

GHHCSG November/December 2023 Communiqué

What's happening in Canadian Health Geography?



Jenna Dixon (UBC-O): Chair (2023-25); **Andrea Rishworth** (UTM): Vice Chair (2023-25); **Emily Shantz** (UW): Secretary (2023-24); **Abraham Marshall Nunbogu** (UW): Social-Communications (2022-24); **Cynthia Itbo Musah** (UW): Student Representative (2023-24)

A note from the executive : This combination edition (to accommodate the early working close to December) features an update on the IMGS, a Health Geographer made Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, and a profile of novel and engaging research on the geographies gastrointestinal illness amongst wider considerations of toilet access. A reminder that all students that are CAG members (renewals start in January!) may join our speciality group free of charge. As always, we really want to hear from you about content to share with the group: what are you researching? What conversations in Canadian Geography do you think are important? Are there sub-committees you'd like to see? Anything else? Reach out!

gghcsg@gmail.com, jenna.dixon@ubc.ca, andrea.rishworth@utoronto.ca
Have a safe and happy break and watch for the next edition January 2024.
- Jenna, Andrea, Emily, Abraham and Cynthia.

Updates for the IMGS 2024

What: The International Medical Geography Symposium (IMGS) is a biannual meeting of health and medical geographers from around the world

When:

- Conference runs July 14-19, 2024
- Abstract submission opens January 1, 2024
- Deadline for abstract submission is May 31, 2024



Where: Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Atlanta, USA

Overall Theme: *Health & Medical Geographers in a Changing World: Looking Back and Moving Forward*

Sub-themes:

- Health, Justice, Human Rights, Policy & Practice
 - Health Disparities
 - Human Rights and Health
 - Environmental Racism and Justice
 - Inclusivity and Diversity
 - Community Engagement
 - Structural Determinants of Health
 - Healthcare Accessibility
- Innovation in Methods
 - Longitudinal Analysis
 - GeoAI and Machine Learning
 - Geospatial Analysis
 - Digital Cartography and Visualization
- Global Health
 - Infectious Diseases
 - Food Insecurity
 - Water
 - Obesity
 - Urban and Rural Health
 - Refugee Settlement
- Climate Change & Health
 - Environmental Health
 - Natural Disasters
 - Sustainability
 - Planning
 - Interconnected Health

More information: <https://imsgs2024.org/>

Dr. Luginaah elected as Fellow to the Royal Society of Canada

Canadian Health Geographer **Dr. Isaac Luginaah** (Professor, Western University) has been elected as a new **Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada (RSC)**. Fellows are elected by the RSC in recognition for career achievement is the highest honour an individual can achieve in the arts, sciences, and social sciences.

Dr. Luginaah completed his PhD in medical geography at McMaster University in 2001, with a focus on environmental stressors, risk perception and health. He joined Western as faculty in 2004 and has further developed broad range of research interests and expertise, with authorship on over 350 peer-reviewed journal publications (and counting). His contributions to the sub-discipline is

further evidenced through the two terms as the Canada Research Chair in Health Geography.

Through the *Environment, Health and Hazards Lab* at Western University, he has supervised 18 PhD students (7 more currently in progress) and 35 Master's (5 more currently in progress) under the topics of environment and health, population health, or other determinants of population health. Many of these students have gone on to their own successful careers in health geography. Dr. Luginaah was the Senior Editor of the journal *African Geographical Review* and remains very involved in both the African and Health Geography communities in North America.

Congratulations Dr. Luginaah!



Considering public toilet access and the geographies gastrointestinal illnesses

*At this year's CAGONT annual meeting at Toronto Metropolitan University (October 27-28, 2023) **Stefanie Kiriazis** (Geography MA Candidate, York University) joined the GHHCSG themed sessions organized by Andrea Rishworth, to present findings from her work on the geographies of gastrointestinal illness. While issues of WASH (Water, Sanitation, Hygiene) have rightfully become a central theme for many of our colleagues's research programs, the consideration of public toilet access in this country's largest city brings a new perspective to these issues. We were so intrigued by this presentation, we asked Stephanie to share more about the grounding for this research, how health geography as sub-discipline supports this work, and the value of presenting at academic conferences.*

My research aims to centre the lived geographies of youth with gastrointestinal illnesses among the wider discourses of public toilet access, with a case study on the Greater Toronto Area. I was inspired to pursue this research through my own personal experience as a young woman living with Ulcerative Colitis, particularly, the barriers I faced navigating public spaces as a university student with a medical need for toilet access. My research operates under the belief that all individuals have right to the city claims, and that public toilets are critical infrastructure under this right.

GI illnesses are an understudied population, which require their own investigation as a result of their differential needs. For example, youth are often operating under tighter budgets than older adults, and this can become a challenge when coupled with GI toilet needs, as the majority of our 'public' toilets exist within private spaces, often requiring a purchase for use.



Beyond the fact that youth with GI illnesses are an understudied population, public toilet access is a topic that benefits a vast group of demographics, with women, homeless, disabled, gender-diverse and queer populations being just some among those who struggle with our lacking public toilet infrastructure. Everyone needs to use the toilet, and it is inevitable to have this need occur in public at some points throughout our daily journeys. It only makes sense to have one of our most basic human needs supported by our city's built form.



S. Kiriazis



S. Kiriazis

Health Geography informs my research as a discipline through its ability to explain the spatial relationships between health conditions and the built environment. With gastrointestinal illnesses, public toilets become central infrastructures to support daily health needs. Health Geography allows my research to investigate the ways in which a lack of adequate public toilet access impacts the mental and physical health of individuals who rely on them, in addition to the ways in which this barrier extends into individuals social, home, and school/work lives.

