

# London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

Improving Health Worldwide

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# Big data in environmental epidemiology

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# intended learning outcomes

by the end of this session, you will be able to:

1. Critically define big data
2. Describe some implications and applications of big data in public health and epidemiology
3. Evaluate sources of big health and environmental data
4. Explain why and how environmental and health data are linked

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- and technological developments
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- applications in public health and research
- OpenSAFELY
- big health data
- big environmental data\*
- how do big health and environmental data .synerg[synergize]
- from data to exposure
- A Satellite-Based Spatio-Temporal Machine Learning Model to Reconstruct Daily PM2.5 Concentrations across Great Britain [5]
- London Hybrid Exposure Model: Improving Human Exposure Estimates to NO2 and PM2.5 in an Urban Setting [4]
- we have learned to
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# London Hybrid Exposure Model: Improving Human Exposure Estimates to NO<sub>2</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> in an Urban Setting [4]

## residential vs modelled exposure

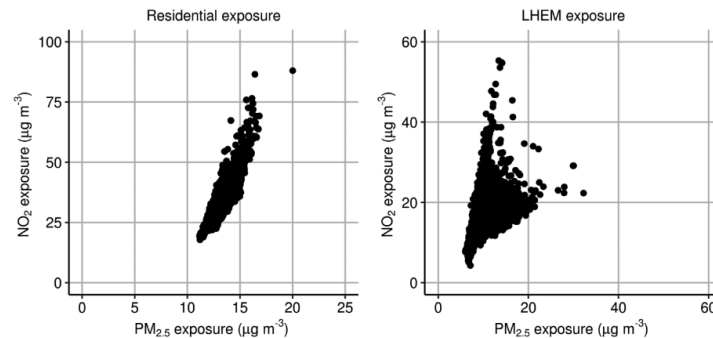


Figure 4. Scatter plots of NO<sub>2</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> exposure outdoors at the residential address (left) ( $R = 0.90$ ) and using the LHEM (right).

