

GHHCSG June 2023 Communiqué

What's happening in Canadian Health Geography?



Canadian Association of Geographers
Association Canadienne des Géographes



Geographies of Health and
Health Care Study Group

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 Chairs: As we say goodbye to June and welcome the Canadian summer, we want to thank the membership for the very enthusiastic response to last month's inaugural Communiqué. We are now pleased to share this second edition, for which we have highlighted number of changes in the world of publishing with particular relevance to health and medical geographers. While things tend to be a little quieter during the summer and many of you will be heading off for field work or well-earned vacation time, you can still expect to find the Communiqué in your inbox the last Friday of each month. If there are things you would like to see represented or you would like us to share with the community, please reach out to Abraham (amnunbogu@uwaterloo.ca) or the main account (GHHCSG@gmail.com). Students, or those with ideas about how to support our student members, are encouraged to connect with our Student Rep, Cynthia, (cimusah@uwaterloo.ca). Wishing everyone a wonderful month.

-Drs. Jenna Dixon & Andrea Rishworth on behalf of the GHHCSG executive

Here are four things to know this month:

1. Canadian health geographer Susan Elliott now Editor-in-Chief of Social Science and Medicine

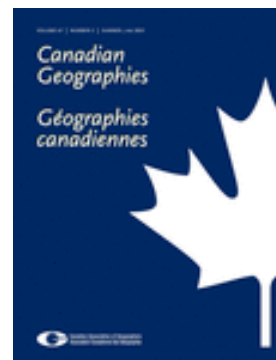
Congratulations to **Dr. Susan Elliott** (Professor and University Research Chair in the Department of Geography and Environmental Management at the University of Waterloo) who has taken over the prestigious position of Editor-in-Chief at the preeminent journal for social science research on health. Many readers may know Dr. Elliott through her active engagement with the Canadian health geography community or her current role as Vice-President on the Canadian Association of Geographers Executive Committee.



Social Science & Medicine, established in 1967, publishes over 780 papers a year and holds an impact factor of 5.379 (2021 data). Dr. Elliott has been active member of the editorial board as the Senior Editor at the Medical Geography desk over the last 10 years. Dr. Elliott's promotion to Editor-in-Chief marks the first time a geographer has held this position since the journal's inception 56 years ago. Learn more about her research at: <http://www.uwaterloo.ca/gohelp>

2. The CAG's journal has changed its name to "Canadian Geographies"

The Canadian Geographer/Le Géographe canadien has changed its name to **Canadian Geographies/Les géographies canadiennes**. In a published statement, the editorial board explains that the original title used a masculine form of its French name. "This was a masculinist, patriarchal version of the name that does not sit well with women or responsible scholars in the Academy. After many decades, members of the Canadian Association of Geographers brought this to our attention."



Established in 1950, Canadian Geographies is the journal of the Canadian Association of Geographers, with an aim to publish cutting edge geographical research with strong contemporary resonance. It is currently spearheaded by health geographer **Dr. Nadine Schuurman** (Professor in the Department of Geography, Simon Fraser University) as the journal's Editor-in-Chief. The journal welcomes papers that challenge the status quo, promote social justice and address significant social, scientific and technical issues in Canada and globally. Read the full statement on the name change at: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/15410064>

3. Journal focuses on the role of space and place in shaping wellbeing



Wellbeing, Space & Society launched in 2020 as a shared vision of geographers **Drs. Susan Elliott and Jamie Pearce** with the recognition that "health geographers as well as other health and social scientists had started to intensively explore the concept of wellbeing, and had begun to write about it, theorize about it, and measure and report on it without having an appropriate venue within which to both share and spark dialogue." (Elliott & Pearce, 2020). The editors note in their inaugural editorial, "This journal is for those working in this area, who at the same time recognize the importance of space and place in shaping wellbeing – those spaces and places within which we live, work, play and age - and see wellbeing itself as a critical ingredient to a flourishing life."

The journal, now in its fourth year, publishes papers from a variety of disciplines, with a particular interest in the policy implications of the research, and encouragement for methodological plurality and innovation. While articles should engage with directly with wellbeing, this may be subjective or objective, eudonic or hedonic, and may also be at the individual and/or community levels. The editors are particularly interested in the wellbeing of places, asking, how is that conceptualized, theorized, operationalised and translated? Read more about the journal at:

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/wellbeing-space-and-society/>

4. The evidence is clear, city noise can be bad for your health

Dr. Tor Oiamo (Associate Professor in the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies at Toronto Metropolitan University) had a busy week with back to back interviews on **CBC's *The Dose*** and **TVO's *The Agenda*** to discuss the long-term health impacts of excessive noise. Dr. Oiamo lays out the breadth of robust research evidence which points to noise as both a physical and mental stressor for humans, with particular relevance to urban landscapes. He reflects, "we care a lot about what things look like in our cities and in our built environments. Why don't we care as much about what they sound like? [...] You're not going to eliminate cars, you're not going to eliminate transportation sound, but, we can do a better job of keeping those away from people. At least in the environments that people have to be in." Listen, read or watch the interviews at:

<https://www.cbc.ca/listen/cbc-podcasts/410-the-dose>

<https://www.cbc.ca/radio/podcastnews/how-is-the-noise-around-me-harming-my-health-transcript-1.6885318> <https://www.tvo.org/video/is-city-noise-bad-for-you>

Read more about Dr. Oiamo's research in environmental health geography:

<https://www.exposcen.com/>

Job postings

Postdoctoral Fellow in Environmental Health, Centre for Environmental Health Research, CEHR in the Faculty of Health Sciences at Ontario Tech University (closing July 16, 2023):

<https://ontariotechu.csod.com/ux/ats/career-site/4/home/requisition/612?c=ontariotechu>

Air Quality Researcher and Analyst at the Environmental Health Association of Québec (open until filled). Send CV to office@aseq-ehaq.ca

Technical Officer (Determinants of Health), Equity and Health Unit, World Health Organization (closing July 5, 2023).

<https://careers.who.int/careersection/ex/jobdetail.ftl?job=2304673&lang=en>

Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in Sustainability and the Social, Faculty of Social Science at Western University (closing August 31, 2023)

https://m.uwo.ca/facultyrelations/careers/pdf/AD.Tier2CRC_SustainabilityandtheSocial_2023.pdf

Dates of note

October 16 to October 18, 2023 - The 2023 Canadian Conference on Global Health in Ottawa, Canada and virtual. Abstract submission completed, registration now open.

October 25-28, 2023 - AGX (formally Applied Geography Conference) in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Abstract submission and registration now open.

April 16 to 20, 2024 - American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii. Abstract submission and registration dates TBA.

July 14 to July 19, 2024 - The International Medical Geography Symposium in Atlanta, Georgia. Abstract submission and registration dates TBA.