

Lecture Topics

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1. Planetary Health

The term ‘planetary health’ describes a transdisciplinary approach that aims (1) to advance understanding of the links between human-driven changes to the planet and their consequences for human health, and (2) to develop appropriate solutions to the challenges identified. ‘Planetary health’ draws attention to the impact on human health of, for example: climate change; biodiversity loss; deforestation and landscape alteration; ocean acidification; pollution; the increase in greenhouse gases; the impact of food production and consumption on water and land; the introduction of invasive species; natural resource extraction; soil and water system degradation; consumerist lifestyles and unhealthy diets; poorly-designed urbanization. This lecture gives an overview of the field of planetary health, and discusses what all of us—policy makers, leaders of industry, or ordinary citizens—can do to improve the health of the planet and thereby the health and wellbeing of humankind. The lecture will also introduce a new network for young Chinese scholars of planetary health.

“行星健康”一词描述了一种跨学科方法，其目的是（1）促进对人类驱动的地球变化与其对人类健康的影响之间联系的理解，（2）寻求如何为面临的挑战制定适当的解决方案。“行星健康”已经广泛引起人们对人类健康的影响的关注，例如：气候变化；生物多样性；砍伐森林和环境改造；海洋酸化；污染；温室气体的增加；粮食生产和消费对水和土地的影响；引入入侵物种；自然资源开采；土壤和水系统退化；消费主义生活方式和不健康的饮食；不良设计的城市化。本讲座概述了行星健康领域，并讨论了所有政策制定者，工业领袖或普通公民可以做些什么来改善地球的健康，从而改善人类的健康和福祉。讲座还将为中国年轻的行星健康学者介绍有关此课题的学术圈。

2. China’s Belt & Road Initiative: planetary health disaster or planetary health opportunity?

China’s Belt & Road Initiative is one of the biggest, if not the biggest, infrastructure projects in history. Even as it connects different peoples and their economic activities, it potentially poses significant risks to the natural environment and to the health and wellbeing of all forms of life, including humans, in its path. Road and rail tracks may cut across areas of sensitive biodiversity. New transport hubs, cities, and factories may exacerbate deforestation and coastal damage, create pollution, interfere with water tables, and impact on the humans working and living nearby. The regularization of sea routes over the Arctic risks disruption to life forms living there and alteration of local and global climate patterns.

Protecting and sustaining the natural environment cannot be merely an afterthought tagged on to major infrastructure projects. The Belt & Road Initiative is an opportunity to apply the lessons of good environmental health practice and to develop new tools and gather case-study evidence. In this talk we will explore how metrics of natural capital / natural value—derived from recent advances in planetary health thinking—and accounting for environmental health impact can be built into planning and decision making at all stages of the Belt and Road Initiative so that, truly, humans can live more in harmony with each other and also with the natural world.

中国的“一带一路”倡议是历史上规模最大，甚至最大的基础设施项目之一。它将不同民族及其经济活动联系起来，但也可能对自然环境和包括人类在内的各种生命的健康和福祉构成机遇和挑战。公路和铁路可能会跨越敏感生物多样性的地区。新的交通枢纽，城市和工厂可能加剧毁林和沿海破坏，造成污染，干扰地下水位并影响附近工作和生活的人们。北极地区的海上航线正规化可能会破坏那里生活的形态，并改变当地和全球的气候模式。

保护和维持自然环境不仅仅是在重大基础设施项目上的事后思考。“一带一路”倡议是一个机会，可以应用良好的环境卫生实践经验教训，开发新的工具并收集案例研究证据。在本次演讲中，我们将探索如何根据“一带一路”倡议的各个阶段，将自然资本/自然价值的指标（从行星健康思想的最新进展中得出）以及对环境健康影响的核算纳入规划和决策中，从而促成人类彼此之间、以及与自然世界之间可以更加和谐地生活。