|  |
| --- |
| **Title of Research Presentation**  A right to thrive: Voices of marginalised youth and the implications for healthy cities |
| **Background/Objectives**  Globally, the intersection of social determinants of health and ecosystem wellbeing have highlighted the need for urban transformation that “multisolves” for climate change, social and health equity. The ‘Shaping Cities for Youth’ project explored the experiences and perceptions of place, mobility and boundaries of urban space for marginalised rangatahi/youth living in Auckland and Christchurch in order to understand the implications for young people's perceived health and wellbeing, and the impact upon employment, education and training.  **Methods**  This research draws from emancipatory and decolonising theories that recognise the right of rangatahi/youth to shape their environments. Use of participatory methods, which diminish inherent power imbalance in research were paramount. Peer Interviewers refined the interview guide, collected data and contributed to analysis.  Three forms of data collection were used – semi-structured in-depth interviews, participatory mapping, and modified photovoice.  Participants were selected from Auckland (Papakura and Ranui/Massey West), and Christchurch (Aranui and Hornby), were between the ages of 15 and 24, and had experience being ‘NEET’ (not in education, employment or training).  **Results**  Fifty-three participants took part across the four locations, generating 48 in-depth interviews, 106 maps and 98 photographs. Participatory analysis was conducted in collaboration with the Peer Interviewers and emergent themes were identified. I will be presenting results of critical thematic analysis and spatial analysis in GIS (currently underway).  **Discussion**  This research contributes to the understanding of spatial and mobility needs of young people who have experienced what it is like to be ‘NEET’. It situates the experiences of these rangatahi/youth in the context of the wider concerns of climate change and the challenges facing cities and their inhabitants. In particular, this research expands upon our understanding of the interplay between locational disadvantage and barriers to mobility, and the impact this has on the wellbeing of youth who are or have been disengaged from education, employment and training. These findings have implications for improving transport and urban planning policy to empower urban youth to thrive in New Zealand and beyond.  **Keywords**  NEET, youth, participatory, mobility, health, wellbeing, place |