

Project(s) summary for EPID 499

There are opportunities in social epidemiology of aging research for EPID 499 students under supervision of Dr. Afshin Vafaei, an Adjunct Associate Professor at the Department of Public Health Sciences and a researcher affiliated with the International Mobility in Aging study, IMIAS (<http://www.imias.ufrn.br/>).

IMIAS is a population-based epidemiologic longitudinal study conducted in five sites: Tirana (Albania), Natal (Brazil), Manizales (Colombia), Kingston (Ontario, Canada) and Saint-Hyacinthe (Quebec, Canada). Following diverse ways of living, these cities represent societies which vary in their social structure and gender equality. The core objective of IMIAS is to explore the effects of social, cultural, and lifecourse factors on the trajectories of mobility decline and other chronic conditions in old age with a focus on gender inequities.

IMIAS data consist of a wide range of social and environmental exposures that allow for evaluation of a variety of research questions. A few examples include:

- 1) Relationship between lifecourse exposure to violence and depression in older adults.
- 2) Differences in the patterns of multimorbidity between Canada and Latin America.
- 3) Which social factors can decrease the gender gap in mobility in old age?

IMIAS is an active research program and students can benefit from consultation with researchers from other sites who have specific content knowledge in particular contexts.

Dr. Vafaei is also a collaborator in another research conducted in a low-income community in Northeast of Brazil. The aim of that smaller project is to examine the influence of pregnancy related exposures on the trajectories of mobility in middle-aged women.

For more information, please contact Dr. Vafaei: av19@queensu.ca

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