



PLANETARY HEALTH WEEKLY

BRINGING YOU CURRENT NEWS ON ECOLOGICAL WELLNESS & GLOBAL HEALTH

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FOR GEOENGINEERS, A SCIENTIFIC EXISTENTIAL CRISIS

Last month, over 28,000 people met in Washington, D.C. to discuss earth science-related topics at the American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting. It was uncomfortable for geoengineers who worked in a field that they wish did not exist. The most prominent scheme is solar radiation management (SRM), whereby sunlight is reflected back into space to reduce global warming. Though it remains divisive, solar geoengineering began to gain traction in climate science as well as with the broader public due to the increasing direness of climate change. Nonetheless, most geoengineering researchers agree that reducing carbon dioxide emissions is the greatest priority. Unfortunately, there has almost been no physical geoengineering experiments as it's essentially all computer modeling. [Read more at Canada's National Observer.](#)

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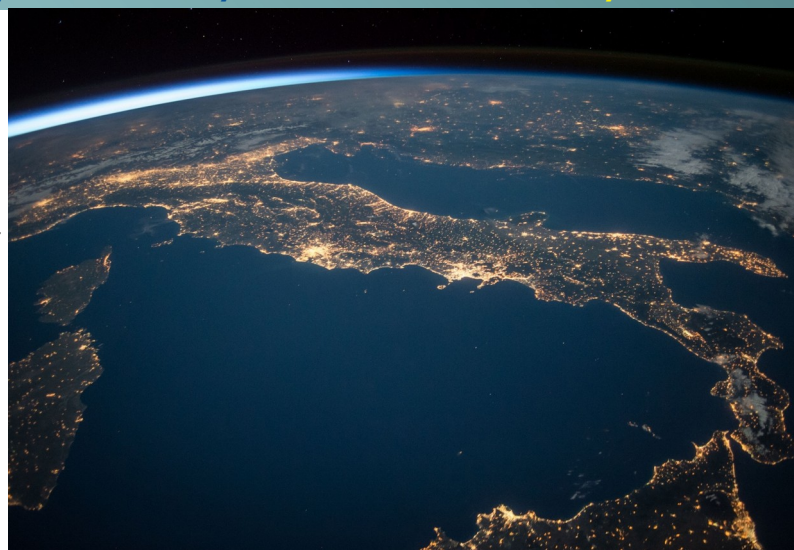
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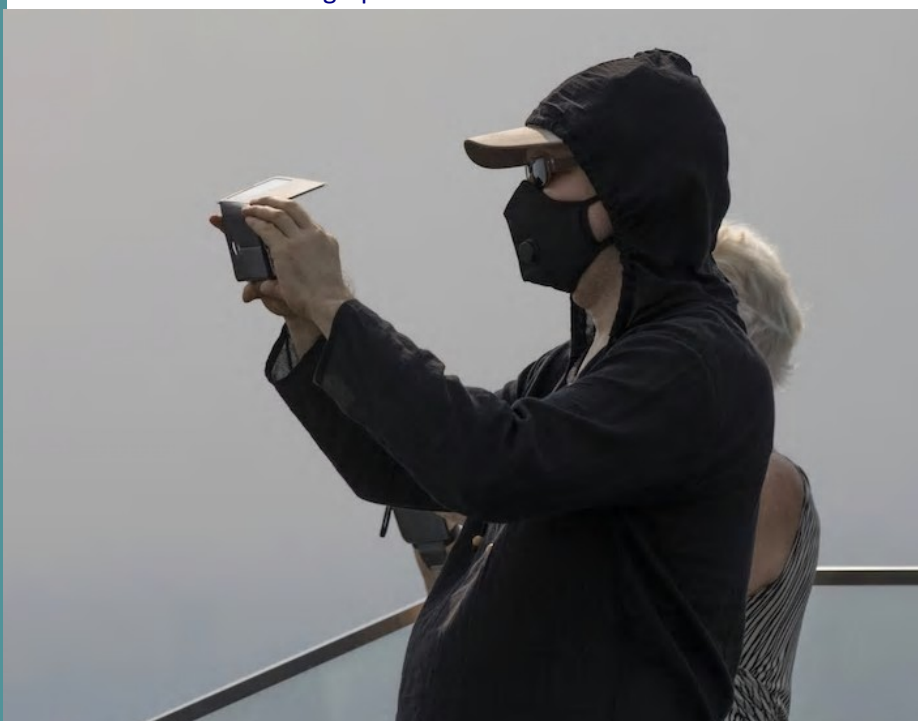
Backpage: Skating On The Rideau Canal, Ottawa,
Ontario



