



PLANETARY HEALTH WEEKLY

BRINGING YOU CURRENT NEWS ON GLOBAL HEALTH & ECOLOGICAL WELLNESS

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AUSTRALIA IS PLANTING A BILLION TREES TO FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE

The Australian government is gearing up to plant a billion new trees, as part of a vast campaign aimed to meet the climate targets set by the Paris Agreement. The government estimates that the project, which will run until 2050, will eventually remove 18 million tons of greenhouse gases per year — an intriguing example of a less technical response to climate change. The news dovetails neatly with new research, by researchers at ETH Zurich, that found that a widespread campaign of tree-planting worldwide could make a substantial dent in the world's net greenhouse gas emissions. Zurich researcher Thomas Crowther told *The Independent* that trees are "our most powerful weapon in the fight against climate change." "It's a beautiful thing because everyone can get involved... they improve air quality, water quality, food quality, ecosystem service, it's such an easy, tangible thing." [Read More at Futurism](#)

See Also at Bloomberg: [Australia in Tree-Planting Binge to Help Meet Climate Targets](#)



Credit: Sourceable

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GLOBAL HEALTH LEADERS ADOPT 'DELHI DECLARATION' ON DIGITAL HEALTH

Global health leaders and experts have adopted the 'Delhi Declaration' on digital health for sustainable development, which calls for the WHO to establish a specific mechanism to centrally coordinate digital health to assist its member states. Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the Director-General of the WHO, in his live video address shared that, "Digital technologies are not just the latest trend - they are a vital tool for strengthening primary care, achieving universal health coverage, and achieving Sustainable Development Goals." India's Minister of State for Health Anupriya Patel highlighted the initiatives of his government in digital health and said, "Engaging citizens in partnering with the government for planning and management of digital health interventions in health services delivery and improving governance are important." [Read More at ET Health World](#)



Credit: Digital Health





TAKING THE LEAD IN FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE

As the grandchild of Jamaican citizens who moved to Great Britain, Monique Taffe says she inherited a tradition of recycling and learned not to be part of the “throwaway culture”, as some environmentalists have labelled consumerist societies. The 22-year-old London-based designer is a recent graduate of a British fashion school and she participated in the 3rd Women4Climate conference that took place Feb. 21 in Paris. She joined other young women from around the world who have launched sustainability projects and are being mentored by member cities of C40, a network of 94 “megacities” committed to addressing climate change – and which co-organised the conference titled “Taking the Lead”.

[Read More at IPS News](#)

Credit : A.D. McKenzie/IPS

CORSIA: THE UN'S PLAN TO 'OFFSET' GROWTH IN AVIATION EMISSIONS AFTER 2020

Airlines around the world have recently begun to monitor their CO2 emissions as part of a UN climate deal. Last month marked the first step of the UN's “Corsia” scheme, which aims to ensure any rise in international aviation emissions above 2020 levels are offset elsewhere. It was agreed by 192 countries in 2016 through the UN's aviation agency. It is significant because of the aviation sector's large and rapidly increasing CO2 emissions. If aviation were a country, it would be the sixth largest emitter in the world, between Japan and Germany. Corsia aims to “complement” a broader package of measures to achieve the sector-wide “carbon-neutral growth” goal, such as increasing fuel efficiency and operational improvements.

[Read More at Carbon Brief](#)



Credit: Roger Bamber / Alamy Stock Photo.



Credit: Stock

CLIMATE CHANGE OFFICIALLY CLAIMS ITS FIRST MAMMAL: THE BRAMBLE CAY MELOMYS IS DECLARED EXTINCT

Researchers have suspected for a while that the *Melomys rubicola* had become the first mammal to go extinct because of human-made climate change, and, earlier this week, the Australian government confirmed it. Geoffrey Richardson, assistant secretary in the Department of the Environment and Energy, told Senate members Monday that for the past five years, researchers have been unable to find melomys on Bramble Cay, nestled in the Torres Strait, between Queensland and Papua New Guinea. For the report, which used survey methods consisting of nocturnal traps as well as daytime searches, no sign of a melomys was to be found — no critter, paw print or pellet. After the Australian government's decision this week on the animal's extinction, Queensland Environment Minister Leeanne Enoch said it shows that “we are living the real effects of climate change right now.”

