







## Policies and Environment Special Interest Group



### ISBNPA

#### 2021/2023 SIG Leadership Team Directory

<p>Professor Catherine Woods</p>  <p><a href="mailto:Catherine.Woods@ul.ie">Catherine.Woods@ul.ie</a> @Catherinebwoods</p>	<p>SIG Co-Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Development of national physical activity policies.</li><li>▪ Physical activity policy implementation, monitoring and evaluation.</li><li>▪ Systems approaches to addressing physical inactivity.</li></ul></li><li>▪ <b>Current Work</b></li></ul> <p>Prof. Woods is vice co-ordinator of a <i>Joint Programme Initiative, Healthy Diet for a Healthy Life</i>; the <b>Policy Evaluation Network</b> (<a href="https://www.jpi-pen.eu/">https://www.jpi-pen.eu/</a>). This network of 28 research groups across Europe is examining the impact of public policy on improving healthy eating, physical activity and reducing sedentary behaviour. Catherine is leading on the development of the Physical Activity Environment Policy Index (PA-EPI)&gt;.</p> <p>The <b>I-PARC project</b> (Irish Physical Activity Research Collaboration) jointly led by Prof. Woods and Dr. Fiona Mansergh (Department of Health, Healthy Ireland), will bring together researchers, policy makers and practitioners from PA in order to develop a systematic method for identifying examples of effective PA interventions and effective implementation strategies (<a href="https://i-parc.ie/">https://i-parc.ie/</a>).</p>
<p>Dr. Janas Harrington</p>  <p><a href="mailto:j.harrington@ucc.ie">j.harrington@ucc.ie</a> @janasharrington</p>	<p>SIG Co-Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ the upstream determinants of population diets</li><li>▪ the association between diet patterns and chronic disease.</li><li>▪ of national physical activity policies.</li><li>▪ Food and nutrition policy implementation, monitoring and evaluation.</li><li>▪ Systems approaches to addressing physical inactivity.</li></ul></li><li>▪ <b>Current Work</b></li></ul> <p>I am currently focusing on the impact of Government food policies on the healthiness of food environments and identification of best practice for developing sustainable food-based dietary guidelines.</p>

	<p>I am a work package leader for a EU-funded Policy Evaluation Network evaluating the effectiveness of existing policies for lifestyle interventions (<a href="https://www.jpi-pen.eu/">https://www.jpi-pen.eu/</a>). I published the first Irish Food Environment Policy Index benchmarking the Irish food environments against international best practice.</p> <p>At National level, I am a member of the Healthy Eating Sub-group and the Food Re-formulation subgroup of the Obesity Policy Implementation Oversight Group, convened by the Department of Health. I am Chair of the Cork Food Policy Council. My key aim in this position is to support the work of the Food Policy Council to work and to lead the development and implementation of a Food Strategy for Cork City.</p>
<p>Dr Sarah Forberger</p>  <p><a href="mailto:forberger@leibniz-bips.de">forberger@leibniz-bips.de</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Implementation/Policy Nexus</b></li> <li>▪ Combination of individual intervention and contextual approaches to foster healthy lifestyles</li> <li>▪ Evidence syntheses</li> <li>▪ Policy Analysis</li> <li>▪ <b>Current Work</b></li> </ul> <p>My research focuses on implementation research with a specific emphasis on system/setting-intervention interaction and the role of contextual factors, as well as the application of behavioural insights approaches (nudging) in the field of nutrition, physical activity promotion and substance use. I combine individual intervention to change behaviour with research on how to shape the environment and other critical external influences to make it easy for people to enjoy a healthy life.</p>
<p>Dr Liam Kelly</p>  <p><a href="mailto:Liam.Kelly@ul.ie">Liam.Kelly@ul.ie</a> @liamkellyIRL</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest</b></li> <li>▪ Physical activity policy implementation, monitoring and evaluation</li> <li>▪ Physical Activity Promotion</li> <li>▪ Community-based Physical Activity Interventions</li> <li>▪ Men's Health</li> <li>▪ <b>Current Work</b></li> </ul> <p>I am currently working as the programme manager of the Physical Activity for Health Research Cluster at the University of Limerick.</p> <p>Prior to commencing my current role, I was a Post-Doctoral Researcher at the University of Limerick in the area of Physical Activity (PA) and Health Policy; Policy Evaluation Network (PEN), where I acted as project manager for WP1 Task 1.2. tasked with leading on the development of a PA Policy Environment Index (PA-EPI) – a monitoring framework to assess government policies and actions for creating a</p>