Credit: Pixabay

WHO UNVEILS LIST OF 10 GREATEST GLOBAL HEALTH THREATS IN 2019

The World Health Organization has pledged to make these 10 greatest global health threats a priority in 2019. The list is a sign that global health is changing. The 10 greatest global health threats in 2019 are as follow: Air pollution and climate change; Non-communicable diseases; Fragile and vulnerable settings; Antimicrobial resistance; Ebola and other high risk pathogens; Weak primary health care; Vaccine resitancy; Dengue; and HIV. [Read more at The Telegraph.](#)



Credit: Brent Lewin/Bloomberg



Credit: derwiki/pixabay

SCIENTISTS TURN CARBON EMISSIONS INTO USABLE ENERGY

Professor Guntae Kim in the School of Energy and Chemical Engineering at UNIST led a team in collaboration with Professor Jaephil Cho in the Department of Energy Engineering and Professor Meilin Liu in the School of Materials Science and Engineering at Georgia Institute of Technology to develop a system that produces electricity and hydrogen while eliminating the main contributor of global warming - carbon dioxide. The research team presented a hybrid Na-CO₂ system that has the ability to continuously generate electrical energy and hydrogen through efficient CO₂ conversion with stable operation for more than 1,000 hours from spontaneous CO₂ dissolution in aqueous solution.

[Read more at Phys.org.](#)



Credit: UNIST



Credit: Volkswagen via Relaxnews

'ELECTRIC LIFE': VW TO LAUNCH ENERGY SUPPLY DIVISION

'Volkswagen plans to force the pace of the urgently needed transport and energy transition to emission-neutral e-mobility.' Volkswagen Group revealed their plans to become a power supplier as exemplified through the convergence between the automotive, energy, technology sectors took another major step forward.

[Read more at Business Green.](#)



WHY IS MONGOLIA OVERDOSING ON ANTIBIOTICS?

Dr. Bill Frankland, a 106-year-old allergy expert, is still remembers Alexander Fleming's discovery of penicillin, and the warning that followed eight years later. Franklin recalls, "Fleming said there would be a revolution, but doctors will overuse it, and because bacteria have to survive ... they will become resistant to it." Fleming's predictions was correct whereby the link between antimicrobial resistance and antibiotic use is well established. There are countries around the world that are still coming to grips with ways of rationing such drugs to limit the development of antibiotic-resistant bacterial strains. According to a World Health Organization survey of 65 countries, people are the world's most prolific users of antibiotics with an average of 64.4 people per 1000 on antibiotics on any given day. Mongolia's usage was at the top of the list. There are various studies that show the inappropriate use of antibiotics. Although there is an overuse of antibiotics, there is also a lack of access for those who need them.

[Read more at OZY.](#)

Credit: stevepb/Pixabay

THE BEST PLACES TO GO TO DIE

There are many things that are outside of your control but you might choose be able to choose where you die. The top four places to exit Planet Earth are:

1. United Kingdom
2. Austria
3. Belgium
4. Taiwan

[Read more at OZY.](#)



Credit: derwiki/pixabay



Credit: Shutterstock

EATING CLEAN, GREEN AND ANTHROPOCENE

Canada is facing serious pressure to scale back on the consumption of red meat from a report by the EAT-Lancet "Commission on healthy diets from sustainable food systems," published in the British medical journal The Lancet. The Commission report, Food in the Anthropocene, argues that we're digging our own graves with our unsustainable gluttony, while causing more harm to the climate and the environment. Although we may expect pushback from beef producers, there may be strong support from most Canadian farmers. Canadian agriculture can play a decisive part in improving global health, saving lives, and slowing climate change — while enriching our farmers.

