economic Determinants and Health Vulnerabilities among Tribal Communities in Jharkhand- A Micro-level Analysis of Mahuadanr** *Rozy Tirkey, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Mahuadanr, Jharkhand, India* **Health Seeking Behaviour among the Tribal Communities along South Kashmir: A Socio-Cultural and Geographical Perspective** *Nazim Nazir, University of Mumbai, India.* **Health Care After a Disaster: The Case of the 2016 Earthquake in Central Italy** *Annamaria Bartolini, University of Perugia, Italy.* **Hypertension and Environmental Risk Analysis in Makurdi Metropolis** *Azahan Christopher, Bayero University, Kano, Nigeria.*
Breakout Room 2	**Infectious Diseases and Health Geography** **Chair:** Priyanka Jha	**Where Did the Pandemic Arrive First? Spatial Diffusion Analysis of COVID-19 in Brazil** *João Lima, Sao Paulo State University (UNESP), Brazil* **Spatio-Temporal Dynamics of COVID-19 Vulnerability Among Elderly Populations: A Neighborhood-Level Analysis in Curitiba, Brazil** *Karina Matos, Federal University of Paraná, Brazil* **Estimating Malaria Fever Risk in West Bengal, India using Space-Time Conditional Autoregressive Model** *Meghna Maiti, Senior Research Scholar, University of Calcutta, India.* **Prevalence and Analysis of Fluorosis: A case study of West Bengal** *Keshav Prakash Pandey, Department of Geography, Institute of Science, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi. India.*
Breakout Room 3	**Migration and Health** **Chair:** Asraful Alam	**Emerging Trends of Internal Migration and Associated Health Challenges in Sub-Saharan Countries: Nigeria in Perspective** *Adeniyi Gbadegesin, Independent Researcher, Nigeria.* **Determinants of Health Outcomes among Rural-to-Urban Student Migrants: A Quantitative Analysis** *Nur Alam, Aliah University, India.*

Breakout Room 4	**Health Geography** **Chair:** Alexandra Cioclu	**Spatial analysis of acute respiratory infection associated with indoor air pollution and socio-economic condition: case of Punjab Pakistan** *Maheen Iftikhar, Islamia university Baghdad ul jaded campus Bahawalpur,Pakistan.* **Health Infrastructure Disparities in Jharkhand: An Inter-District Analysis for achieving SDG 3 by 2030** *Zainul Abedin, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, India.* **Determinants of Contraceptive Behaviours by Residence in South-Eastern Nigeria: A Descriptive Approach** *Precious Eni, University of Calabar, Calabar, Nigeria* **Geo- Spatial Evaluation of Child Malnutrition In Jigawa State** *Khalifa Mukhtar Usman, Department of Science, Geography Unit Jigawa State College of Remedial and Advanced Studies Babura, Nigeria.*
15:00	**CLOSING FOR THE DAY**	

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11th December (Thursday), 2025

Time: 12:00-15:00 CET

Time (CET)	**OPENING SESSION**	
12:00 - 12:10		
Plenary Room	Eva Pilot Symposium Chair	Welcome and overview of the day by International Geographical Union Commission on Health and the Environment (IGU CHE)
12:10 - 13:10	**SESSION - 3**	
Breakout Room 1	**Planetary Health** **Chair:** Zainul Abedin	**Urbanisation and Ecosystem Resilience: A Three-Decade Assessment of Delhi's Blue-Green Spaces (1991-2023)** *Priyanka Jha, Jamia Millia Islamia (A Central University), New Delhi, India and University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK* **Assessing Ecosystem Health and Landscape Dynamics of the East Kolkata Wetlands, India** *Pawan Kumar Yadav, Jamia Millia Islamia (A Central University), New Delhi, India.* **Invisible Threats: Air Pollution and Respiratory Health in Kolkata's Urban Landscape** *Ipsa Datta, School of Design, Alliance University, India.* **Green Building Practices for Urban Health: Climate-Responsive Design and Energy Efficiency in Densely Populated Cities** *Sai Sharan B, School of Design, Alliance University, India.*
Breakout Room 2	**Urban Health** **Chair:** Haokin Liu	**Urban Health Vulnerabilities: A Spatial Analysis of water borne diseases in Delhi** *Rahul Raturi, Student, Shaheed Bhagat Singh College, University of Delhi, India.* **Municipality supplied water quality assessment and Human Health exposure in Borough -II, Asansol Municipality Corporation, India** *Shakchhi Kumari, Trivenidevi Bhalotia College, Raniganj, West Bengal, India.* **Environmental Impacts on Human Health in Dehradun City** *Neha Rani, Hukum Singh Bora Govt. P.G College, Someshwar Almora (Uttarakhand), India*

