



The O'Brien Institute for Public Health &
the Department of Community Health Sciences present:

Urban Design, Physical Activity, Sedentary Behaviour, & Public Health – New Insights Using Space Syntax

Speaker: Dr. Javad Koohsari

Friday, March 29, 2019 - 12:00 to 12:50 p.m.
G500 - Health Sciences Centre, 3330 Hospital Dr NW

Recent studies in sport sciences and public health have begun to apply space syntax – a concept and method originating from the architecture and urban design fields – in examining how urban form is related to active and sedentary behaviours. This presentation briefly introduces the principles of space syntax concept/method and presents the latest empirical findings applying space syntax to understand the relationships between built environment and active and sedentary behaviours. It also discusses how space syntax can extend previous knowledge regarding built environment and other health behaviours and outcomes.

Dr Koohsari is a research fellow in urban design & health in the Faculty of Sport Sciences at Waseda University, Japan and an honorary research fellow at Baker Heart & Diabetes Institute, Australia. As an urban designer, his research focuses on how built environment attributes can contribute to population health, especially in the context of super-aged societies. Based on the Web of Science data, he is the 2nd most published author worldwide on the “urban design” topic over the last five years (As of 12th February 2019). He is currently on the editorial boards of the *Annals of Behavioral Medicine*, and the *Journal of Architectural & Planning Research*.

Objectives:

1. To briefly introduce the principles of space syntax
2. To present latest empirical findings on how space syntax can be applicable to physical activity and sedentary behaviour research
3. To discuss the future directions for using space syntax in sport sciences and public health research

This event is a self-approved group learning activity (Section 1) as defined by the Maintenance of Certification Program of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

This seminar is also available via an online AdobeConnect session: To attend the seminar from another location via your computer, click on this link: <https://connectmeeting.ucalgary.ca/oiph-mar29-19/>

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The AdobeConnect session will not be archived and accessible for later viewing at the request of the speaker.