[Read more at The Tyee.](#)



WHY BIG PHARMA MUST DISCLOSE PAYMENTS TO PATIENT GROUPS

A United States congressional report revealed that between 2012 and 2017, five opioid manufacturers made more than \$10 million in payments to patient advocacy groups and professional societies. Initiatives from these advocacy groups and professional societies often echoed and amplified recommendations to increase opioid use. In addition, opioid manufacturers used these groups to lobby Congress to change laws directed at restricting opioid use, which may have contributed to conditions necessary for the U.S. opioid epidemic. Patient advocacy groups play a key role in democratic societies, giving voice to vulnerable populations, shaping health policy debates and acting to influence public policies to promote their members' interests and needs. However, when they are funded by the industry, they serve as a marketing tool to promote corporate interest.

[Read more at The Conversation.](#)

Credit: EmilianDanaila/pixabay

SPOTLIGHT ON POLICY: US APPROVED THOUSANDS OF CHILD BRIDE VISAS

According to government data obtained by the Associated Press, the United States government approved requests to bring child brides into the US for forced marriages over the past decade. The US Immigration and Nationality Act does not have a minimum age requirement to become a spouse or fiancée. Furthermore, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) assesses petitions on if the marriage is legal in the spouse or fiancée's home country and if the marriage is legal in the state where the petitioner lives. Although state laws generally have a minimum marriage age at 18 years old, there are many state laws that allow 16 and 17-year-olds to marry if they have parental consent. However, for forced marriage, that parental consent factor can take the form of coercion.

[Read more at Freedom United.](#)



Credit: AP



Credit: http://dansea.cz/o_tanci/movement-medicine/

SPOTLIGHT ON INDIGENOUS WELLNESS: SUFFERED A TRAUMA? THIS SHAMAN SAYS YOU SHOULD MAKE A MOVE

After 30 years, which includes an apprenticeship with indigenous healers in the Arctic and the Amazon, Darling Khan and his partner, Susannah, built a global following for their School of Movement Medicine in England. Their call to action is to reboot your life and begin healing emotional pain by surrendering to the beat of Darling Khan's drum. This is carried out by tuning into the silent promptings of the body and gyrating, swaying or leaping as it was done in Paleolithic times. While ecstatic dance has been around for eons, Darling Khan's work is finding a new and expanding audience as more people question the limits of conventional methods for treating depression, anxiety and trauma.

[Read more at OZY.](#)

"What greater threat is there to our wellbeing than the current threat of climate change? There's nothing to fear about your individual status ... This is about being on the right side of history. Do you want to be a leader that looks back in time and say that you were on the wrong side of the argument when the world was crying out for a solution? It's as simple as that."

Prime Minister of New Zealand, Jacinda Ardern, at the recent World Economic Forum
January 22, 2019

[Read more at World Economic Forum.](#)



Credit: REUTERS/Arnd Wiegmann

EVENTS TABLE

DATES	CONFERENCE	LOCATION	REGISTER
Feb. 23rd – Mar. 4th	Third Canada-Guatemala Knowledge Exchange	Guatemala	https://www.horizons.ca/blog/2018/8/1/mnch-apply-now-third-canada-guatemala-knowledge-exchange
Mar. 6th	Transforming Health Systems Towards Universal Healthcare	Toronto Canada	https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/transforming-health-systems-towards-universal-healthcare-tickets-5033035464
Mar. 7th	Webinar on Ethical Framework in Global Surgery	Edmonton Canada	https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe1DYzkAC5MpYc4PwmkEHLlxEx-BHg2BjtwmWZGFFC-R3wv3w
Mar. 8th-10th	10th annual CUGH Conference - Translation and Implementation for impact in Global Health	Chicago USA	https://www.cugh.org/events/2019-annual-cugh-global-health-conference
Mar. 20th-22nd	2019 Climate Leadership Conference and Awards	Baltimore USA	https://www.climateleadershipconference.org/
April 15th-17th	Integrative Mental Health Conference	San Francisco California	https://integrativemedicine.arizona.edu/mentalhealth.html
Apr. 30th – May 2nd	Public Health 2019 (CPHA)	Ottawa Canada	https://www.cpha.ca/public-health-2019-program
May 7th-10th	International Congress on Complementary Medicine Research	Brisbane Australia	http://iccmr2019.com/
May 13th - 15th	Canadian Society for Epidemiology and Biostatistics (CSEB): 2019 Biennial Conference	Ottawa Canada	https://cseb.ca/conferences/2019-conference/
May 22nd-24th	3rd International Integrative Nursing Symposium	Galway Ireland	https://www.climateleadershipconference.org/
Jun. 6th - 9th	Ethics in Global Surgery	Edmonton Canada	https://bethunroundtable.com/
June 10th-21st	5th McGill Summer Institute in Infectious Diseases and Global Health	Montreal Canada	http://mcgill-idgh.ca/
June 14-16	North American Refugee Health Conference	Toronto Canada	https://facmed.registration.med.utoronto.ca/portal/events/reg/participantTypeSelection.do?method=load&entityid=1469515



