

# Maria Foraster (PhD)

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*Maria Foraster is Assistant Research Professor at the Barcelona Institute for Global Health and Associate Professor of Public Health at Universitat Ramon Llull (Barcelona, Spain). She holds a PhD in Biomedicine (2013), Master in Public Health and Master in Pharmacy. Previously, she worked at the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (2014-2017, Basel, Switzerland). She studies how the urban environment affects health over the life-span, with a special focus on transportation noise and correlated exposures (e.g. air pollution, green spaces) in relationship to cardiometabolic health in adults, early-life development, and mental health. She is interested in advancing the evidence by improving exposure characterization, enriching and studying the exposome, and ascertaining biological pathways. Regarding exposure assessment, she has pioneered approaches to disentangle the health effects of transportation noise and air pollution. She is also involved in exposome research as co-WP leader of the external exposome and ISGlobal principal investigator in the Horizon 2020 Equal-life exposome project on early-life environmental quality and life-course mental health. Among others, she has been scientific advisor of the WHO Environmental Noise Guidelines (2018).*



## Overview on health effects of transportation noise

Road traffic noise is estimated to be the second most important environmental health hazard in Europe, just after air pollution. In addition, there are other common transportation noise sources such as aircraft and railway noise that have been related to similar health effects. However, awareness on the topic is rather limited and more and better research is still needed to understand the multiple health effects of noise and to promote efficient policies for health and sustainability. This presentation will summarize the evidence on the health effects of transportation noise and address the main challenges.