Breakout Room 3	**Gender and Health** **Chair:** Debaroti Das	**Listening to the Living, Counting the Dead, and Mapping Absences: Feminist Geographical Reasoning as Disobedience in Brazilian Health Geography** *Carolina Simon, São Paulo State University, Brazil.* **Perceived Discrimination and Healthcare Avoidance among Women: A Qualitative Exploration - A Case of Kolkata** *Moumita Kundu, Serampore Girls College, India.* **Inequality between Roma and majority ethnic groups in terms of access to healthcare** *Mihaela Georgiana Olteanu, Școala Doctorală Simion Mehedinți, Romania.*
Breakout Room 4	**Urban Health and Health Geography** **Chair:** Mariana Andreotti Dias	**Urban Walkability, Health and the Elderly: Evidence from Delhi** *Abhinav Kumar Mishra, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India.* **Transit-Oriented Obesogenic Development in Delhi Metro: Mapping Junk Food and Urban Health Risks** *Shehnaz Begam, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi,India* **Urbanization, River Health, and Human Exposure: A Zonal Study of the Mahananda in Crisis- A Case of West Bengal, India** *Abhishek Rao, Assistant Professor, School of Design, Alliance University, India.*
13:10 - 13:20	**BREAK**	
13:20 - 14:20	**SESSION - 4**	

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Breakout Room 1	**Environment and Health** **Chair:** Tiago Mesquita	**Environmental Pollution and Human Health: Assessing Microbial Pollution and Disease Prevalence in the East Kolkata Wetlands** *Liyakat Ali, Department of Geography, Aliah University, Kolkata, India* **Urban EcoScore Index-Based Assessment of Biophilic Conditions and Natural Habitability of Kolkata Metropolitan Area using Enhanced Indices and Machine Learning** *MD SAHARIK Joy, Jamia Millia Islamia (A Central University), New Delhi, India* **Traditional Water Sources in Chamoli District: The Importance of Naula and Dhara** *Pawan Singh, HNBGU Srinagar Garhwal Uttarakhand, India.* **Can local farms sustain Thai school lunches? A qualitative exploration of challenges and solutions** *Panrawee Praditsorn, Center for Development Research, University of of Bonn, Germany.*
Breakout Room 2	**Environment and Health** **&** **Health Geography** **Chair:** Cazacu Cristian	**Unmet need for Caesarean section deliveries in Akure, South-Western Nigeria, a reality or a myth** *Oluwasegun T Adetunde, Tobler and Smith International Limited, Canada* **Ecological and Human Health Risk Assessment of Heavy Metal Contamination and Its Impact on Antioxidant Enzyme Activity in Rainbow Land Crab (Cardisoma armatum) from Western Lagos Lagoon, Nigeria** *Olayiwola Giwa, Bayero University Kano, Nigeria*
Breakout Room 3	**Health Geography** **Chair:** Md Areful Hoque	**Geospatial Inequalities in Access to Primary Healthcare in Rural Gombe State, Nigeria** *Nafisat Auwal, Department of Geography and Environmental Management, Gombe State University, Gombe , Nigeria* **An Analysis of Spatial Distribution of Stroke, Hypertension, Congestive Cardiac Failure, dilated Cardiomyophathy And Post Partum Cardiomyopathy In Kano Metropolis Nigeria** *Mohammed Buba Hassan, Federal University Gusau, Nigeria.* **Theater as an inclusive space: A study on accessibility and therapeutic potential for people with physical disabilities** *Carmen-Ileana Dobrescu, Faculty of Geography, Doctoral School "Simion Mehedinți", University of Bucharest, Romania.* **Correlation of Stress and Academic Achievement Among Higher Secondary Level Students at Selected School in Tholannur, Palakkad District, Kerala, India** *Surya Palappath Thannikandam, Department Of Geography, Govt Arts and Science College, University of Calicut, Kerala, India*