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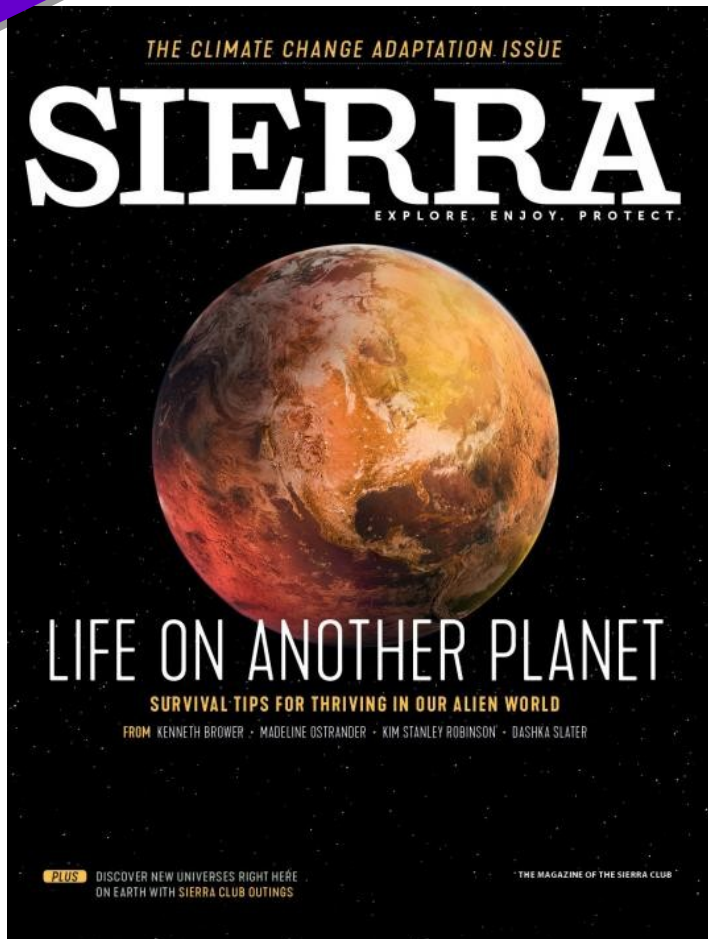


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SPOTLIGHT ON MEDIA SIERRA CLUB MAGAZINE



Credit: The Sierra Club

The Climate Change Adaptation issue of *Sierra* for January/February 2019 features the following articles:

[Can Phoenix, Arizona, Remain Habitable?](#) You can't crank up the AC forever
[Can South Florida Adapt to Rising Sea Levels Before It's Too Late?](#) Cities like Miami grapple with how to make sure adaptation programs serve everyone
[Can We Help Our Forests Prepare for Climate Change?](#) And if we can, what's the right way to do it?

[The Atolls of Arkansas](#) Doomed by climate change, Marshall Islanders find a new home in Springdale

[There Is No Planet B](#) It's up to us to craft the shape of the future

[What Happens After the Mines Close?](#) In eastern Kentucky, former coal mining towns are plotting how to reinvent themselves

[Read more at The Sierra Club.](#)



WANT TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM TOXINS? TRY AN HERB-INFUSED LATTE



Credit: Foundry/pixabay

There's a growing movement of "adaptogenic" food products that claim to be stress-relieving caffeine alternatives that provides protection from toxins in the environment. These adaptogens consists of nontoxic herbs that can support the regulation of the body's HPA axis and sympathoadrenal system in difficult times such as when we experience stress.

