

# GIScience and the Urban Geography of Health

## Call for Papers, AAG 2009 Annual Meeting in Las Vegas, NV

### Organizers:

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Recent advances in Geographic Information Technologies have transformed the way we measure urban environments. These advances have facilitated quantitative and qualitative spatial inquiry into the association between the urban environment and health. In spite of these advances the conceptualization of urban contexts remains a major challenge for health research.

We are interested in both applied and theoretical papers on the association between urban environments and health. We are especially interested in papers that connect questions of public health to substantive theoretical and methodological questions in Geographic Information Science. Are buffers, kernels, or weights matrices effective tools for conceptualizing the complex association between people, place, and health?

Zone based inference has been called a major “theoretical” challenge for GISc (Openshaw 1996). What are the strengths and weaknesses of the zone-based analytical paradigm for study of the association between the urban environment and health?

Relational models of health and place are increasingly present in academic discourse. How does this approach relate to GISc and questions about the representation of urban space? How does the relational perspective mesh with agent based modeling and other computational techniques.

Finally, what does all this mean for policy. Does the significant literature on neighborhood effects have anything to contribute to governance and the practice of public health? What are the implications of geographic research on health for the emerging discipline of Health Impact Assessment (HIA).

We welcome papers that broadly address the connections between GISc, the urban environment, and health. We hope to organize sessions or groups of papers emphasizing applied, methodological, and theoretical advances in the geography of urban health.

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## Submissions:

Abstracts are due Monday, November 10th, the conference deadline is November 13th. Once you have registered for the conference send your PIN, abstract, and title to **Seth Spielman (seth\_spielman@Brown.edu)** and **Rudy Banarjee (rbanerje@iupui.edu)**. Send questions, ideas, or comments to Seth Spielman.