

Welcome to GLOWING

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GEOGRAPHIES OF HEALTH IN PLACE

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- Recent publications
- Graduate opportunities
- Geographies of Health in Place photo gallery
- News
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The GoHelP team

Welcome to Geographies of Health in Place

Welcome to the Geographies of Health in Place (GoHelP) lab, led by Susan J. Elliott, PhD, in [Geography and Environmental Management](#) at the University of Waterloo.

News

Mar. 6, 2015 [Professor Elliott receives funding for four](#)

Professor Elliott receives funding for four prestigious new scholarships



Professor Susan Elliott is one of two members of the University of Waterloo

What brought us here...

- ❖ The world is experiencing unprecedented global environmental change
 - ❖ Climatic
 - ❖ Demographic
 - ❖ Health
 - ❖ Social
 - ❖ Cultural
 - ❖ Economic

How do we measure the impacts of this change?

- ❖ **Gross Domestic Product**
- ❖ Vulnerability
 - ❖ Physical
 - ❖ Social
- ❖ Resilience

Beyond GDP measures of...

- ❖ Happiness/quality of life/wellbeing
- ❖ Why?

- ❖ Economic welfare cannot be adequately measured unless the personal distribution of income is known. And no income measurement undertakes to estimate the reverse side of income, that is, the intensity and unpleasantness of effort going into the earning of income. The welfare of a nation can, therefore, scarcely be inferred from a measurement of national income... (Kuznets, 1934, pp. 6-7)

- ❖ ...the gross national product does not allow for the health of our children, the quality of their education or the joy of their play. It does not include the beauty of our poetry or the strength of our marriages, the intelligence of our public debate or the integrity of our public officials...It measures neither our wit nor our courage, neither our wisdom nor our learning, neither our compassion nor our devotion to our country, it measures everything in short, except that which makes life worthwhile...(Robert F. Kennedy, 1968)

Measuring what matters...

- ❖ “I use the term *wellbeing* to refer to all of the things that are good for a person, that make for a good life. Wellbeing includes material wellbeing, such as income and wealth; physical and psychological wellbeing, represented by health and happiness; and education and the ability to participate in civil society through democracy and the rule of law” (Angus Deaton, 2013, *The Great Escape: Health, Wealth and the Origins of Inequality*).

Canadian Index of Wellbeing

- ❖ 11 years in the making
- ❖ ~\$7 million invested
- ❖ A single composite measure to compare to GDP
- ❖ 64 indicators across 8 domains
- ❖ 3 years of composite releases

Why here?

- ❖ Kenya/EAC
 - ❖ Tremendous economic growth/GDP
 - ❖ Tremendous potential for economic development
 - ❖ The work of the LVBC
 - ❖ (Limited) reconnaissance
 - ❖ Agreement in principle
 - ❖ Potential for data
 - ❖ Experience working in the area
 - ❖ Good partners

Where else?

- ❖ West Africa (Ghana)
- ❖ South Africa
- ❖ The Caribbean
 - ❖ Strong(er) economies that are particularly vulnerable...

Workshop Outcome(s)

1. FURTHER agreement in principle that this is a good idea.
2. Agreement on the domains to be measured.
3. Significant discussion on socially, culturally and geographically relevant indicators for each domain.
4. Strengthened partnerships.
5. An ISSC proposal submitted by March 31.

International Social Science Council

- ❖ Linked to the Future Earth program, the ISSC is an independent NGO established by UNESCO in 1952.
- ❖ It is the primary body representing the social, economic and behavioural sciences at an international level.
- ❖ “Our mission is to increase the production and use of social science knowledge for the [well-being of societies](#) throughout the world”
- ❖ Potential for 900,000 Euro over 3 years (July 2015)
- ❖ Requires two network coordinators: one in Canada (ELLIOTT) and one in Kenya (KARANJA)
- ❖ Requires two world regions: SSA (Kenya/EAC - Karanja; Ghana - Luginaah) and the Caribbean (Johanna Wandel at UW, along with Caribbsave; Barbados and Jamaica)

The Transformations to Sustainability Program seeks to address global sustainability challenges by supporting research on the complex processes of social transformation needed to secure effective, equitable and durable solutions.

It will enable social scientists to develop *knowledge networks* that will both strengthen social science leadership in global change and sustainability research and foster on-the-ground progress towards greater sustainability.

The Knowledge Networks will be led or co-led by social scientists in low- and middle-income countries, and will involve the relevant academic disciplines and societal stakeholders in truly **co-designed** and **co-implemented solutions-oriented** research.

Goal:

To ultimately inform and enable social change toward more sustainable and equitable societies worldwide, by broadening and deepening our understanding of **how change happens**.

Objectives:

- craft more effective, durable and equitable solutions to the problems of global change and sustainability;
- increase the use of such knowledge by policy makers, practitioners, the private sector, citizens and activists;
- create a Global Knowledge Trust on social transformations;
- engage and communicate effectively with the public.

What makes GLOWING a good ISSC prospect?

- ❖ A tool to track progress/change...
 - ❖ Social
 - ❖ Health
 - ❖ Economic
 - ❖ Environmental
 - ❖ Cultural
 - ❖ Political
- ❖ A tool to gauge the impact of (policy) intervention(s)
- ❖ Co-production of solutions-oriented knowledge through a transdisciplinary network

What if we're not successful?

- ❖ Short term: Queen Elizabeth Scholars
 - ❖ 4 fully funded PhD students from the Commonwealth to undertake degrees at the University of Waterloo in Canada
 - ❖ **1 West Africa**; 1 Caribbean?; 1 Kenya?; 1 EAC?
 - ❖ Medium term: other funding sources
 - ❖ ICSU; ADB; CIHR; Grand Challenges; IDRC; DFATD; LVBC; ERC; **others?**
- ❖ Longer term: next ISSC call

What do I need from you?

- ❖ Input
- ❖ Questions
- ❖ Challenges
- ❖ Shaping
- ❖ Commitment
- ❖ Partnership

Questions?