

Robert Smith

PHD CANDIDATE · PUBLIC HEALTH, ECONOMICS & DECISION SCIENCE
School of Health and Related Research (ScHARR), University of Sheffield
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Health Economist currently funded by a Wellcome Trust PhD scholarship in Public Health Economics and Decision Science. Focused on the application of health economics and data science methods to public health problems.

Education

PhD candidate in Public Health, Economics & Decision Science *Sheffield, United Kingdom*
School of Health and Related Research (ScHARR), University of Sheffield 09/2018–08/2022
Four-year Phd at the Wellcome Trust funded Doctoral Training Centre for Public Health, Economics and Decision Science.
PhD topic: Health economic evaluation of population level physical activity interventions
Supervisors: Elizabeth Goyder, Hazel Squires

MSc in Applied Economics *Nottingham, United Kingdom*
School of Economics, University of Nottingham 09/2012–08/2013
Funded by a scholarship for exceptional undergraduate dissertation.

BA (Hons) in Economics *Nottingham, United Kingdom*
School of Economics, University of Nottingham 09/2009–07/2012
Awarded MSc scholarship based on dissertation (top 3 in class)

Experience

Partner (Analyst) *Sheffield, United Kingdom*
Dark Peak Analytics 04/2019–ongoing
Collaboration with Dr Paul Schneider providing expertise in health economics, data science and public health. Varied projects primarily using R to create and adapt health economic models and provide user-interfaces to aid decision making.

Collaborating Researcher *Sheffield, United Kingdom*
parkrun 09/2018–ongoing
Identifying the determinants of access to and participation in parkrun events in England, and attempting to maximize the public health potential of parkrun **Collaborators:** Steve Haake, Chrissie Wellington.

Public Health Economist (Visiting Researcher) *Zurich, Switzerland*
World Health Organisation Physical Activity Unit 07/2018–08/2018
Initiated and led a research project developing the methods used in the WHO Europe's Health Economic Assessment Tool for walking and cycling. Identified a new approach to estimating the monetary benefit of increased population physical activity. Submitted report to steering committee, publication currently out for review. **Advisors:** Sonja Kahlmeier, Thomas Gotschi.

Health Economist *Newcastle, United Kingdom*
Newcastle University 04/2016–10/2016
I was responsible for the development of a large scale contingent valuation exercise, the results of which are to be used to feed into a resource allocation priority setting exercise for NHS England Dentistry.

Research Assistant (Health Services Research)

University of Nottingham Business School

Nottingham, United Kingdom

06/2014–04/2016

Health economist primarily focused on health services research, in particular the GP Access Scheme. Results of the evaluation were presented to NHS England and the House of Commons Health Select Committee

Associate, Financial Audit

Price WaterhouseCoopers (PwC)

East Midlands, United Kingdom

10/2013–08/2014

Associate in the Financial Audit department working with a wide variety of clients in the UK, including Experian, Molson Coors and Gala. Experience working with CFOs in a variety of sectors across the midlands region.

Research Output

Journal Articles

Smith R., Schneider PP, Making health economic models Shiny: A tutorial. Wellcome Open Res 2020, 5:69 <https://doi.org/10.12688/wellcomeopenres.15807.1>

Smith R, Schneider P, Bullas A et al. Does ethnic density influence community participation in mass participation physical activity events? The case of parkrun in England. Wellcome Open Res 2020, 5:9. <https://doi.org/10.12688/wellcomeopenres.15657.1>

Vernazza, C., Carr, K., Gray, J., Holmes, R., Exley, C., Wildman, J., Smith, R., Donaldson, C. Resource allocation in NHS dentistry: recognition of societal preferences (RAINDROP): study protocol. BMC Health Serv Res 18, 487 (2018). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12913-018-3302-8>

Submitted/Preprints

Submitted paper Smith, R., Thomas, C., Squires, H., Gotschi, T., Kahlmeier, S., Goyder, E. Impact of different valuation approaches in health economic assessments of transport-related physical activity: a case study using the HEAT. (Submitted to Journal of Transport and Health).

Submitted paper Carr, K., Donaldson, C., Wildman, J., Smith, R. and Vernazza, C. An examination of consistency in the incremental approach to willingness to pay: evidence using societal values for NHS dental services. (Submitted to Medical Decision Making).

Submitted paper Carr, K., Donaldson, C., Wildman, J., Smith, R., Vernazza, C. Exploration of the incremental willingness to pay using societal dental interventions and a new approach to £0 values (Submitted to Health Economics).

Preprint Schneider PP, Smith RA, Bullas AM, Bayley T, Haake SSJ, Brennan A, Goyder E. Where should new parkrun events be located? Modelling the potential impact of 200 new events on socio-economic inequalities in access and participation. MedRxiv. 2019. <https://doi.org/10.1101/19004143>.

Other

Website Schneider PP, Smith RA, Bullas AM, Bayley T, Haake SSJ, Brennan A, Goyder E. Identifying Optimal Locations for Maximising Access to parkun – Interactive online map. 2019. <http://iol-map.shef.ac.uk/>.

For a full list of presentations and publications see LinkedIn

Skills

Programming R, R-Studio, Simul8, Git/Github, Excel VBA, SPSS, Stata

Dissemination Markdown, Latex, HTML CSS, Shiny, Shiny Server

Teaching R for Health Economists, Discrete Event Simulation, Epidemiology, Economics

Languages English (fluent), French (basic)