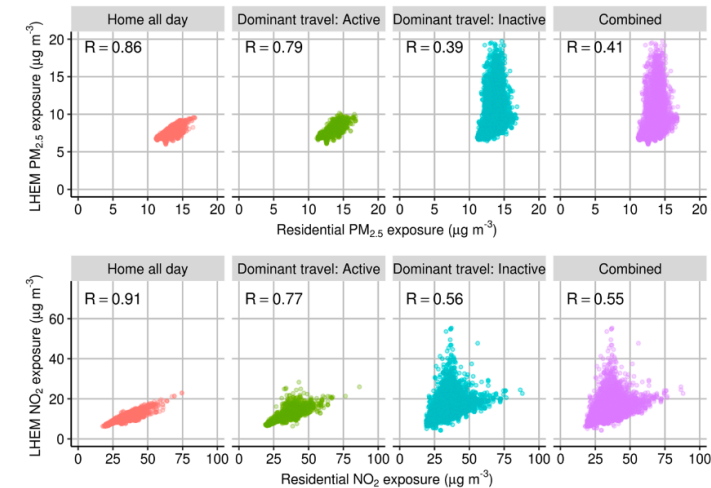
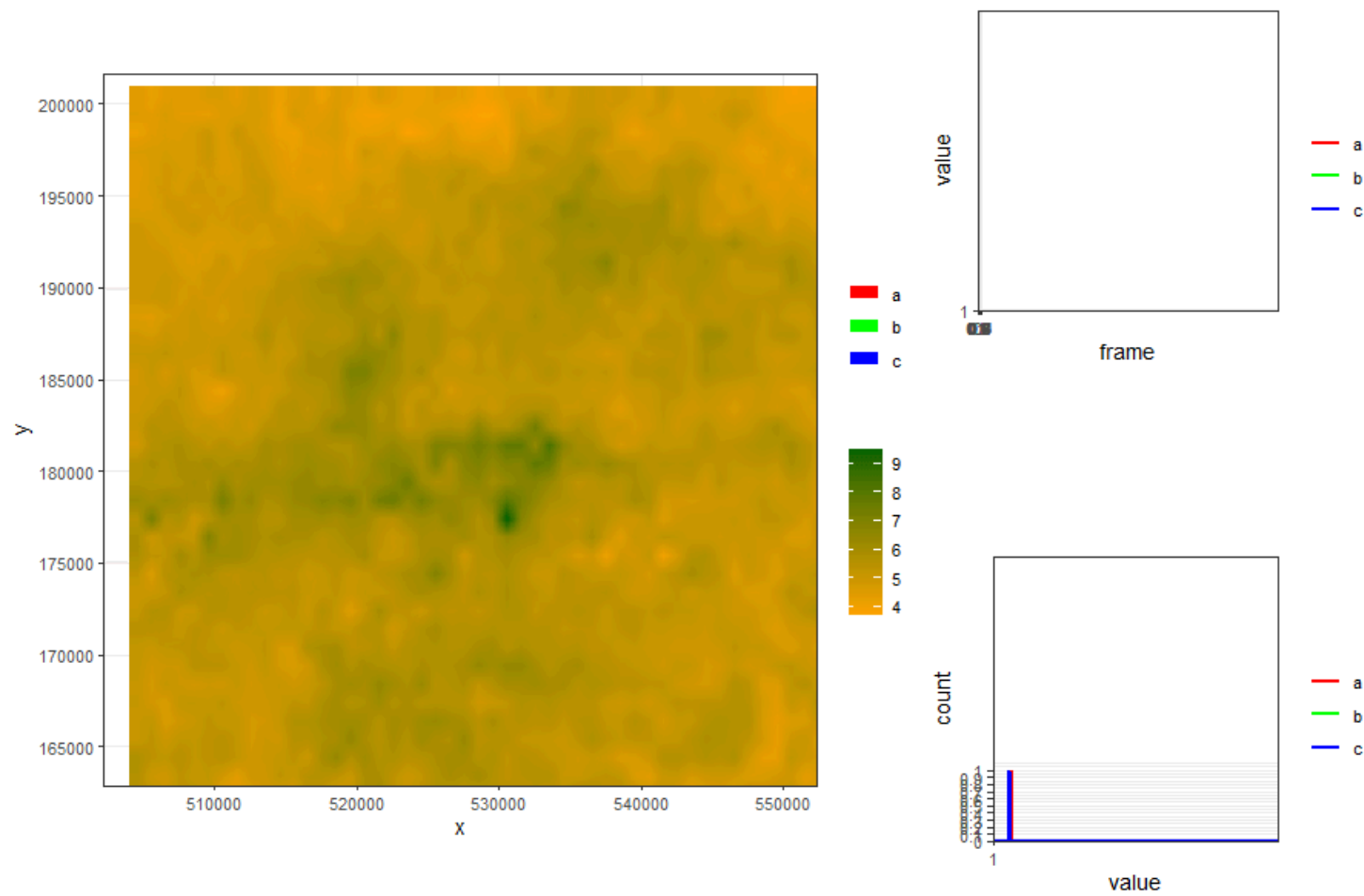


Figure 3. Scatter plots of NO<sub>2</sub> (bottom) and PM<sub>2.5</sub> (top) LHEM exposure versus exposure at the residential address - demonstrating the relative strength of the relationship between those who undertake active travel (cycle and walk), those that stay at home, and those who undertake inactive travel (car, motorcycle, bus, train, and tube).



