

Sustainability, Climate and Health Collaboration (SCHC) – Promoting Transdisciplinary Research

The 2nd annual event hosted by the SCHC group

Thursday 8 September 2022, 9:30 am-2:00 pm, AEST

Blended mode:

Venue for in person attendance:

Charles Perkins Centre (CPC) ROOM 1501, Camperdown, University of Sydney

Online participation: <https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/s/85473172019>

Organising Committee:

[Jo Longman](#) (Co-Chair), [Melandri Vlok](#), [Edward Jegasothy](#), [Ying Zhang](#) (Co-Chair)

Purposes of the event

- To promote the work of the Sydney Sustainability, Climate and Health Collaboration group
- To explore potential research collaborations with multiple disciplines to shape policies and practices to improve health and wellbeing in the context of a changing climate and environment.

Program for the day: Event MC- [Jasper Garay](#)

0930-0935 Acknowledgement of Country – Mr Jasper Garay, Lecturer, Indigenous Health Promotion, Sydney School of Public Health

0935-0940 Welcome to the event – Professor [Joel Negin](#), Head of School, Sydney School of Public Health

0940-0950 Introduction to the [Sustainability, Climate and Health Collaboration](#) group
- [A/Prof Ying Zhang](#), Sydney School of Public Health

0950-1000 Ice-breaker – facilitated by Dr Ed Jegasothy

1000-1050 Guest keynote speakers - 10 mins each presentation

- Associate Professor [Alison Behie](#), Head of School, Archaeology and Anthropology, College of Arts and Social Sciences, Australian National University

Title: Climate change babies: how environmental disasters impact birth outcomes

It is widely accepted that the pregnancy environment, which can include factors of maternal health, stress and lifestyle impact foetal development. Recent studies have revealed the impact of stress caused by environmental disasters on birth and foetal outcomes. For the past decade, I have been studying this idea through the lens of Biological Anthropology by exploring how prenatal stress caused by environmental disasters impacts birth outcomes and child development. This presentation will summarise key results obtained from the research of my team on how fires, cyclones and volcanic eruptions have been associated with increases in preterm births and decreases in birth weight and/or birth length. Such results highlight the complex link between mother and foetus and give new clues to understanding mother-child biological relationships, especially during times of climate change.

- Dr [Kate Charlesworth](#), Senior Advisor, Climate Risk & Net Zero Unit, NSW Health

Title: Healthcare's carbon addiction: It's time to quit

The imperative for healthcare to transition to a net zero system and the importance of health professionals in leading the transition, drawing on examples from NSW Health's new Climate Risk & Net Zero team.

- Dr [Veronica Matthews](#), University Centre for Rural Health; Co-lead, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Knowledges theme of the [HEAL Network](#)

Title: The HEAL Network: driving systems change from the ground up to tackle complex environmental challenges and health inequities

This presentation will introduce the focuses of the HEAL Network, its progress and potential opportunities for collaboration. Key principles will also be discussed including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander governance, incorporation of First Nations Knowledges and facilitation of community-led processes to guide research priorities.

- Dr [Rebecca Patrick](#), Deakin University; Co-lead and Member, Planetary Health Alliance (Oceania Hub) – online participation

Title: Climate Change and Mental Health: Hope, Coping and Planetary Anxiety

Rebecca will present on climate-related mental wellbeing including priority populations and promising interventions. She will highlight the role of systems thinking and co-design in climate-related mental wellbeing research and practice.

1050-1105 Morning tea break

1105-1130 Roundtable discussion Round 1 (mixed background in each group)

– Quick introductions then to identify key research questions which require a multi-disciplinary team to answer (butchers/ stickies in the room + breakout rooms from online group/s)

1130-1200 Invited presentations by the SCHC group members – 8 min per presentation

- Dr [Melandri Vlok](#), Postdoctoral Research Associate, Sydney Southeast Asia Centre

Title: Climate change and tropical diseases in the prehistoric past: a sign of things to come with anthropomorphic climate change

- Dr [Shuvo Bakar](#), Senior Lecturer, Biostatistician, Sydney School of Public Health

Title: Influence of environmental factors on childhood stunting in developing countries

- Dr [Scott McAlister](#), Research Fellow, Sydney School of Public Health & Melbourne School of Population and Global Health - online participation

Title: Healthcare and climate change

1200-1230 Roundtable discussions Round 2 (in a different group to Round 1)

– Quick introductions then to discuss what collaborations would help most with the key topics/ unanswered research questions and the future (from the presentations today); ideas for potential grant applications

1230-1300 Reporting back/whole group discussion & next steps

1300-1400 Networking lunch