For example, while there are cafes in the Los Angeles area that serve adaptogenic lattes for anxiety relief, Dram, a company based in Colorado, serves CBD- and herb-infused sparkling water. There are herbs that offers various benefits related to immune systems, cognitive ability, sexual function, mental and physical stamina. There are research that reveals approximately 80,000 chemicals in daily products.

[Read more at OZY.](#)

MOONLIGHT INFLUENCES OPENING AND CLOSING OF OYSTERS' SHELLS



Credit: nobtis/Getty Images/iStockphoto

Researchers learned that the moonlight has the ability to move molluscs as oysters' shells open and close according to the lunar cycle. Study results reveal the oysters open most when it was building up to and in the presence of a new moon while when the moon entered first quarter and full phases, the oysters were less open. Therefore, the researchers believe that oysters can sense moonlight.

However, Laura Payton, co-author of the research from the University of Oldenburg felt that oysters seem to be able to distinguish if the moon was waxing or waning given that the oysters were usually more open during the third quarter than the first quarter. One of contributing factors that Payton believes made this possible is that the benthic bivalves may have evolved an internal lunar clock.

[Read more at The Guardian.](#)



WHAT'S AFTER BANNING STRAWS? GOING AFTER RISING PLASTIC PRODUCTION



Credit: NPS

If there is a desire to reduce the plastic pollution, the fossil fuel industry's plan to expand plastic production must be challenged. The banning of straws helps from pushing anti-straw #StopSucking campaign to providing high-profile coverage to the plastic-pollution crisis. Other actions such as plastic-bag bans and restrictions on Styrofoam packaging also contribute to the decrease of plastic into our oceans. While these are positive actions, more needs to be done. [Read more at The Medium.](#)



MAN ACCUSED OF SHOOTING DOWN UN CHIEF: 'SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO DO THINGS YOU DON'T WANT TO...'



Credit: UN/JO

Jan van Risseghem learned flying in Britain, which would make him internationally notorious, when he was publicly linked to the plane crash that killed Swedish diplomat Dag Hammarskjöld, the UN secretary general, in 1961. His plane, the Albertina, came down in forest just outside Ndola in Zambia, then Northern Rhodesia, a bit after midnight on September 18th. Unfortunately, the plane approached the town's airport, which led to the immediate death of 15 people on board with the only survivor in hospital a few days later. On the same day, a US ambassador sent a secret cable believing that there is the possibility of sabotage and apparently a suspect is Van Risseghem. Nonetheless, it wasn't until many years later that Van Risseghem's name was connected with Hammarskjöld's name in public. As time went on, the initial shock and suspicions about Hammarskjöld's death and the interest about the crash gradually faded.

Two days after Hammarskjöld's death, US president Harry Truman informed reporters that the UN leader "was on the point of getting something done when they killed him. Notice that I said 'when they killed him.'"

[Read more at The Guardian.](#)



UNIVERSITIES NEED TO LEAD IN SERVING HUMANITY



Credit: Pexels

There is an urgent need for universities to address challenges both locally and globally to serve humanity. As a result, new types of funding models and partnerships that reverse counterproductive approaches need to be developed. There is a need to focus on partnerships that advance the urgency and clarity of serving humanity, incentivize a mentality of abundance, and seek big impact system-wide approaches to move towards three of the most critical shifts needed in higher education:

- SHIFT #1: From universities investing in their reputation and financial security to investing in solving some of the most critical challenges of our time
- SHIFT #2: From universities making modest efforts to increase inclusion in student bodies to making education open for all regardless of status and financial ability
- SHIFT #3: From offering new skills and tools for the rapid changes in today's workforces to preserving and reinforcing our ethics and values amid radical technological change.

Skating on the Rideau Canal
Ottawa, Ontario
January 27, 2019



Credit: David Zakus

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