

apps, tweets and bytes

Public Health in
the Digital Age

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2011/2012 Seminar Series

Use and Challenges of Health Research Across Disciplines Using Social and Digital Media

February 13, 2012, 12:00 - 1:30pm

Terrace Room, Claudia Cohen Hall, 249 South 36th Street | Lunch will be provided

Featuring:

Amy L. Gonzales, PhD

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health and Society Scholar,
University of Pennsylvania

The Effects of Social Media Use on Mental and Physical Health

Social media is used by the majority of Americans on a daily basis. What are the health implications for these practices? Amy Gonzales, a researcher at the Robert Wood Johnson Health and Society scholar program, will present data on the ways in which everyday social media (e.g. cellphones, texting, Facebook, etc.) may influence mental and physical health. She'll also describe new technologies that have been designed to change health behaviors and improve health, including eating behaviors in children or social interactions in low-income neighborhoods.



Lyle H. Ungar, PhD

Associate Professor of Computer and Information Science (CIS) at the University of Pennsylvania

Estimating well-being from Tweets and Facebook Posts

The words people use on social media such as Twitter and Facebook are a rich, if imperfect, source of information about their personality and psychological state. This talk will give an introduction to recent work in estimating subjective well-being from social media word use, focusing on an effort at Penn to use tweets and Facebook posts to characterize variations in PERMA (positive emotion, engagement, meaning, and accomplishment) over time and location. These estimates of psychological states correlate significantly with a variety of health outcomes as measured by Gallup polls and the CDC.

