Blended Intensive Program

Methods on Urban Health: Exploring Digital Participatory Methods for Spatial Analysis

Urban health deals with environmental and social determinants of health in urban agglomerations focusing on determinants of health inequity and environmental injustice. Thereby, participation and empowerment are key concepts within urban health.
To understand complex cause-effect relations and to derive strategies and interventions for increased health equity in cities, different disciplines and innovative methods are needed.
The Blended Intensive Program entitled **Methods on Urban Health** provides the opportunity to firstly, get to know different methods; secondly, to learn how to apply these and finally, to critically discuss the results and limitations of the applied methods. Overall, the aim is to combine participatory methods in an innovative way to investigate issues concerned with urban health research.

The program is run by experts in the fields of urban planning, community health, geography, biometeorology and social work.

In 2026, the focus will be on digital participatory methods for spatial analysis. Qualitative and quantitative methods will be explored including online participation in planning, participatory GIS, the use of digital map tables for group discussions as well as the photovoice method. The BIP is based on the guiding question of how to include knowledge of various stakeholder´s and people´s perspective into urban health research. This will be contextualized by lectures on Urban Health and Resilient Cities.

The program addresses Master and PhD students that engage with urban health research:

- It is a 3 Credit Point Program
- It follows a blended learning activity with preparatory learning and on site-learning in Bochum (11-16th October 2026)
- training on innovative methods on urban health
- an appealing program with field trips in the Ruhr area offers contact to different stakeholders in the field of urban health from practice and science
- a social program provides insights into a vibrant and diverse region
- no specific methodological skills are needed but a Bachelor Degree required
- you get to know students from Czech Republic, Germany, Portugal and Spain
- funding is provided by Erasmus

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