



School for Public Health Research @ LSHTM (SPHR@L)

**SPHR@L Seminar Series: 2013-2014**

A talk by **Matt Egan** from The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> February 2014, 12:45-2:00pm,

Mary Seacole Room, LSHTM, 15-17 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9SH

Abstract

**'Can neighbourhood demolition really be a low impact public health intervention? Complex findings from a UK natural experiment evaluation (GoWell)'**

There is a common policy assumption that urban regeneration should benefit public health. However, major regeneration strategies sometimes involve neighbourhood clearances and demolition. Such interventions have long been criticised for disrupting people's lives, destroying communities and breaking up supportive social networks. Furthermore, large scale demolition programmes can take years to complete prolonging many residents' exposure to deteriorating residential environments as they wait to be rehoused.

It is therefore surprising that a study of demolition sites in Glasgow has found that remaining in neighbourhoods undergoing demolition does not seem to adversely affect residents' health. This seminar explores possible methodological and theoretical explanations for this surprising finding. In doing so, I will highlight some of the challenges involved in interpreting multiple findings from a mixed methods evaluation of a complex social intervention.

*GoWell is a research and learning programme that aims to investigate the impact of investment in housing, regeneration and neighbourhood renewal on the health and wellbeing of individuals, families and communities over a ten-year period. The programme aims to establish the nature and extent of these impacts, to learn about the relative effectiveness of different approaches, and to inform policy and practice in Scotland and beyond.*

*Matt Egan is a Senior Lecturer at LSHTM. He previously worked as a senior investigator scientist at MRC/CSO Social and Public Health Sciences Unit, University of Glasgow.*