**Associate Professor Melanie Davern**

**Current academic employment and positions**

*Director of Australia Urban Observatory, RMIT University*

*Vice Chancellor’s Senior Research Fellow, RMIT University*

*Co-Lead Health, Place and Society Research Program, Centre for Urban Research, RMIT University*

*Honorary Senior Research Fellow, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health, University of Melbourne*

*Assoc/Prof Davern is a public health and urban planning researcher with long standing interest and knowledge in the development of social, economic and environmental indicators of individual and community wellbeing. A/Prof Davern has worked extensively across major research projects assembling, manipulating and combining complex datasets illuminating social determinants of health, public health outcomes and urban planning and design. A/Prof Davern is the Director of the* [*Australian Urban Observatory*](https://auo.org.au/) *(auo.org.au) which is the focus of her Vice Chancellor’s Research Fellowship at the Centre for Urban Research measuring, mapping and translating research knowledge on liveability across the 21 largest cities of Australia at the neighbourhood level.*

**Major Prizes, Medals and Honours (up to five)**

*2021, Excellence in Planning Research awarded by the Planning Institute of Australia*

*2020, Industry Media Star, RMIT University.*

*2020, Research Excellence Engagement Award, School of Global Urban and Social Studies, RMIT University.*

*2019, Cutting Edge Research and Teaching Award provided to the Healthy Liveable Cities Group, awarded by the Planning Institute of Australia.*

*2019, RMIT Research Team Award for the Centre of Urban Research. Awarded by RMIT University.*

*2018, Victorian Public Healthcare Awards, Highly Commended for Supporting Healthy Populations, Cardinia Shire Council Partnership. Awarded by the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services.*

***RESEARCH GRANTS AND CONTRACTS (2016 onwards)***

*Over the past 5 years I have been awarded $2.79M in funding from competitive grants including funding from NHMRC, ARC, government, and philanthropy. I am also an Associate Investigator on an NHMRC Centre for Research Excellence in Disability and Health ($2.5M, 2016-2021) and CI on 2 NHMRC Ideas Grants worth $2.75M currently under review. I am also a Chief Investigator of 2 RMIT grants of $631,137 and $118,229 awarded in 2018 and 2019.*

*Since 2017, I have received over $1M of applied government (all tiers) and industry research.*

***Selected Grants***

1. *Moloney, S.,* ***Davern, M.,*** *Gooder, H., Hewitt, T., Green, R., McShane, I., De Silva, A. & Alderton, A. (2021-2022). What works for place-based approaches in Victoria. Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions, $400,000.*
2. *Bekessy S., Garrard, G.* ***& Davern, M****. (2020-2024). Biodiversity sensitive urban design: from theory to practice. Ian Potter Foundation, $600,000.*
3. *Barr, S., Smith, M., Mengersen, K.,* ***Davern, M****., McNamara, M. (2021-2023). Australian Urban Heat Indicators. National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy, $601,000.*
4. *Cleland, V., Timperio, A., Jose, K. &* ***Davern, M.*** *(2020).**Developing benchmarks and a smart online tool for assessing walkability in regional and rural communities: Supporting rural Australians to live healthy, active lives. NHMRC Medical Research Future Fund, University of Tasmania, $579,968.*
5. *Gunn, L., Zapata-Diomedi, B.,* ***Davern, M.****, De Gruyter, C. & Both, A. (2019). Including health impacts in transport modelling and economic appraisal: research impact and translation. RMIT University, $118,229.*
6. *Badland, H.,* ***Davern, M.****, Nivitipol, K., Alderton, H., Higgs, C.& Ryan, E. (2018). Measuring, Monitoring, And Translating Liveability Through The Sustainable Development Goals To Inform Policy And Planning In Bangkok. Victorian Health Promotion Foundation, $199,791.*
7. *Goodman, R., Phelan, K., Taylor, E., Nicholls, L., Gunn, L.,* ***Davern, M.****, Dalton, T., Bird, S., Motero, K., Rowley, S., Mellor, C., Hurley, J., Buxton, M., Johnson, M., Cassidy, P., Balci, K., Ward, N., Menzies, S., Murray, L., Black, J., Legare, E., Strangward, J. & Oxlade, S. (2018-2021). Early delivery of equitable and healthy transport options in new suburbs: Critical reforms and tools. RMIT University, $631,137.*
8. *Livesley, S., Fuller, R.,* ***Davern, M.,*** *Kendal, D., Van der Ree, R., Hochuli, D. & Threlfall, C. (2016-2020). Managing urban trees for people and wildlife. ARC Linkage #LP160100780, $320,000.*

***Selected Publications***

1. Kelly, D., **Davern, M**., Farahani, L., Higgs, C. & Maller, C. (2021). Urban greening for health and wellbeing in low-income communities: A baseline study in Melbourne, Australia. Cities, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cities.2021.103442.
2. **Davern, M.,** Winterton, R., Brasher, K., & Woolcock, G. (2020). How Can the Lived Environment Support Healthy Ageing? A Spatial Indicators Framework for the Assessment of Age-Friendly Communities. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, *17*(20), 7685. https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph17207685
3. Gunn, L., Kroen, A., De Gruyter, C., Higgs, C., Saghapour, T., **Davern, M. (2020).** Early delivery of equitable and healthy transport options in new suburbs: policy, place and people. *Journal of Transport and Health*. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jth.2020.100963
4. Alderton, A., **Davern, M.,** Nitvimol, K., Butterworth, I., Higgs, C., Ryan, E., & Badland, H. (2019). What is the meaning of urban liveability for a city in a low-to-middle-income country? Contextualising liveability for Bangkok, Thailand. *Globalization and Health, 15*(1), 51. doi:10.1186/s12992-019-0484-8
5. Mavoa, S., **Davern, M.,** Breed, M., & Hahs, A. (2019). Higher levels of greenness and biodiversity associate with greater subjective wellbeing in adults living in Melbourne, Australia. Health & Place, 57, 321-329.
6. Cui, Y., Christian, H., Russell, M. & **Davern, M.** (2019). Longitudinal evidence of the impact of dog ownership and dog walking on health. *American Journal of Public Health*, https://doi.org/10.1093/pubmed/fdz094
7. Browne, G.R., **Davern, M.** & Giles-Corti, B. (2019). ‘Punching above their weight’: a qualitative examination of local governments’ organizational efficacy to improve the social determinants of health. *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health,*43(1), 81-87.
8. Nathan, A., Villanueva, K., Rozek, J., **Davern, M.**, Gunn, L., Trapp, G., Boulange, C. & Christian, H. (2018). The Role of the Built Environment on Health Across the Life Course: A Call for CollaborACTION. *American Journal of Health Promotion,* 32(6), 1460-1468.
9. **Davern, M.**, Gunn, L., Whitzman, C., Higgs, C., Giles-Corti, B., Simons, K., Villenaueva, K., Mavoa, S., Roberts, R. & Badland, H. (2018). Using spatial measures to test a conceptual model of social infrastructure that supports health and wellbeing. *Cities & Health*, March 13, 1-16.

**Research Quality**

* Peer Reviewed Journal Articles: (*number = 40*), *h-index: 20, since 2015= 15; i10-index: 33, since 2015 =25.*
* Board Member Community Indicators Consortium, USA
* Special Editor Sustainability 2018
* Special Editor International Journal of Community Wellbeing 2019
* Peer review for over 16 public health and urban planning journals