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Research suggests that green and open spaces contribute positively towards health and wellbeing. However, the interrelations between such spaces, how people perceive and engage with them, and reported health and wellbeing are little understood.

This study will deepen understanding by investigating how senses of health and wellbeing depend on the socio-cultural, as well as material, constitution of green and open spaces. Attention will be paid to the role of cultural practices in shaping how such spaces are engaged with and (re)produced, both conceptually and materially.

Two key concerns are how health and wellbeing are implicated (a) in the everyday experiences of green and open spaces, and (b) in the ways access to these spaces is socially, legally and materially delineated. Cultural practices to be considered with respect to health and green and open space include: (re)production of identities and relationships; embodied experiences; and, perceptions, imaginaries and representations.

Both conceptual and material landscapes matter – but how do they co-produce health and wellbeing?

Our aim is to explore how perceptions and experiences of green or open spaces link to senses of health and wellbeing.

OBJECTIVES

1. Identify the key cultural practices – material and discursive – (re)producing the relationship between health and green and open spaces
2. Examine how these cultural practices shape senses of health and wellbeing through
 - a) **access to** green and open spaces
 - b) **experiences of** green and open spaces
3. To assess the application of novel visual and mobile qualitative methods to issues of environment and health

APPROACH

The study will employ innovative qualitative techniques recently developed in RERAD Programme 3 combining video headcam ethnography and supporting in-depth interviews. Participants record headcam footage of their everyday experiences of green and open spaces (with the potential to narrate their experience as it unfolds). The audio-visual data is both analysed directly, and used in subsequent interviews to elicit and contextualise further discursive representations of participants' experiences. Approximately 15-20 in-depth video ethnographies will be carried out.

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