[Read More at Washington Post](#)



WHY IT MUST BE A FEMINIST GLOBAL HEALTH AGENDA

We need to re-think the interconnection between women, gender and global health. Beyond increased physical risk factors, women are disadvantaged structurally, being over-represented in informal care roles and under-represented in leadership, decision making, and senior research roles. Global health policy and programmes are often blind to the differences between women's needs and men's needs (gender equity), and to women's unequal position in society (gender equality), rendering women “conspicuously invisible”. In response, initiatives such as Women in Global Health have established a target of 50:50 representation in global health leadership by 2030. [Read More at The Lancet.](#)

Credit: PATH/Christopher Nelson

NEGATIVE HEALTH OUTCOMES ASSOCIATED WITH FOOD INSECURITY STATUS IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OF PEER-REVIEWED STUDIES

Food insecurity has been associated with negative health outcomes, but the relationship between psychological distress and food insecurity among ethnic minorities has not been extensively examined in the literature. The goal of this study was to evaluate whether low food security and very low food security were significantly associated with past month serious psychological distress (SPD) among Hispanic adults living in poverty. Nearly 30% of the study population had low food security and 13% had very low food security. Low food security and very low food security were associated with SPD. Food insecurity was prevalent among Hispanic people living in poverty and was significantly associated with past month SPD. These results demonstrate the need for further targeted public health efforts, such as community gardens, faith-based initiatives and initiatives to reduce barriers to participation in food-assistance programs.

[Read More at Nutrixiv Preprints](#)



Credit: Healthify



RESPECTFUL MATERNITY CARE IN ETHIOPIA

Emerging evidence indicates that women face humiliating and undignified conditions in health facilities in developing countries like Ethiopia. This negative aspect of maternity care can influence a women's decision not to make use of health facilities. A qualitative study employing a phenomenological research design was carried out from August to September 2017 in six woredas/districts of North Shewa Zone, Oromia, Ethiopia. A total of 20 key informant interviews was done. The health providers' experiences indicated the existence of different categories of disrespect and abuse to women in the study area. Non-consented care, physical abuse, non-confidential care and non-dignified care were the areas identified. [Read More at Ethiopian Journal of Reproductive Health](#)

Credit: THE CANADIAN PRESS/Paul Chiasson



CONTEST: YOUNG CHAMPIONS OF THE EARTH 2019

In 2019, seven young people – selected from every global region – will be named Young Champions of the Earth. These winners receive seed funding, intensive training and tailored mentorship to bring their big environmental ideas to life. We're looking for the artists, scientists, economists, communicators and entrepreneurs from all walks of life with big, bold ideas— for the environment, for humanity, for a greener future. Young Champions of the Earth Prize aims to nurture the next generation of environmental leaders. Up to 50 applicants who clearly articulate their skills requirements and demonstrate a strong willingness to learn will be granted privileged access to mentoring opportunities. They will be able to seek technical guidance and professional advice from a broad community of experts. [Read More at UN Environment](#)

Credit: UN Environment

SPOTLIGHT ON POLICY

BAN KI-MOON TELLS BRITAIN: STOP INVESTING IN FOSSIL FUELS OVERSEAS

The former UN secretary general, Ban Ki Moon, said he was deeply concerned that the UK's export credit agency had provided billions of pounds in recent years to support businesses involved in oil and gas schemes around the world. The former South Korean diplomat's comments on UK Export Finance (UKEF), which provides lines of credit and insurance to help companies win business overseas, are the first time he has singled out a country's credit export agency. "There is now a growing consensus that fossil fuels should not be funded in any way by export finance organisations," he said. The Environmental Audit Committee said UKEF gave about £551m of support to fossil fuel production between 2014 and 2016. Between 2010 and 2014, more than 99% of its funding for energy went to fossil fuels, despite a coalition government pledge to stop funding such "dirty" projects.

