

SUSAN ELLIOTT
CAG Award for Scholarly Distinction in
Geography

For three decades, Susan has worked tirelessly and effectively to put geography on the health and health services map across Canada and the world through a combination of peer-reviewed research, representations of health geography on federal advisory committees, advocacy and outreach work, and training of the next generation of health geography researchers. She is one of Canada's top geographers by all traditional scholarly metrics; beyond this, her focus on science-policy bridging and knowledge mobilization has contributed to the relevance of geography as an avenue of inquiry in decision-making.



Susan's impressive (albeit abridged to meet nomination requirements) Curriculum Vitae is attached. The Scopus Database, generally acknowledged to be the largest database of peer-reviewed literature, has indexed 146 of her publications since 1989. These have collectively garnered 2527 citations to date, and have earned her an impressive h-index of 30. Beyond peer-reviewed contributions, Google Scholar tracks impact both in academic and outreach literature, and reports 226 indexed contributions with a collective 5094 citations and an h-index of 40. These publication and citation metrics are particularly impressive given Susan's two terms as Dean, first in the Faculty of Social Sciences at McMaster University (2003-2008) and, more recently, in the Faculty of Applied Health Sciences at the University of Waterloo (2010-2014). Susan's continued output and impact even during these administrative terms is a testament to her commitment to her research.

Susan has demonstrated a commitment to publishing in high quality peer reviewed venues, as is evident by her CV. Less evident is that many of her contributions require a skill geographers are particularly adept at – truly transdisciplinary work, with a global lens. For example, she has frequently worked with basic and clinical scientists on major chronic and public health problems such as food allergy and lupus (see, for instance, her work with the AllerGen Network of Centres of Excellence, where she is developing a national food allergy strategy; and her appointment to the Federal Food Expert Advisory Committee). She is also one of the senior editors for *Social Science and Medicine* (2011 – present), the most frequently cited social science journal in the world.

Susan's work has consistently involved Canadian and international graduate students. She currently supervises nine PhD students, including four whom she was able to bring to Waterloo as part of funding she was awarded through the prestigious Queen Elizabeth Scholars program.

Susan follows a lab approach in her supervision, ensuring that graduate students are involved in every aspect of her research program (see <https://uwaterloo.ca/geographies-of-health-in-place/>).

Previous graduate students have gone on to positions in government and the academy; for example :

- Dr. Sarah Wakefield, Professor, Geography, University of Toronto
- Dr. Chantelle Richmond, Associate Professor, Geography, Western University
- Dr. Dan Harrington, Manager, Health Promotion, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention, Public Health Ontario
- Dr. Kate Mulligan, Senior Scientist, Toronto Public Health
- Dr. Kerry Robinson, Senior Policy Analyst, Public Health Agency of Canada
- Dr. Godwin Djietror, Assistant Professor, Geography, Marshall University
- Dr. Eric Crighton, Associate Professor, Geography, University of Ottawa
- Dr. Michelle Vine, Lead Evaluation Specialist, Public Health Ontario

Finally, Susan has used her research profile and skills in her volunteer activities. She is currently vice-chair of the board of NGO H2O4All (<http://h2o4all.org/>), an NGO committed to bringing safe water to global communities and a Board member at ROTOM (<http://reachone-touchone.org/>), whose work focuses on supporting disadvantaged elderly persons in Africa.

In summary, Susan's contributions to scholarship and geography have been exemplary.