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Breakout Room 4	**Health Geography** **Chair:** Matthew Hobbs	**Invisible Inequalities: Maternal and Child Health Challenges in Marginalized Communities of Rajasthan in 21st Century** *(Ms.) Gagan Tanwar , Research Scholar, University of Kota, Kota, Rajasthan, India* **Using geospatial analysis to identify gaps in metropolitan healthcare services accessibility** *Cristian Cazacu, Faculty of Geography, University of Bucharest, Romania.* **Mapping High School Commutes: Living in Education Deserts and Its Effect on the Population.** *Angelo Andi Petre, Faculty of Geography, University of Bucharest, Romania.* **The Uneven Geography of Healthcare in Maharashtra, India: A Socio-Spatial Analysis of Inequalities** *Komal L Turkar, Department of Geography, Savitribai Phule Pune University, India.*
14:20 - 15:30	**Closing Session**	
Plenary Room	Eva Pilot Symposium Chair	Meeting with Editors: Publication Discussion with Susan Elliot and Sebastien Fleuret Varun Goel will present Health Geography Prize Closing remarks on behalf of International Geographical Union (IGU) Commission on Health and the Environment will be held by Rafael de Castro Catão & Liliana Dumitrache (Co-Chairs of the Commission)

Practical information

How to access:

Enter the **Microsoft Teams** link below. You will be directly in the plenary room. You can assist with the event taking place in the plenary or go to a breakout room.

Online Link and access details:

Join the symposium 10 minutes before the start

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetupjoin/19%3ameeting_ZDBjNmE3ODktZjc3ZS00ZWU3LWIxZjUtMTNhZjA2OTBhMWZh%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2263ac4101-dd05-4771-bcd6-2e2a5421e5fa%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%223f4a52b5-ddce-4266-911d-f0f14e8bc575%22%7d

Meeting ID: 310 866 117 789 63

Password: 3jg6Mj6j

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How to work with the Microsoft Teams platform:

Although you can connect virtually with **Microsoft Teams** Meetings without installing the software, we do recommend that you download and install it. No registration or fee is required for you to join a meeting via **Microsoft Teams**.

If you are not familiar with the platform, kindly see the following videos to learn the basic controls (e.g., navigate between breakout rooms, share screen, switch on/off mic and camera):

- Joining a **Microsoft Teams** Meeting via link: https://youtu.be/xBuEiGActgQ?si=etIEcWTjbZWrQGDs
- Screen Sharing (for presenters): https://youtu.be/nqT59hoky04?si=ZI84pS8u4rQnDIVn
- Breakout rooms: https://youtu.be/ilUdDZ2QPvc?si=V43_BVIJsCZr8vLu

Guidelines for presenters:

- Each presenter has a fixed time for their presentation, 10 minutes for the presentation, followed by a 5-minute question and answers/comments session.
- Presenters (1st Author only) are encouraged to use their time wisely. Each plenary session will be overseen by a chair responsible for coordinating the session. Additionally, a senior scientist will be present to facilitate discussions.
- The presenter's name is mentioned in the programme schedule; authors and co-authors will be included in the Abstract Volume.
- Details of the presentations should include a **problem statement, research methodology, study findings/results/implications, and conclusion**.
- Presenters must make their presentations (in PDF format) available to the conference organizers via email (iguche2022@gmail.com) on or before Monday, **8th December 2025, 12:00 noon CET.**
- Certificates will be provided to the **paper presenters only** after the symposium, which will be sent to your designated email address.
- Presenters will receive feedback forms at the end of the symposium (Please provide your full name, as it will be displayed on the certificate). Kindly take a moment to fill them out, as your input is highly valuable.
- Confirm your internet connection and video and audio settings prior to your session.
- Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us at iguche2022@gmail.com

We look forward to seeing you all soon!

IGU UGI International Geographical Union Commission on Health and the Environment (IGU CHE)

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