NARSC 2020
Call for Submissions
Special Sessions on

Exploring the Intersection of Disease, Social, and Economic Processes

While regional scientists, geographers, and public health researchers have recognized that the social and economic conditions in which people live shape their ultimate health outcomes in a number of critically-important ways (Kolak et al., 2020; Solar & Irwin, 2010) for some time, the recent (and ongoing) COVID-19 and opioid health crises have pushed these relationships into the forefront of the international consciousness. In many countries – including the US – historic and continuing patterns of racial and ethnic segregation often overlap with environmental degradation and socioeconomic deprivation, creating a context in which minority communities are often systematically faced with higher rates of chronic disease, lower levels of infrastructure investment, lower access to healthcare and healthy food options, and higher crime (Braveman et al., 2010; Williams et al., 2010; Williams, Priest, & Anderson, 2016). These overlapping factors often reduce economic opportunity in affected areas and have contributed to widening inequalities, not only in terms of income, but also in terms of life expectancy, chronic disease burden, and - as recent research suggests - acute disease burden from epidemic diseases such as the opioid crisis. Still, given the recent and ever-changing nature of recent health emergencies, much remains unknown about their spatial patterns, the specific ways in which important social and economic variables interact and overlap in predicting differential disease outcomes, and their local and regional economic impacts. For this session, we welcome any papers that address this intersection of disease, social, and economic processes, with a particular interest in papers that use novel methodologies or investigate pressing health emergencies (such as the opioid crisis).

If you are interested in presenting your research in this special session, please submit an abstract (2,000 to 5,500 characters and spaces) through the conference portal. Information on how to do that can be found here. Upon submitting your abstract, you will receive an abstract ID number (e.g. P12345). Please send your abstract ID number and a copy of your abstract (with name, email, and affiliation for all authors to Kevin Credit at kcredit@uchicago.edu no later than June 30, 2020.

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