

## Special Issue

# Environmental Racism, Digital Infrastructure, and the Geography of Exposure: Public Health in the Data-Driven Era

### Message from the Guest Editors

The rapid expansion of artificial intelligence and digital infrastructure has revived long-standing questions about environmental justice, public health, and the unequal distribution of environmental risk. While data centers, cloud computing, and AI systems are often framed as novel technological developments, the social and spatial patterns that govern where these infrastructures are built—and who bears their health and environmental costs—are deeply historical.

Environmental racism did not begin with algorithms. It emerged through decades of zoning decisions, industrial siting practices, regulatory neglect, and political choices that concentrated environmental hazards in racially and economically marginalized communities. Large-scale digital infrastructure requires extraordinary amounts of electricity, water, and land and is increasingly sited in regions characterized by weak regulation, low land costs, and limited political power. These developments carry direct and indirect public health implications, including air and water pollution, energy insecurity, occupational exposures, and cumulative environmental burden.

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### Deadline for manuscript submissions

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### Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Addressing the environmental and public health challenges requires engagement and collaboration among clinicians and public health researchers. Scientific discoveries and advances in this research field play a critical role in providing a rational basis for informed decision-making toward control and prevention of human diseases, especially the illnesses that are induced from environmental exposure to health hazards.

*IJERPH* provides a forum for discussion of discoveries and knowledge in these multidisciplinary fields. Please consider publishing your research in this high quality peer-reviewed journal.

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