

# 1st International Symposium on Lifecourse Epidemiology and Spatial Science (ISLES)

16 – 20 July 2018 @ Oort

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are normally caused by long-term exposure to the toxic/unhealthy environment, which, however, is difficult to be precisely measured in traditional NCD research due to lack of tools, especially at a large scale. Earth observation (EO) technologies feature the acquisition and processing of remote sensing (RS) satellite data, especially those with high spatial resolution (e.g. <10m). However, EO technologies have not been much involved in NCD studies.

The 1<sup>st</sup> International Symposium on Lifecourse Epidemiology and Spatial Science (ISLES) gathered a group of multi-disciplinary experts in both spatial science and public health to share the state-of-the-art in both areas and explore a variety of open questions and pressing issues in an emerging field: Spatial Lifecourse Epidemiology (SLiCE). The outcome of the workshop includes one commentary titled "SLiCE: New frontiers at the intersection of Epidemiology and Big Data Science" and one brief communication titled "Key issues and research priorities in SLiCE", which will be submitted to the journal *Environmental Health Perspectives* (IF=8.3) for consideration. This two papers will position the ISLES as a leader in this new field and the ISLES as the first effort to be continued in following years. Also, a leading journal *Remote Sensing* in the field of spatial science has set up a special issue "Spatial Demography and Health" ([http://www.mdpi.com/journal/remotesensing/special\\_issues/GeoHealth](http://www.mdpi.com/journal/remotesensing/special_issues/GeoHealth)) to collect high-quality post-workshop publications.

By brainstorming, discussing, and writing together during a week-long symposium, participants in both fields of spatial science and public health showed more acquaintance with the language and knowledge in each other's field on the last two days.

We allocated 30 minutes for each presentation and 45 minutes to 1 hour for the following discussion. We found such arrangement worked very well for interdisciplinary workshops as experts in their own fields would have more time to communicate with experts in other fields after their presentations and proactively ask and learn what they needed. The dinner on the cruise was a great occasion, which all participants from abroad liked it very much!

We all thank Lorentz Center to provide us this unique opportunity to set up this novel workshop and bring experts together from different fields. We would like to hold the 2<sup>nd</sup> ISLES in Lorentz Center again in late 2019 or 2020.

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**Peter James** (Cambridge, USA)

**Peng Jia** (Enschede, the Netherlands)

**Alfred Stein** (Enschede, the Netherlands)

**Monique Verschuren** (Bilthoven, the Netherlands)