



FOOD ENVIRONMENTS IN CANADA: Symposium and Workshop

Schedule

(this schedule is for information purposes and is subject to change)

Thursday, May 21st, 2015 - Opening Keynote Presentation

- **6:30pm** - Introductions and welcome
- **6:45-7:45pm** - Keynote speaker: Steven Cummins (40 minute presentation and 20 minutes of questions, tentative topic: reflections on food-based interventions, what has been done, what should be done, and why we need this kind of research for interventions in Canada)
- **7:45-8:30pm** - Meet and greet reception

Friday, May 22nd, 2015 - Food Environments Research Symposium

- **8:00-8:45am** - Registration and continental breakfast
- **8:45-9:00am** - Welcome
- **9:00-9:50am** - Keynote speaker: Jason Gilliland (35 min presentation and 15 minutes for questions)
- **9:50-10:20am** - Break
- **10:20am-12:00pm** - Expert Panel: Yan Kestens, Jennifer Black, Kelly Skinner and Gigi Veeraraghavan (25 min each plus 20 minutes for questions)
- **12:00-1:00pm** - Lunch
- **1:00-3:15pm** - Interactive poster session
- **3:15-3:35pm** - Break
- **3:35-4:25pm** - Keynote speakers: Rachel Engler-Stringer and Nazeem Muhajarine (35 min presentation and 15 minutes for questions)
- **4:25-4:50pm** - Reflections on Food Environments Research in Canada: Leia Minaker (25 min presentation)
- **4:50-5:00pm** - Wrap-up

Saturday, May 23rd, 2015 - Food Environments Research Methodological Workshop & Discussion

- **8:30-9:00am** - Registration and continental breakfast
- **9:00-9:40am** - Keynote speaker: Steven Cummins (25 min presentation and 15 minutes for questions, tentative topic: methodological challenges and thoughts on the future of research on food environments)
- **9:40-10:20am** - Small Group Discussion 1
- **10:30-10:50am** - Refreshment break
- **10:50-11:30am** - Small Group Discussion 2
- **11:35am-12:35pm** - Large Group Discussion
- **12:35-12:45pm** - Wrap-up



FOOD ENVIRONMENTS IN CANADA: Symposium and Workshop

Food Environment Methodological Workshop Outline

Small Group Discussion 1 Theme: Assessment in Food Environments Research

- **Topic 1 - Exposure Measurement A - Geographical Data**

The conversation at this table will cover the strengths and limitations of using geographical data to measure food environment exposure. Best practices in using geographical methods and tools to characterize food environment exposures will be discussed.

Paper:

Healy MA1, Gilliland JA. (2012). Quantifying the magnitude of environmental exposure misclassification when using imprecise address proxies in public health research. *Epidemiology*, Apr;3(1):55-67. doi: 10.1016/j.sste.2012.02.006. Epub 2012 Feb 11.

- **Topic 2 - Exposure Measurement B – Integration of Methods, Novel Technologies, Data Linkage**

The measurement of food environment exposures is rapidly developing and advancing given the speed of technological advances. This group will focus on how to link relevant sources of data, novel technologies in food environment exposure, and integration of methods to provide the most comprehensive food environment assessments.

Papers:

Chaix B, Meline J, Duncan S, Merrien C, Karusisi N, Perchoux C, Lewin A, Labadi K, Kestens Y. (2013). GPS tracking in neighborhood and health studies: a step forward for environmental exposure assessment, a step backward for causal inference? *Health & Place*, 21, p. 46-51. <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1353829213000099>

Gong J, Geng J, Chen Z. (2015). Real-time GIS data model and sensor web service platform for environmental data management. *International Journal of Health Geographics*. 14(1):2. doi:10.1186/1476-072X-14-2.

- **Topic 3 - Diet/Health Outcome Assessment**

Dietary and diet-related health outcomes have been the predominant outcomes of interest in food environment research. This group will discuss proximal (food environment perceptions, dietary outcomes) and distal (diet-related outcomes such as obesity, cardiovascular disease) outcomes and their strengths and challenges.

Paper:

Satija A, Yu E, Willett WC, Hu FB. (2015). Understanding nutritional epidemiology and its role in policy. *American Society for Nutrition. Advances in Nutrition*. 6:5-18; doi:10.3945/an.114.007492

Brenner MH, Curbow B, Legro M.W. (1995). The proximal-distal continuum of multiple health outcome measures: the case of cataract surgery. *Medical Care*. 19 Apr;33(4 Suppl):AS236-44.



