

***Division Seminar Series***  
**Dalla Lana School of Public Health,  
Social and Behavioural Health Sciences**

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2018**

**12PM – 1PM, ROOM HS 574**

**HEALTH SCIENCES BUILDING, 155 COLLEGE STREET, TORONTO**

**Dr. Martine Shareck**

***PUTTING PEOPLE BACK INTO STUDIES OF NEIGHBOURHOOD EFFECTS ON  
HEALTH INEQUALITIES: A RATIONALE AND ILLUSTRATION***

**Abstract:** The creation of healthy and equitable neighbourhoods has long been promoted as a way to improve health and reduce social inequalities in health. Built environment interventions usually aim to improve neighbourhoods by making resources such as healthy food stores or parks available to residents. This approach has been criticized for not considering people's agency, how they interact with their local environment, and their overall lived experience of place. Indeed, despite resources being available, their actual use may depend on people's perceptions and on their daily mobility patterns. In this presentation I will discuss conceptual and empirical approaches that can help us take into account how people interact with their environment in studies of place and health inequalities. I will draw on my work on smoking among young adults in Montreal and on the food behaviours of adolescents from London, UK, and introduce an evaluation study of *Healthy by Design*, a community development project involving the revitalization of two tower neighbourhoods in Toronto.

***Martine Shareck is a Banting postdoctoral research fellow in the SBHS Division at DLSPH. Her work draws on social epidemiology, geography, and health promotion to better understand how individuals interact with the urban environment, and how this interaction may lead to social inequalities in health.***

**Gillian Kolla, PhD Candidate**

***MEDICALIZATION UNDER PROHIBITION: THE LIMITS OF HARM REDUCTION  
IN THE SPACES WHERE PEOPLE GATHER TO USE ILLICIT DRUGS***

**Abstract:** In this presentation, I will examine the "Satellite Sites", a program in which people who use illicit drugs are employed by a community health centre to run satellite harm reduction programs within their own homes. These Satellite Sites straddle two worlds, at once sites of illicit and stigmatized activities, while also being sites of public health intervention. Using data collected during ethnographic observation in the Satellite Sites and interviews with key members of the program, I will examine the process of medicalization that has rendered these spaces where people gather to use illicit drugs into a formal public health intervention. Medicalization has had positive impacts on people who use drugs, particularly through the transformation of how the police interact with the sites. However, there are limits to the effects of medicalization under the current regime of criminalization of drug possession and distribution. The ability of Public Health authorities to implement safer environment interventions within the spaces where people use drugs be severely limited by the drug control measures and the continued criminalization of drug use.

***Gillian Kolla is a PhD candidate in SBHS Division at the DLSPH, University of Toronto.***