	<p>healthy PA environment. I was also chair of the PEN Early Careers Network for the duration of the project.</p> <p>I graduated from the National Centre for Men's Health at IT Carlow, Ireland. The focus of my PhD was an evaluation of a community-based PA programme targeted at previously inactive men; 'Men on the Move'.</p>
<p>Dr. Nicole R. den Braver</p>  <p><a href="mailto:n.denbraver@amsterdamumc.nl">n.denbraver@amsterdamumc.nl</a> @NdenBraver</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Disentangling impact of built environments on lifestyle and health outcomes</li> <li>▪ Use novel methods to assess impact and causation</li> <li>▪ Complex systems</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ <b>Current Work</b> <p>Nicole is a postdoctoral researcher and epidemiologist at the department of Epidemiology &amp; Data Science at the Amsterdam University Medical Centres. She currently works in the Policy Evaluation Network on the development of the Physical Activity Environment Policy Index, and in the Exposome-NL consortium on multiple environmental determinants of lifestyle behavior and chronic disease.</p> </li> </ul>
<p>Dr. Jack Benton</p>  <p><a href="mailto:jack.benton@manchester.ac.uk">jack.benton@manchester.ac.uk</a> @jacksbenton</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Understanding how built environments influence physical activity.</li> <li>▪ Physical activity measurement and evaluation.</li> <li>▪ Using natural experimental methods to evaluate 'real-world' interventions.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ <b>Current Work</b> <p>I am a Research Fellow within the School of Health Sciences at the University of Manchester, having recently been awarded a Wellcome Trust Fellowship. I am currently developing novel camera-based observation methods to measure physical activity and other wellbeing-related behaviours in urban environments.</p> <p>I work with researchers, policy makers and developers across disciplines and sectors to conduct natural experimental research on the effects of real-world environmental interventions on physical activity. I am involved in multiple natural experimental research collaborations, for example, the EU Horizon 2020 funded GrowGreen project to evaluate the health and wellbeing impacts of nature-based solutions in cities across Europe and China (<a href="https://growgreenproject.eu/">https://growgreenproject.eu/</a>).</p> <p>I am a member of the IJBNPA Editorial board (<a href="https://ijbnpa.biomedcentral.com/about/editorial-board">https://ijbnpa.biomedcentral.com/about/editorial-board</a>),</p> </li> </ul>

	where I support the publication of high-quality physical activity-environment research.
<p>Mr Kevin Volf</p>  <p><a href="mailto:Kevin.volf@ul.ie">Kevin.volf@ul.ie</a> @kevin_volf</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Using reviews studies to synthesis evidence</li> <li>▪ Using performance indicators to perform cross country comparisons</li> <li>▪ Policy benchmarking</li> <li>▪ Assessing physical activity policy implementation</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ <b>Current Work</b></li> </ul> <p>I am carrying out my doctoral studies at the University of Limerick, Department of Physical Education and Sport Sciences. Part of the Policy Evaluation Network (<a href="https://www.jpi-pen.eu/">https://www.jpi-pen.eu/</a>), my research focuses on the development of the physical activity environment policy index (PA-EPI).</p> <p>As part of the development of the PA-EPI I have been involved in studies utilising systematic review methods and online consultations to gather and synthesis policy-relevant information. Most recently, I have conducted the first study utilising the PA-EPI - to assess physical activity policy implementation in Ireland. I am presently working on protocol document which will provide guidance to other researchers hoping to perform assessments utilising the PA-EPI.</p>
<p>Laura Balis</p>  <p><a href="mailto:lbalis@centerfornutrition.org">lbalis@centerfornutrition.org</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Policy/Environment Issue of Expertise/Interest</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Implementation strategies to support the uptake of built environment approaches in community settings</li> <li>▪ Adaptation and dissemination of national physical activity guidelines</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ <b>Current Work</b></li> </ul> <p>My area of research aims to speed the translation of effective programs to community settings. Through a participatory approach, I strive to simultaneously meet community partners' needs while advancing implementation science. My research thus far has focused on building community organizations' capacity to implement evidence-based physical activity interventions, with a current focus on 1) identifying and testing implementation strategies to improve the uptake of policy and environment-level interventions and 2) developing a compilation of community-specific implementation strategies.</p>