

Biopolitical spaces, healthy bodies & inequality

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One of the most enduring influences of the new public health approach has been establishing the necessity of adopting a healthy lifestyle as an individual moral responsibility. The short-comings of such an approach become ever more apparent in times of economic crisis. Such crisis has characterised the recent history of nations across Europe further exacerbating existing inequalities. Despite broad acceptance of the 'social determinants' of health the policy trend of 'lifestyle drift' has proliferated through an intensified focus on individualised responsibility. The social 'conditions of possibility' that constitute healthy living have been neglected in research that has tended to polarize around behaviour change or population focused interventions. The realm of everyday practices (leisure, work, technology, family, social networks, etc.) and their relation to health is an area requiring further critical exploration.

This session examines how inequalities are spatialised through discourses that bring together ideas of place, the healthy body, digital technology and the materiality of citizens' everyday lives. Specific attention will be drawn to questions concerning how local places are invented and acted upon through a sociopolitical imaginary and how this can inhibit or enhance the capacity of local communities and individuals to embody health. Tensions between policy objectives and the material circumstances of citizens lives will be explored in terms of material, affective and discursive relations of power.

Deadline to submit your abstract: 20th of December 2015

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