Public Health, Healthy Cities: Challenges and Opportunities

THURSDAY, 7 OCTOBER 2017 / 12:00pm-1:00pm—Rm 25 Purvis Hall
1020 Pine Avenue West

ABSTRACT
An increasing share of the population is living in cities, and for good reason. Yet, cities can also be catalysts for major public health issues, all the while offering opportunities for interventions that could play an important role in improving living conditions and reducing social health inequalities. This talk will discuss some of the current challenges in public health regarding our potential contribution to a set of solutions for designing healthy cities. The talk will introduce a research program on urban interventions drawing from a multidisciplinary perspective, including notions of geography and transportation, and resorting to the potential of novel sensor technologies to better assess how people and places interact to generate population health profiles.

OBJECTIVES
1. To further awareness of the potential contributions of public health to the development of healthy cities.
2. To become familiar with some spatial analytic and sensor-based methods of collecting relevant data on environments and health behaviors.
3. To better understand, through urban interventions, how environments translate into health profiles and health inequalities.

BIO
Yan Kestens holds a Canadian Institutes of Health Research Applied Public Health Chair in Urban Interventions and Population Health, and is currently Associate Professor at the Ecole de Sante Publique de l'Université de Montréal and a researcher at the Research Center of the Montreal University Hospital. Through methodological and multidisciplinary innovations, his program of research is exploring how cities change and how such changes impact population health. Link to website: http://www.spherelab.org/ and to researcher profile at CRCHUM: http://crchum.chumontreal.qc.ca/en/researchers/kestens-yan

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