



Harnessing sustainable urbanisation for human and planetary health

Thursday 20 October 2016 | 8:30 – 10:00am | UN Pavilion, Room 1

Organiser

United Nations University – International Institute for Global Health

Overview

This event addresses the critical linkages among urbanization, health and the sustainability of planetary systems. Three global thought leaders from different regions give short, thought-provoking presentations from an Urban Planning, Environment and Health angle, which exams how an eco-social view of health can offer critical insight into pathways for sustainable urban development.

Dr Shipra Narang, Vice President of ISOCARP and the General Assembly of partners provokes us to think about the role of planners to address the challenge of urbanisation and deteriorating urban health. While cities and towns are hubs of opportunity, innovation and the place where the battle for sustainability and climate resilience can be won, at the same time they are increasingly exclusionary, unhealthy and unlivable. What in particular are the co-benefits between urban planning and public health? Indeed, a great challenge for planning to lead building safer and healthier cities for all.

Dr Jose Puppim de Oliveira is an associated researcher at the United Nations University (UNU-IIGH) and the MIT Joint Program for Science and Policy for Global Change. He helps us reflect about how unsustainable cities are sick cities. Can continuing urbanization deliver environmental sustainability, healthy citizens and the achievement of economic life upon a materially finite planet? The core of the solutions for unsustainable patterns of urbanization is based on *ecological modernization* discourses, which are a necessary but insufficient condition for a broader transformation towards sustainability in cities, as it will not unravel socio-environmental changes automatically without changes in the political and economic systems. How can we transform our urban development model and policy making to take into consideration planetary boundaries? The presentation will bring examples of cities and focus the discussion on alternative models of urban development.

Dr Trevor Hancock is a pioneer of the global Healthy Cities movement and a Senior Scholar at Victoria University focussing on ecological determinants of Health. He insists that the central purpose of urban government is – or should be - to maximise the health, wellbeing, quality of life and level of human development of all its citizens – and to so in a way that is ecologically and socially sustainable. He challenges us to change what we measure and what we do, which requires engaging with citizens and non-government actors in all sectors, finding common vision and purpose. Happily, many cities understand and do this much better than national governments, who need to both learn from and strengthen good urban governance.

Let us discuss how the ideas of this session can be implemented through the New Urban Agenda for better health of humans and planet.



Speakers



Shipra Narang Suri

Dr. Shipra Narang Suri is an urban planner and a Vice-President of the International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP), responsible in particular for technical cooperation and projects. Shipra has a keen interest and extensive experience in issues of urban planning and management, good urban governance and indicators, livability and sustainability of cities, urban safety, as well as post-conflict/ post-disaster recovery. Shipra has worked with the United Nations, international NGOs and the private sector, across Asia, Africa, South Eastern Europe and the Middle-East, for nearly two decades. She is the co-Chair of the World

Urban Campaign, a platform that brings together a large array of global organisations to advocate for sustainable urbanisation. Since 2015 she has also been the Vice President of the General Assembly of Partners towards Habitat III, driving stakeholder engagement in the development of the New Urban Agenda. Shipra is currently based in Delhi.



Jose Puppim de Oliveira

Dr. Jose A. Puppim de Oliveira is a faculty member at the Getulio Vargas Foundation (FGV/EAESP and FGV/EBAPE) and also teaches at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (COPPEAD-UFRJ), Fudan University (Shanghai) and Universidad Andina Simon Bolivar (UASB) in Quito, Ecuador. He is associated researcher at the United Nations University (UNU-IIGH) in Kuala Lumpur and the MIT Joint Program for Science and Policy for Global Change (USA).. He has more than 20 years of experience in research, teaching, consulting and training in universities, think-tanks and the United Nations. His research is multi- and interdisciplinary

involving applied social sciences and their links with the natural and health sciences and engineering. His experience comprises research work in more than 20 countries in all continents. Jose contributes to the UNU-IIGH work on the links between health and environmental governance. His research and policy interests concentrate broadly in the area of political economy of sustainable development.



Trevor Hancock

Dr. Trevor Hancock currently serves as a Professor and Senior Scholar at the School of Public Health and Social Policy at the University of Victoria. He is a public health physician, health promotion expert and one of the pioneers of the global Healthy Cities and Communities movement. His work emphasizes the importance of collaborative and participatory governance in managing the environmental, social, economic, cultural and other determinants of the health of a city and its citizens. Trevor has had a long-standing involvement in the

relationship between health and the environment and is a co-founder of both the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment and the Canadian Coalition for Green Health Care. He has spent the past three years leading the creation for the Canadian Public Health Association of a major report on the ecological determinants of health and the public health implications of global ecological change.

Communication:

#Habitat3, #NewUrbanAgenda, #H3Library, #ThriveUrban
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