

July 27, 2023



**Welcome to the July edition of the Behaviour, Environment and Cognition Research Program's biannual newsletter!**

A message from our  
Program Leader

Dear readers,

Wow! 2023 is flying by, and what an amazing six months it has already been.

The Behaviour, Environment and Cognition Research program is a collaborative unit at its core, and this year has already been packed full with visits from international researchers and students providing new opportunities for partnerships and collaborations. We are always on the lookout for new connections, so please feel free to reach out!

The second half of the year remains full of opportunities for new research and exciting endeavours. We are looking forward to sharing some of our data from The Impact of Environment and Pollution on Cognitive Health ([EPOCH](#)) project that began in 2020. Our team and collaborators are hard at work with data analysis so expect some exciting new publications to be entering the sphere towards the end of 2023!

Happy reading!

Prof Ester Cerin  
Program Leader, BECRP



## Website Links

### ICHEN Webpage

A networking and resource-sharing platform for those interested in understanding how the characteristics of places where people live influence their ability to clearly think, learn and remember.

[Visit Site](#)

### IPEN Webpage

A networking and resource sharing platform for those interested in understanding how our built environment influences our physical activity.

[Visit Site](#)

### BECRP Webpage

Learn more about the Behaviour, Environment and Cognition research team and their projects.

[Visit Site](#)

# Research Publications Highlight Reel

## Published in International Journal of Behavioural Nutrition and Physical Activity

Associations of home and neighborhood environments with children's physical activity in the U.S.-based Neighborhood Impact on Kids (NIK) longitudinal cohort study

[Read Article](#)

## Published in Network Neuroscience

Exploring personalized structural connectomics for moderate to severe traumatic brain injury

[Read Article](#)

## Published in International Journal of Behavioral Nutrition & Physical Activity

Modelling count, bounded and skewed continuous outcomes in physical activity research: Beyond linear regression models

[Read Article](#)

## Published in Health and Place

Characteristics of urban neighbourhood environments and cognitive age in mid-age and older adults

[Read Article](#)

## Published in The Lancet Global Health

Elevated blood pressure among adolescents in sub-Saharan Africa: a systematic review and meta-analysis

[Read Article](#)

If you would like to see the full current list of 2023 publications, [click here.](#)

## Publication Achievement!

### Generalized Framework for Measuring Pedestrian Accessibility around the World Using Open Data

One of the most downloaded papers during its first 12 months\* of publication in Geographical Analysis

[Read Article](#)

\*period between Jan 1, 2021-Dec 31, 2021

Check out our lay summaries!



Which features of our neighbourhood environments are associated with smaller cognitive age gaps in older adults?

## Does our neighbourhood impact our cognitive health?

[Read infographic summary.](#)

# News Reel

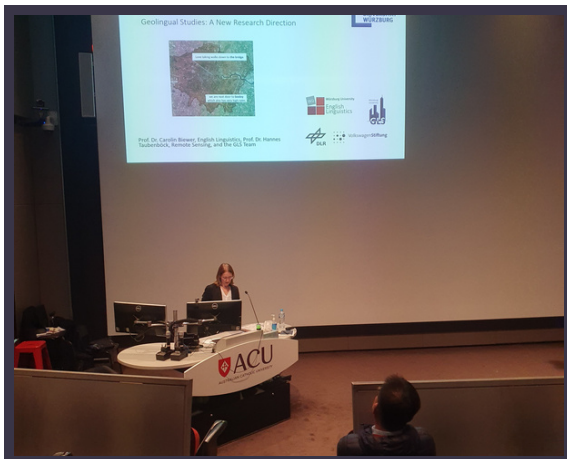
## Research Visit - Dr. Kimihiro Hino



In March, the BECRP were visited by Dr. Hino, an urban engineer from Japan. Joining Dr. Hino and Prof. Cerin for the afternoon were Carl Higgs (RMIT) and Jo O'Bryne (Department of Transport and Planning).

[Read More](#)

## Research Seminar - Dr. Carolin Biewer



In May the BECRP team were visited by international researcher, Prof. Carolin Biewer. Prof. Biewer is Chair of English Linguistics at the University of Wuerzburg.

The BECRP were fortunate enough to host a seminar by Carolin where she discussed her new area of research- Geolinguistic studies- a multidisciplinary area of research that combines the methodologies from linguistics, geography, digital humanities, and natural language processing to assess the interrelationship between the physical and socio-cultural space.

[Read More](#)

## PhD visit - Marie Vermote



In April, the BECRP were thrilled to be joined by Marie Vermote, a PhD student from Vrije Universiteit Brussel and Ghent University, Belgium.

Her PhD project explores the impact that caring for grandchildren has on the physical activity and sedentary behavior of the grandparents.

During her four week stay, she focused on improving her skills in physical activity and sedentary behavior data processing and applying state-of-the-art statistical methods.

# Awards and Achievements

## Planning Institute of Australia Award Winners!



BECRP Program Leader, Prof. Cerin was part of a collaborative multi-institutional research team that won the prestigious 2023 national Planning Institute of Australia for Planning Research Excellence.

[Read more](#)

## International Society of Behavioural Nutrition & Physical Activity (ISBNPA) Conference



June saw Prof Ester Cerin step into her role as President for the International Society of Behavioural Nutrition and Physical Activity (ISBNPA), the leading international research community in behavioural nutrition and physical activity. Her Presidency officially commenced at the ISBNPA 2023 Conference (14th - 17th June) in Uppsala, Sweden.

Prof. Ester Cerin and Assoc. Prof. Anthony Barnett both presented at the conference and spent time meeting with new and existing international colleagues and sharing some of the Behaviour, Environment and Cognition Research Programs' recent work.

