

Workshop

Integrating and analyzing environmental, geographical, and health data – methodological challenges and research opportunities in the Planetary Health context

Who?

The working group *Environmental medicine, exposure and risk assessment* of the DGEpi, GMDS and DGSMP and the working groups *Health Geography* and *Occupational Epidemiology* of the DGEpi are pleased to invite you to this workshop.

When and where?

→ Start: 29.10.2026, 12:00 / End: 30.10.2026, 14:15

→ International University (IU) Campus Hannover at Schiffgraben 49-51, 30175 Hannover

→ Maximum number of participants (in person only workshop): 50

→ The workshop language will be English

Keynote 1: Prof. Dr. Till Bärnighausen (University of Heidelberg)



Till Bärnighausen is Alexander von Humboldt Professor and Director of the Heidelberg Institute of Global Health (HIGH) in the Faculty of Medicine and University Hospital at Heidelberg University, Germany. He is also Senior Faculty at the Wellcome Trust's Africa Health Research Institute (AHRI) in South Africa, fellow at the Harvard Center for Population and Development Studies, and adjunct professor of global health at Harvard T.H. Chan

School of Public Health. His research focuses population-based health research – from determining health need in epidemiological and ethnographic studies, to developing new intervention in design research, establishing intervention impact in experiments and quasi-experiments, and elucidating intervention performance in process evaluation, economic evaluation and transportability studies.

Keynote 2: Prof. Ben Wheeler, PhD (University of Exeter)



Ben is Professor in Environment, Health and Inequalities at the European Centre for Environment and Human Health (ECEHH). He is a health geographer and environmental epidemiologist with wide ranging research interests in environment-health interconnections. He applies geographical and epidemiological methods to research the beneficial and adverse impacts that the environment can have on human health and health inequalities. He works extensively with large, collaborative interdisciplinary research project teams addressing these issues, in projects that have been

supported by funders including ESRC, NERC, NIHR, Wellcome Trust and the European Commission. Ben works with a wide range of partners to translate evidence, especially on links between natural environments and health, to inform public health and environmental policy at local, national and international scales. He is co-director of the WHO Collaborating Centre on Natural Environments and Health, which is based at ECEHH, and is a member of the Natural England Science Advisory Committee.

Additional Highlight:

In addition to the topic specific inputs, we are delighted to announce speakers from the German Research Foundation / Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) (Dr. Barbara Specius) and the Stifterverband (Dr. rer. nat. Laura Hausmann, PhD/MBA). In their talks, they will provide specified funding opportunities for the “Planetary Health” research field and will be available for individual counseling. The participants will have the chance to ask questions and also get individual feedback on project ideas.

What are the aims of the workshop?

The holistic Planetary Health concept allows to connect knowledge and data from the fields of human and animal health as well as from the environmental domain. Especially, geo-referenced information enables the combination of data from these fields and helps to shed light on the interconnections, associations and also causal relationships.

This workshop aims to bring together scientists and public health professionals at different career stages who are active in the Planetary Health field.

The focus will be on integrating exposure and health outcome data available at different spatial and temporal resolutions.

In this context, we would like to discuss how to combine various health indicators with data on

- Environmental variables (e.g. air pollutants, noise, temperature)
- Natural and built infrastructure
- Socio-demographic / socio-economic determinants

We would like to connect local and global perspectives and also highlight intervention studies that follow planetary health principles.

We would also like to address typical challenges, such as finding the appropriate statistical and analytical methods and to discuss how to safeguard the FAIR data principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable). In addition, the workshop also aims to provide insights into current and upcoming research funding opportunities.

What are the highlights?

- Keynote speeches on relevant topics
- Interdisciplinary discussions and networking opportunities
- Stage for early-career researchers to present their work

How to register?

Participation in this workshop is free for all attendees. Individual costs for travel and accommodation cannot be reimbursed. The number of participants is limited to 50 seats. **First come first serve!** Please register by sending a short email with your contact details to ag15@dgepi.de.

How to submit an abstract?

We invite submissions of abstracts (max. 200 words) addressing methodological, applied, or policy-relevant aspects of (geo-referenced) data integration from Planetary Health relevant fields. Abstracts should be submitted via E-Mail (ag15@dgepi.de) by the **by the 31.08.2026**. The abstract should be structured by the sections background, methods, results and discussion and submitted as a PDF-file.

Abstracts from the following topics would be of great interest:

- Climate change and health impacts
- Urban and built environment aspects
- AI, machine learning and big data approaches
- Effects of environmental determinants (air pollution, noise, green infrastructure) and their combined health impacts
- General methodological aspects of spatial and spatiotemporal modeling for planetary health research questions
- Exposure assessment
- etc.

We encourage especially early-career researchers to submit preliminary findings and “work-in-progress”.

Any questions?

Please contact ag15@dgepi.de

We look forward to your participation!