

Title: **Realistic accessibility modelling for better health system planning**

Prof. Nicolas Ray, University of Geneva, Switzerland

Abstract:

Access to healthcare remains a critical challenge in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), where geographical barriers often prevent populations from receiving timely care. This presentation will highlight the critical role of realistic accessibility modeling in supporting informed health service planning in LMICs. We will first showcase several use cases in sub-Saharan Africa where optimization of population coverage of different health services was done using the open-source software AccessMod. We will then discuss several challenges that still limit the quality and accuracy of these approaches, notably issues pertaining to using (big) open data services on travel constraints, the incorporation of dynamic changes in population distribution, and the consideration of the urban-rural continuum.