



Melanie Elliott, MA

Research Associate | Field Coordinator | Community Health & Well Being

Melanie completed a MA in community health with a focus on qualitative research methods and place-based research from Brock University.

Melanie's academic research explores how the design of the built environment influences quality of life and the lived experience. Although her expertise is not limited to any one specific population, Melanie has special interests in studying the impact of the built environment on community mobility for older adults. She has expertise in research coordination, the facilitation of data collection, executing and overseeing the successful completion of project objectives, qualitative research, qualitative analysis, conducting interviews of all styles and summarizing key findings from her qualitative research methods.

In her most prominent role at Methologica, Melanie leads the in field coordination of data collection for projects that range in scale and scope but most notably for our multi year mixed methods design research and evaluation (post occupancy evaluation) projects - including Providence Care Hospital and St. Catharines Site Niagara Health System.

Melanie is involved throughout all phases of the projects - from participation in stakeholder engagement workshops to the coordination of data collection to the development of final reports and presentations. More specifically, Melanie is instrumental in the preparation and establishment of data collection protocols, ethics protocols, liaising with the redevelopment teams and onsite management. Melanie is the Methologica team lead for our customized moving interviews. Her activities include the recruitment of patients, proxies, and staff; the development of interview guides, the scheduling and execution of the moving interviews, the analysis of the moving interview data based on field notes, audio files, transcripts and photographs (or video). Melanie is adept at integrating and synthesizing the moving interview results within the broader mixed quantitative and qualitative approaches for reports and presentations. She also leads an interdisciplinary data collection team for the quantitative (eg. surveys) and other qualitative approaches (eg. naturalistic observation) to data collection. Melanie also conducts one on one interactive computer, tablet or online surveys with patients and proxies; and she develops and implements staff engagement exercises to enhance participation in online staff surveys.

EDUCATION

- Brock University, MA, Community Health, 2017
- University of Toronto, HBS, Biology and Health Studies, 2014

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EXPERIENCE

- Methologica, Research Associate, 2016 – present
- Brock University, Research Assistant, Health Sciences, 2015 – present
- Social Impact Squared, Research Associate, 2018 - 2020
- Grant Coordinator, SSHRC Explore Grant, The Mobility Makeover: Exploring the interest, need, and feasibility of a mobility aid personalization program in LTC (long term care), Jan-Dec 2020
- Grant Coordinator, CIHR Planning and Dissemination Grant, Reinventing the wheel: A think tank to optimize community mobility for older adults, 2016-2017

PROJECTS & PUBLICATIONS

- Providence Care Hospital User Experience & Design Evaluation, Kingston, 2016-2019
- St. Catharines Hospital Site Niagara Health System, User Experience & Design Evaluation, St. Catharines, 2017-2018
- Methologica Design Research & Evaluation Toolkit, 2016 - ongoing
- Elliott, M., Gardner, P., Narushima, M., & McCleary, L. (2020). Music Lessons: Exploring the role and meaning of music for older adults with dementia who are aging in place. *Canadian Journal on Aging*, 39(4). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S071498081900076X>
- Elliott, M., & Gardner, P. (2016). The role of music in the lives of older adults with dementia aging in place: A scoping review. *Dementia: The international journal of social research and practice*, 17(2), 199-213.