

**JASON GILLILAND**  
**CAG Award for Scholarly Distinction in Geography**

Prof. Gilliland is Professor in the Department of Geography and Environment at Western University. He joined the Department in 2003 from the University of Toronto where he held a SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowship after completing his PhD at McGill. He was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in 2008 and was promoted to full Professor in 2015.



Prof. Gilliland has established an outstanding record of scholarly work in the area of urban planning and public health issues. His research examines the relationship between urban planning and development practices and health issues that arise in these contexts, including (un)healthy eating, physical (in)activity, mental well-being, physical injuries and the impacts of urban environmental stressors on health. His work also incorporates extensive application of geospatial analysis. His scholarship is designed to better inform city planners and policymakers how to affect changes to public policy and neighbourhood design that will promote and sustain the health and quality of life of urban – and especially – vulnerable populations.

Prof. Gilliland's scholarly outputs include nearly 200 peer-reviewed journal articles, conference proceedings and book chapters. These have amassed more than 7400 citations and an h-index of 44 with over 60% of the citations coming in the past 5 years, demonstrating a growing recognition of his work in these fields. The work has appeared in a broad range (well over 100) of journals that span a wide array of subfields and includes leading international journals such as the *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, *Health & Place* and the *American Journal of Public Health*.

Prof. Gilliland leads a wide array of collaborative grants that support his work. He has acquired approximately \$8M of funding as a Principal Investigator and a similar amount as co-investigator on funding that comes from a wide range of sources including: CIHR, SSRC, Public Health Agency of Canada, Ontario Research Fund, Children's Health Foundation, and local sources, including the City of London and local Health Units.

A significant contribution of Prof. Gilliland's work that illustrates the combination of health, urban and geospatial analysis is the assessment of 'food deserts' (Larsen & Gilliland 2008, 2009) where GIS techniques are applied to determine the location of supermarkets over a multiple decades and their accessibility to urban residents. This analysis recognizes the important social equity issues that arise with respect to access to healthy food. Subsequent reviews have pointed to the importance of the work in how it is assessed in spatial and temporal terms and notes their work as one of only a few that study how such food deserts emerge over time. His group's work on food in urban settings led to a series of other studies examining accessibility to food (e.g. Sadler et al. 2011, 2013, 2015; He et al. 2012a,b) and health, particularly in children (DuBreck et al. 2018, 2019). More recent work has considered food in school settings (e.g. Ismail et al. 2021, Colley et al. 2021) along with the development of smartphone apps and most recently is considering the impacts of COVID-related shutdowns on food retail and food hospitality outlets (FRESHER study).

Another important - and sustained - scholarly output arising from Prof. Gilliland's work are the large numbers of students he has trained that are now becoming part of the next generation of health geographers. He has completed over 30 Master's students, 13 PhDs and 8 post doctoral fellows to date along with over 30 undergraduate thesis and practicum students. His broad ranging interests attract students from a variety of disciplines to Geography, who come from sociology, engineering, urban planning, epidemiology, health sciences and food and nutritional studies, among others, and who together help build a broad base of interdisciplinary expertise for his projects and graduate as Geographers. These students play important roles in the scholarly outputs; over 450 students or trainees are included in the authorship of the peer-reviewed journal articles and chapters. Given the important youth and community elements to Prof. Gilliland's research, he has also been active in supporting high school co-op student interns who also play important roles in the advisory committee for his HEAL (Human Environments Analysis Lab).

Prof. Gilliland has been the recipient of both external and internal awards that recognize his scholarly contributions, including the 2009 Julian M. Szeicz Award from the Canadian Association of Geographers for significant research achievement by an early career scholar for his contribution to research on children in the city, the 2012 ESRI Canada Award for Excellence in GIS for "innovation in the field of Geographic Information Systems", a Western Faculty Scholar award in 2012 for "sustained excellence in all scholarly activities" and most recently, he was named as the Children's Health Foundation 2019 CHRI Scientist of the Year for "identifying and overcoming barriers to children's physical activity".

Recognition of Prof. Gilliland's broad ranging research and capabilities includes his cross-appointment to three other Departments at Western, including Health Studies, Paediatrics and Epidemiology & Biostatistics and as a scientist with the Children's Health Research Institute and the Lawson Health Research Institute, two of Canada's leading hospital-based research institutes. He serves on the Editorial Boards for the journals *Children*, *Sustainability*, and *Urban History Review* and previously served on the Editorial Board for *The Canadian Geographer* and *ISRN Public Health*. Prof. Gilliland is also a member of the CIHR College of Reviewers.

In the quest for universities to build better job- and society-ready students, there are demands to build linkages to community organizations in the public, private and non-profit sectors and to support experiential learning. Here Prof. Gilliland truly shines, with an extensive list of collaborations and partnerships with municipal, government and non-profit agencies and volunteer service for boards of various community organizations. Through these connections, Prof. Gilliland and his students have brought research results to these organizations, while at the same time providing important experiential learning opportunities for his students and building knowledge and capabilities in these organizations. His efforts in this space were recognized by the 2010 'Angel Award' for his ongoing community service in the Old East Village of London, and his Healthy Environments Analysis Lab was selected in 2019 as a finalist for the Pillar Community Innovation Award for its positive impact on community.

In summary, Prof. Jason Gilliland has established an outstanding record of scholarly achievement that is worthy of recognition with the CAG Scholarly Distinction in Geography award.