

Topical lunch report: 2/6/2017: Can We Make a Business Case for Planetary Health?

Summary: After introductions from the group, Professor Steve Osofsky and Senior Research Associate Montira Pongsiri from the Veterinary College introduced the topic and 'defined' planetary health as a field focused on improving our understanding and applying appropriate metrics regarding the public health impacts of anthropogenic environmental change, so as to be able to inform decision-making in the land-use planning, environmental conservation, and public health policy realms. This approach stems from the idea of ecosystem services, but with more explicit linkages to the public health sphere. The type of transdisciplinary work described allows the public health consequences of natural resource management decisions to be explicitly factored into these decisions at a range of scales, instead of remaining in the realm of vague and poorly quantified externalities (key in terms of fostering more robust cost / benefit analyses).

The meeting was well-attended by scholars across campus, and generated a good deal of interest and ideas for potential synergies. It may well be appropriate to have additional meetings in this area in order to capitalize on existing campus strengths, focusing on specific systems or topics. The existence of AVF funding explicitly for planetary health was mentioned.

These two papers were shared:

Myers, S. S., Gaffikin, L., Golden, C. D., Ostfeld, R. S., Redford, K. H., Ricketts, T. H., Turner, W. R., and S. A. Osofsky. 2013. "Human Health Impacts of Ecosystem Alteration," *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, vol. 110 (47): 18753-18760. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1218656110>

Whitmee, S., Haines, A., Beyrer, C., Boltz, F., Capon, A. G., de Souza Dias, B. F., Ezeh, A., Frumkin, H., Gong, P., Head, P., Horton, R., Mace, G. M., Marten, R., Myers, S. S., Nishtar, S., Osofsky, S. A., Pattanayak, S. K., Pongsiri, M. J., Romanelli, C., Soucat, A., Vega, J., and D. Yach. 2015. "Safeguarding Human Health in the Anthropocene Epoch: Report of The Rockefeller Foundation–Lancet Commission on Planetary Health," *The Lancet*, vol. 386 (10007): 1973-2028. <http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736%2815%2960901-1/fulltext> and [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(15\)60901-1](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(15)60901-1)