FOOD ENVIRONMENTS IN CANADA: Symposium and Workshop

Food Environment Methodological Workshop Outline

- **Topic 4 - Qualitative Approaches in Food Environment Research**

Qualitative research on food environments has been lacking to date. Qualitative approaches to food environments research are important for understanding the relationship between objective measures of the food environment and people's interactions with these environments. This group will discuss how qualitative research can be used in food environments research.

Paper:

Thompson, C. Cummins, S. Brown, T. Kyle, R. (2013). Understanding interactions with the food environment: An exploration of supermarket food shopping routines in deprived neighbourhoods *Health & Place*, 19 (January 2013), 116-123.

Small Group Discussion 2 Theme: Population Level Food Environment Interventions

- **Topic 1 - Design A - Population Health Intervention Research Study Designs**

Papers:

Cousens S, Hargreaves J, Bonell C, et al. (2011). Alternatives to randomisation in the evaluation of public-health interventions: statistical analysis and causal inference. *Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health*. 65:576–581. doi:10.1136/jech.2008.082610.

Bonell CP, Hargreaves J, Cousens S, et al. (2011). Alternatives to randomisation in the evaluation of public health interventions: design challenges and solutions. *Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health*. 65:582–587. doi:10.1136/jech.2008.082602.

- **Topic 2 - Design B - Other Evaluation Metrics and Designs**

Traditionally, food environments research has focused on food- and diet-related outcomes. This session focuses on other, relevant outcomes of interest to advancing food environment interventions and community and food retail improvements. Specific outcomes of interest include feasibility of food retail interventions, economic impacts of food retail interventions, and process interventions.

Paper:

Nakamura, R. Suhrcke, M. Jebb, S.A. Pechey, R. Almiron-Roig, E. Marteau, T.M. (2015). Price promotions on healthier compared with less healthy foods: a hierarchical regression analysis of the impact on sales and social patterning of responses to promotions in Great Britain. *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*. doi: 10.3945/ajcn.114.094227



FOOD ENVIRONMENTS IN CANADA: Symposium and Workshop

Food Environment Methodological Workshop Outline

- **Topic 3 - Theory and Causal Models in Food Environments Intervention Research**

The majority of food environments research takes place without explicitly-stated theoretical underpinnings. Implicit theories often are simplistic, and assume that food environment exposures lead to differential food purchasing decisions, which then lead to different food consumption and health outcomes. This session focuses on how to explicitly incorporate food environments theory into research and practice.

Papers:

Hollands, G.J. Shemilt, I. Marteau, T.M. Jebb, S.A. Kelly, M.P. Nakamura, M.P.

Suhrcke, M.P. Ogilvie, D. (2013). Altering micro-environments to change population health behaviour: towards an evidence base for choice architecture interventions. *BMC Public Health*, 13:1218

Aalen OO, Røysland K, Gran JM, Ledergerber B. (2012). Causality, mediation and time: a dynamic viewpoint. *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society: Series A (Statistics in Society)*. no–no. doi:10.1111/j.1467-985X.2011.01030.x.

- **Topic 4 - Complexity/Multiple Interventions Research**

Systems thinking is increasingly being recognized as critical to population and public health. This group will discuss how systems thinking can inform food environments research as it develops in Canada.

Paper:

Hawe, P., Shiell, A., & Riley, T. (2009). Theorising interventions as events in systems. *American Journal of Community Psychology*, 43, 267-276.

Questions for Small Group Discussions:

- 1) What are the best practices or innovations in this field of work?
- 2) What are the key challenges and solutions you identify for this topic?
- 3) What next steps need to be taken to advance research in this topic?



FOOD ENVIRONMENTS IN CANADA: Symposium and Workshop

Food Environment Methodological Workshop Outline

Large Group Discussion Topics

A - Standardization of Methods

- 1) What do we want to standardize in food environment measurement and reporting?
- 2) How can food environment research be more efficient/reproducible?
- 3) Who could host a methods space online? How much \$/Time would it take?
- 4) What kinds of methodological capacity-building should we be engaging in and for whom (researchers, practitioners, policy-makers)?

B - Future Directions in Research, Policy and Practice

- 1) What format can we use to keep one another abreast of methods development?
 - a. Publish analysis code, sampling materials using:
 - i. List-serv?
 - ii. Website?
 - iii. Shared folders (e.g., google drive, drop box, etc)
 - b. In-person meetings tagged onto conferences?
 - c. Webinars? Other?
- 2) What sources of funding are available for food environments research? What sorts of projects might we collaborate on to compete for this type of funding?
- 3) What partners have been traditionally overlooked in FE research? What kinds of relationships should we be developing in our own communities and at what level (e.g., municipal, provincial, industry, etc)?