Making use of natural experiments to support evidence informed public health: opportunities & challenges

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There are numerous interventions delivered across populations which potentially contribute to changes in population health. Applying experimental methods to these interventions is rarely possible, but there are other opportunities to generate evidence from these natural experiments. This seminar will use examples of natural experiments to outline the rationale for, methods and challenges for natural experiments. The seminar will end with consideration of how data from natural experiments can be produced for use in decision making through evidence synthesis.

Dr Hilary Thomson works at the University of Glasgow in Scotland (UK) within the field of evidence for healthy public policy. Her work has focussed on assessing the health and socio-economic impacts of housing improvement and area based regeneration investment, as well as transport, employment, and welfare interventions. Hilary's work spans a wide range of methodologies including the use of qualitative and quantitative methods to evaluate community interventions and evidence synthesis for complex public health interventions. Most recently she has developed methods to manage and promote transparency of narrative synthesis of complex interventions. Hilary is an editor with the Cochrane Public Health Review Group.

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12.30 - 1.30 pm, Seminar Room 515
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Level 5, 207 Bouverie Street, Carlton

ALL WELCOME