[Read More at The Guardian](#)



Credit: Adam Vaughan/ the Guardian



SPOTLIGHT ON INDIGENOUS WELLNESS

ATTACKS ON HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS: A DAILY OCCURRENCE IN LATIN AMERICA

The Quiché indigenous activist and leader of the K'iche's People's Council for the Defence of Life, Mother Nature, Land and Territory, told IPS that the Guatemalan government "has said that we are violent trouble-makers, but we defend our territory and we say no to the mining companies." Chávez, who was a finalist for the European Parliament's Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought in 2017, and winner of the Ignacio Ellacuría Prize of the Basque Agency for Development Cooperation that same year, is an organiser of the opposition by native communities in western Guatemala against mining companies, hydroelectric dams and African oil palm producers. In this increasingly alarming context, Chávez and some 50 activists from Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, the United States and Uruguay participated in the International Meeting of Human Rights Defenders and Journalists in Mexico City from Feb. 15-18. A recent report stated that of the total of 201 murders of human rights defenders in the world in 2017, 60% happened in Latin America.

[Read More at IPS News](#)

Credit: Ouranos



Credit: Women in Global Health

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“There's definitely proof that women-to-women networking has positive effects, but it's only so effective. There's actually more evidence for why younger women should be mentored by men.”

Kelly Thompson, global gender advocate and former programming and gender director for Women in Global Health, discusses how the next generation can change global health. [Read More at Devex](#)

See Also: [When Men Mentor Women](#)

EVENTSTABLE

DATE	CONFERENCE	LOCATION	REGISTER
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/
Mar. 25th-29th	VI Global Conference on Family Farming	Derio-Bilbao Spain	https://www.ruralforum.org/en/vi-conference/presentation
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	Integrative Congress on Complementary Medicine Research	Brisbane Australia	https://www.iscmr.org/content/iccmr-2019
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.integrativenursingsymposium.com/
June 6th-9th	CNIS Bethune Round Table in Global Surgery: Ethics in Global Surgery	Edmonton Canada	https://bethuneroundtable.com/
June 10th-21st	5th McGill Summer Institute in Infectious Diseases and Global Health	Montreal Canada	http://mcgill-idgh.ca
June 14th-16th	North American Refugee Health Conference	Toronto Canada	https://facmed.registration.med.utoronto.ca/portal/events/reg/participantTypeSelection.do?method=load&entityId=1469515
Oct 15th-18th	Global Symposium of Citizenship, Governance and Accountability in Health	New Delhi India	http://copasahglobalsymposium2019.net/overview.html



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SPOTLIGHT ON MEDIA: NEW BOOK

NOT A LOVE STORY: HEINEKEN IN AFRICA BY OLIVER VAN BEEMEN



Credit: REUTERS/Jean Bizimana

“Heineken in Africa” exposes with compelling evidence and stories the unethical practices of the Dutch beer giant Heineken. Heineken boasts that its presence on the African continent boosts development. After six years of research, journalist Olivier van Beemen provides detailed investigations. The truth he uncovered is not a love story: Heineken is exploiting people, communities and countries in Africa. A recent WHO report shows that countries in Africa are now bearing the heaviest burden of alcohol-related disease and injury.

Van Beemen writes in The Guardian: “As far as I have been able to determine, the Dutch beer brewer’s behaviour resembles that of its competitors...” Heineken uses marketing activities as well as Corporate Social Responsibility and partnership schemes like with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria or the UN’s Global Compact to portray itself as benevolent. These schemes help to white-wash the beer giant’s appalling Human Rights track record and provide strategic advantages in pursuit of increasing profits.

[Read More at IOGT International](#)



YOUTH BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN CLIMATE CHANGE AND CLIMATE AWARENESS IN GUYANA



Credit: Tim Elliott/Shutterstock.com

A group of youngsters in the Caribbean who promote environmental protection in the region is on a drive to empower other youth to address some of the big issues facing their generation. National Coordinator of Caribbean Youth Environment Network (CYEN), Kiefer Jackson, says the organisation has been working to gather the youth perspective, build capacity at a grassroots level and fill the gaps that would have been missed by government initiatives or plans.

