

Date: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Time: 3:30-4:45 PM

Place: Buchanan 1930

Speaker: Dr. Dustin Duncan, Assistant Professor, Department of Population Health, New York University School of Medicine

Title: "Spatial Epidemiology of LGBT Health Disparities: Methods and Challenges"

Abstract:

A large body of research in epidemiology and population health has investigated connections between neighborhood characteristics and a myriad of health outcomes (e.g., HIV risk, substance use, and mental health). Few spatial epidemiologic investigations have focused on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) populations. This talk will overview the existing research on connecting neighborhoods and LGBT health disparities, including highlighting major limitations in the literature such as not considering the issue of spatial misclassification (i.e. incorrectly characterizing a neighborhood-level exposure). Real-time geospatial methods, including the use of Global Positioning System (GPS) technology, are the cutting-edge, best-suited method to overcome this limitation because they better capture neighborhood contexts corresponding to individual lived experiences (known as “activity space neighborhoods”). The talk will highlight the feasibility of GPS methods to determine “activity space” neighborhoods for LGBT populations, especially gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (MSM) in different Geographies. The talk will end by overviewing future research, challenges, and implications.