Mobility-based Geographies of Mental Health

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Mental health outcomes are intertwined with environmental exposures. People are exposed to the environments in which they live, and to numerous environments along their daily path and through their residential relocations. In my presentation, I will summarize key findings from the NEEDS study to understand the correlations between dynamic environmental exposures, depression, and suicide in the Netherlands. To address arising research challenges to implement mobility-based geographies of health, smartphone-based sensing, tracking people's mobility with GPS, and cutting-edge modelling are needed.

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Marco Helbich is an Associate Professor in health geography and geographic information science at Utrecht University since mid-2013. He focuses on the pressing societal issue of mental health-environment interdependencies. Prior his appointment at Utrecht University, he was an Alexander von Humboldt research fellow at the Institute of Geography at Heidelberg University, Germany, where he was also awarded with the venia legendi (habilitation) in human geography in 2015. Before this Marco was a visiting scholar at the Louisiana State University, USA, and worked at the Austrian Academy of Sciences. He obtained his Ph.D. in 2009 at the University of Vienna. Currently, he serves as Associate Editor for Health and Place and the Journal of Transport and Land Use.

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