In its quest to bridge the gap between climate change and climate awareness, Jackson said CEYN is hampered by limited availability of financial resources, particularly for long term projects that could ensure sustainability.

[Read More at IPS News](#)



THE OCEANS ARE WARMING FASTER THAN SCIENTISTS THOUGHT



Credit: The Ocean Cleanup

Our oceans are much warmer than we previously thought, according to a new study. They are also heating up faster than was believed, driven by climate change caused by humans. The study, published this week in the journal *Science*, showed that the world's oceans have got much warmer since the 1960s. Its authors said 2018 would be the warmest year on record for oceans. But what happens when the oceans get warmer, and what does it mean for us?

Rising sea levels

Extreme weather gets more extreme

Ocean life under threat

Food Insecurity

Melting sea ice

And more...[Read More at CNN](#)





FOOD FIGHT: TEA VS COFFEE: WHICH ONE SHOULD YOU ASK FOR?



Credit: Shutterstock

TEA

For

- The fluoride, calcium and other minerals in tea can improve bone health.
- Tea contains slightly more sodium than coffee. Sodium is an electrolyte, which regulates fluid balance in the body.
- It can help to stabilise blood pressure. In 2014 researchers at the Preventive and Clinical Investigations Centre in Paris found that heavy tea drinkers had the lowest blood pressure readings.
- It can be good for your heart. Research published in the *Journal of the American Heart Association* in 2010 found that drinking more than six cups of tea a day was associated with a 36 per cent lower risk of heart disease.

Against

- Tannins in tea can cause nausea if you drink too much of it.

COFFEE

For

- Coffee contains about four times more caffeine than tea. Caffeine boosts alertness and improves energy levels.
- It also contains more antioxidants than tea, such as hydrocinnamic acids and polyphenols.
- It can produce “feel-good” chemicals in the brain such as serotonin.
- It can improve memory. A 2017 study published in *The Journals of Gerontology* found that older women who had almost three cups of coffee a day were less likely to experience cognitive impairment than those who drank less or none. [Read More at The Times](#)





CALL FOR PAPERS ON CLIMATE CHANGE - CPHA (CANADIAN JOURNAL OF PUBLIC HEALTH)



CANADIAN JOURNAL
OF PUBLIC HEALTH

CANADIAN PUBLIC HEALTH
ASSOCIATION

Credit: Canadian Public Health Association

In response to the recent report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the *Canadian Journal of Public Health* invites submissions to a special section on Moving on IPCC 1.5C, 2018 that explore promising public health research, policy and practice responses to environmental crisis in a warming world. We encourage a range of quantitative, qualitative, mixed methods, and/or theory-informed contributions, including: conceptual insights that frame and inform transformative public health responses to climate change; research and intervention papers at multiple levels of analysis; innovations in policy and practice focused on climate change response efforts that are situated within specific contexts; knowledge synthesis and translation studies relating to public health responses; and pedagogical assessments and evaluations that prepare the public health workforce to respond to health equity impacts of climate change at local to global levels. We welcome both Canadian and international studies that are relevant to Canada.

Deadline for full manuscript submissions: August 1, 2019

Anticipated publication: Spring, 2020

Please consult the complete [Call for Papers](#) for details.





Credit: AFC/Middlebury

To adequately address gendered issues of sexual harassment, wage gaps, and leadership inequities, medical institutions must interrogate medical education. Feminist theories can help to understand how power operates within our classrooms and at the bedside. This scoping review maps the four main ways in which feminist theory has been applied to medical education and medical education research—namely, critical appraisal of what is taught in medical curricula; exploration of the experiences of women in medical training; informing pedagogical approaches to how medicine is taught; and finally, medical education research, determining both areas of inquiry and methodologies. Feminist theory has the potential to move clinicians and educators from theory to action, building bridges of solidarity between the medical profession and the community it is called to serve.

[Read More at The Lancet](#)



Neighbourhood Eco Meeting

Parkdale-High Park, Toronto

February 26, 2019



Credit: David Zakus

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