# SILAM v.5.7

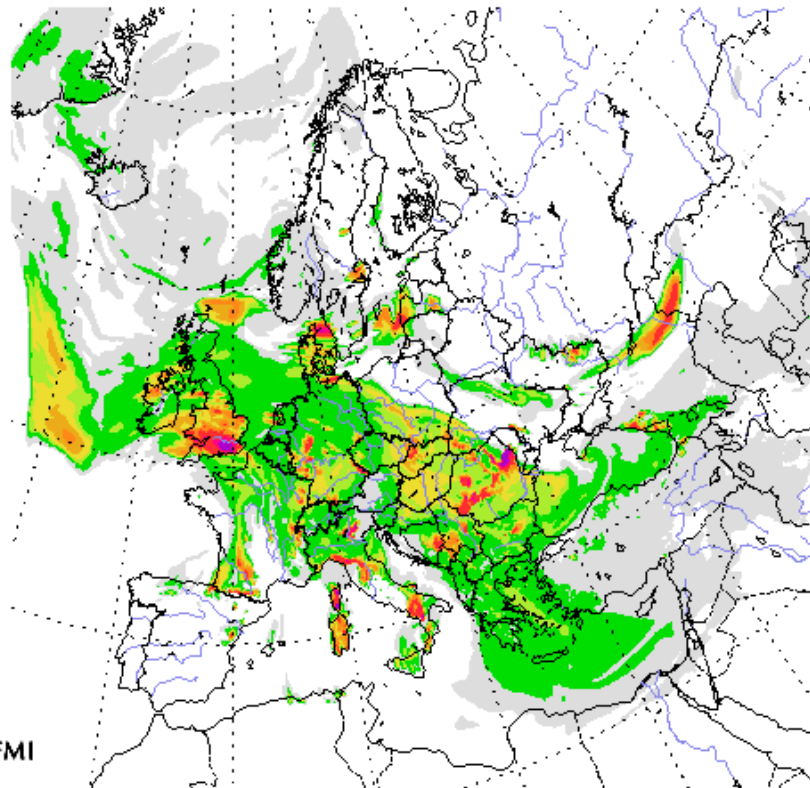


FINNISH METEOROLOGICAL INSTITUTE (<http://en.ilmatieteenlaitos.fi/>)

System for Integrated modeLLing of Atmospheric  
coMposition

☁ Region: europe

SILAM model forecast: alder pollen  
(#/m3) 14Z09MAR2024



☰ Control panel

Pollen taxon:

Alder

Birch

Grass

Olive

Ragweed

Mugwort

Pollen Index

Allergy Risk

Region:

Europe

Hour: -58



OpenSAFELY query (ehrQL) reliability testing using generative artificial intelligence!



# we have learned to

1. Critically define big data as **big data processes**
2. Describe some implications and applications of big data in public health and epidemiology
  - classical (**measurement error, confounding**) challenges
  - new (**comprehensive health data, real-time action**) opportunities
3. Evaluate sources of big health and environmental data
  - health **genetic data, EHRs, wearable sensors**
  - environment **reanalyses, satellite, ground sensors**
4. Explain why and how environmental and health data are linked
  - depends on **nature of health data** and **resolution of environmental data**

end of part 1

# references

- [1] T. R. Gadekallu, Q. Pham, T. Huynh-The, et al. *Federated Learning for Big Data: A Survey on Opportunities, Applications, and Future Directions*. En. 2021.
- [2] C. Tonne, X. Basagaa, B. Chaix, et al. "New frontiers for environmental epidemiology in a changing world". In: *Environment International* 104 (Jul. 2017), pp. 155-162. ISSN: 0160-4120. DOI: [10.1016/j.envint.2017.04.003](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envint.2017.04.003). URL: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0160412017301459> (visited on 02/15/2024).
- [3] J. Vanoli, M. N. Mistry, A. De La Cruz Libardi, et al. "Reconstructing individual-level exposures in cohort analyses of environmental risks: an example with the UK Biobank". En. In: *Journal of Exposure Science & Environmental Epidemiology* (Jan. 2024). ISSN: 1559-0631, 1559-064X. DOI: [10.1038/s41370-023-00635-w](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41370-023-00635-w). URL: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41370-023-00635-w> (visited on 03/10/2024).
- [4] J. D. Smith, C. Mitsakou, N. Kitwiroon, et al. "London Hybrid Exposure Model: Improving Human Exposure Estimates to NO<sub>2</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> in an Urban Setting". En. In: *Environmental Science & Technology* 50.21 (Nov. 2016), pp. 11760-11768. ISSN: 0013-936X, 1520-5851. DOI: [10.1021/acs.est.6b01817](https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.est.6b01817). URL: <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.est.6b01817> (visited on 02/02/2023).

# references

[5] R. Schneider, A. Vicedo-Cabrera, F. Sera, et al. "A Satellite-Based Spatio-Temporal Machine Learning Model to Reconstruct Daily PM2.5 Concentrations across Great Britain". En. In: *Remote Sensing* 12.22 (Nov. 2020), p. 3803. ISSN: 2072-4292. DOI: [10.3390/rs12223803](https://doi.org/10.3390/rs12223803). URL: <https://www.mdpi.com/2072-4292/12/22/3803> (visited on 02/03/2022).

Presentation made with **xaringan** in RStudio.

# suggestions?

- DASH 26th March opening event
- hundreds of hours of free and open resources
- a lot of local and global circumstances to improve