I chose to attend this conference to share my research progress and connect with others who have similar interests. I am grateful to have had an opportunity to not only present my research, and hear thoughts and feedback from other attendees, but to see what other research is taking place in geography, especially in health geography. Being in a space such as the CAG[ONT] conference is a reminder of why I want to research in the first place.

The CAG[ONT] conference supported my research and thinking by giving me an opportunity to gain valuable feedback, network, and learn about new ways I can stay connected with researchers who have similar interests, and stay up to date on future opportunities.

Stefanie Kiriazis is an MA Candidate in Geography at York University.
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Our tremendous thanks to Stefanie Kiriazis for these thoughtful responses to our questions and a willingness to showcase this great work in our GHHCSG Communiqué. If you know of any research projects that - like this - would be an interesting read for the Canadian Health Geography community, reach out and tell us about it!



S. Kiriazis

Other things to know this month:

Call for Papers - IGU Gender Commission conference “Feminist and Queer Spatialities: Care, Connection and Change”:

The IGU is inviting contributions to its upcoming session on Feminist Social Media Research Methodologies. This session seeks participants willing to share their experiences with research methodologies in social media settings and reflect on the possibilities and challenges of engaging feminist research methodologies in digital spaces. If you like to contribute to this session please send an abstract of max. 200 words to Roberta Hawkins and Elisabeth Militz by January 10, 2024. See full details at:

https://www.cag-acg.ca/files/ugd/513bc6_450fcdf2e1d144729043dc49e532d049.pdf

Joint Call for Abstracts and Papers (IGC2024 and JORT Special Issue) - Geographies and Mobilities of Hiking in the Post-Pandemic Anthropocene:

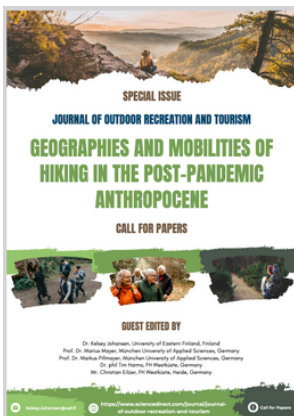
The IGC2024 Special Session topic has been accepted as a Journal of Outdoor Recreation and Tourism (JORT) Special Issue. This special issue will explore the geographies and mobilities of hiking in the post-pandemic Anthropocene, including how we understand and conceptualize the geographies of hiking, including hiking places, spaces, cultures, impacts, and economies, and the mobilities of hiking, including as a form of slow, embodied, and sensory immersion in the outdoors. Expressions of Interest are due by January 12, 2024. For full details at:

https://www.cag-acg.ca/files/ugd/513bc6_f4cb7313fac54146ae8d23ca9bfca9c9.pdf

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Storytellers Challenge:

The SSHRC launched its annual Storytellers Challenge. The SSHRC Storytellers Challenge asks postsecondary students to submit a story about a SSHRC-funded research project that is affecting our lives, our world and our future for the better. The Challenge closes on January 16th, 2024, at 8:00 p.m. (Eastern). More details available at:

https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/societe-societe/storytellers-jai_une_histoire_a_raconter/index-eng.aspx



Job postings

Associate/Full Professor Human Geography, Dartmouth College. Open until filled.
<https://apply.interfolio.com/130044>

Assistant Professor of Indigenous Geographies, Simon Fraser University. Open until filled.
<https://www.sfu.ca/geography/about/work-with-us/ap-indigenous-geographies.html>

Full Professor, Global Public Health and Equity, University of Manitoba. Application review begins December 16, 2023.
https://viprecprod.ad.umanitoba.ca/default.aspx?REQ_ID=30543

Assistant/Associate Professor and Canada Research Chair (Tier II) in Disability Justice, Carleton University. Application review begins January 8, 2024.
<https://carleton.ca/deputyprovost/2023/assistant-or-associate-professor-and-sshrccanada-research-chair-tier-ii-sociology-and-anthropology/>

Assistant/Associate Professor and Canada Research Chair (Tier 2) in Indigenous Health, History & Healing, York University. Application deadline January 15, 2024.
https://www.yorku.ca/vpepc/faculty-affairs/wp-content/uploads/sites/698/2020/06/HH_CRC_Ind_Health.pdf

Assistant Professor, Global Migration and Inequality, Toronto Metropolitan University. Application deadline January 31, 2024
https://hr.cf.ryerson.ca/ams/faculty/preview.cfm?posting_id=549281

Assistant Professor (2-year term), Health Sciences, Brock University. Application closing date: February 9, 2024.
https://brocku.wd3.myworkdayjobs.com/en-US/brocku_careers/job/Assistant-Professor--Health-Sciences--Limited-Term-Appointment_JR-1017020



Dates of note

January 1, 2024 - time to renew your CAG membership!

April 8 to 12, 2024 - Global Public Health week of the World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA). See <https://www.wfpha.org/global-public-health-week/>

April 16 to 20, 2024 - American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii. Abstract submission and registration now open. November 16 abstract submission deadline. See <https://www.aag.org/events/aag2024/>

May 15 to 16, 2024 - Human geographies of climate change adaptation in Bergen, Norway. Registration now open. See <https://tinyurl.com/adaptconf>

July 14 to July 19, 2024 - The International Medical Geography Symposium in Atlanta, Georgia. Abstract submission and registration to open in shortly. Website now partially active, see note on page 1 and see <https://imgs2024.org/>

August 14 to 19, 2024 - Canadian Association of Geographers Annual Meeting in St. John's, Newfoundland. Details TBA.

August 24-30, 2024 - International Geographical Congress in Dublin, Ireland. Call for abstracts closes Jan 12th. See <https://igc2024dublin.org/>

Send us your important dates and job openings at **all levels** at ghhcsg@gmail.com to have it highlighted in the next communiqué.

have a great break

Geographies of Health and
Health Care Study Group
Canadian Association of Geographers