

U21 Early Career Researcher Workshop 2022: Planetary Health

Hosted by University of Edinburgh

The rapid degradation of our planet threatens the health – and survival – of communities around the world. Knowing this, two major channels of action stand before us. First: we must assess the varied health impacts of global environmental change to understand who is most vulnerable and work to protect them. Second: we can leverage evidence on the human-specific consequences of climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, resource scarcity, and other challenges to call for urgent action – and design better systems that incorporate known externalities into our economics, law, business, and politics.

Both paths are critically important, and both require innovative, interdisciplinary research – and its translation to multisectoral solutions. This workshop challenges early-career scholars to think expansively about planetary health crises and how we might solve them together. Five plenary sessions offer the opportunity to brainstorm on creative applications of planetary health research, drawing experts from non-governmental organizations, financial institutions, law and politics, the media, and activist groups into conversation with top planetary health scholars from across the globe.

In addition to rich plenary conversations with world-leading experts, this workshop also offers a variety of skills development sessions and networking events – preparing young researchers to go out into the world and make a difference. What might a healthier world look like, and what would it take to get there?

Workshop Programme at a Glance

	Monday 21 February	Tuesday 22 February	Wednesday 23 February	Thursday 24 February	Friday 25 February
Morning	Welcome 08:45 – 09:00 Skills Session 1: Storytelling 09:00 – 10:30 GMT	Skills Session 2: Community-Engaged Research 07:00-08:30 GMT	Social Session 3: Technical vs Cultural: How to Marry the Two in Planetary Health (Discussion Group) 08:00 – 09:00 GMT	Plenary 4: Economics and the Private Sector 08:00 – 10:00 GMT	Plenary 5: Future Scenarios 08:00 – 10:00 GMT Closing remarks
		Plenary 2: Politics and Legal Frameworks 09:00-11:00 GMT			
Afternoon	Social Session 1: Welcome Lunch 12:00 – 13:00 GMT		Skills Session 3: Policy 12:00 – 13:30 GMT		Skills Session 5: Industry 12:00 – 13:30 GMT
	Plenary 1: Community Grown Solutions 16:00 – 18:00 GMT		Plenary 3: Strategic Communications 15:00 – 17:00 GMT	Skills Session 4: Interdisciplinary Research 15:00 – 16:30 GMT	Skills Session 6: Mentorship 15:00 – 16:00 GMT
Evening		Social Session 2: Conversation with Indigenous Leaders 18:30 – 19:30 GMT	Social Session 4: Speed Dating for Researchers 22:00 – 23:00 GMT	Social Session 5: Community-Building for Resilience 19:00 – 20:00 GMT	

Skills Sessions	Plenaries	Socials
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Workshop Programme

Monday 21 February 2022	
<p>08:45 – 10:30 GMT</p> <p>Zoom Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82602964840?pwd=SytFWlUvSEFsTWxnMitWTzFuTUl1QT09</p> <p>Meeting ID: 826 0296 4840 Passcode: 724046</p>	<p>Welcome to the U21 ECR Workshop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Jane Hillston, Deputy Vice Principal Research, University of Edinburgh • Dr Connie Wan, Senior Manager (Researcher Engagement and Network Development), Universitas 21 • Professor Geoff Simm, Director of the Global Academy of Agriculture and Food Security, and Chair of Global Agriculture and Food Security, University of Edinburgh <p>Skills Session 1: Storytelling Facilitator: Reverend Dr Urzula Glienecke, Associate Chaplain, University of Edinburgh</p> <p>Advancing planetary health action – and deep cultural change – requires effectively telling the story of our interdependence with the Earth. Using creative writing techniques, this session will help participants develop narrative building skills for communicating their research effectively through different channels and media.</p>
<p>12:00 – 13:00 GMT</p> <p>Zoom Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89978237644?pwd=Q3NlbnVhVHA5RUI5OW1ndDVDbnh3UT09</p> <p>Meeting ID: 899 7823 7644 Passcode: 048707</p>	<p>Social Session 1: Welcome Wellbeing Lunch Hosted by University of Edinburgh</p> <p>Bring along your breakfast/lunch/dinner to this informal social and share your reflections on how deteriorating planetary health (e.g., effects of climate change, increased urbanisation, increased health hazards such as infectious diseases) impacts on our mental health. We will also share tips for developing good habits for positive mental health and wellbeing.</p>
<p>16:00 – 18:00 GMT</p> <p>Zoom Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86486772682?pwd=RXVaTkh2MWDuakx1eUNVWldlWlEpCdz09</p> <p>Meeting ID: 864 8677 2682 Passcode: 757258</p>	<p>Plenary 1: Community-grown solutions Chair: Dr Nicole Redvers, Assistant Professor, Department of Indigenous Health and Family & Community Medicine, University of North Dakota Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jonathan Jennings, Executive Director, Health in Harmony • Devika Agge, Chief Development Officer, Health in Harmony • Pete Ritchie, Nourish Scotland • Osman Dar, WHO • Neal Spackman, Regenerative Resources Co. <p>The urgency of planetary health challenges often pushes us to think about solutions at a global scale – occluding community needs and the on-the-ground perspectives that are essential to developing long-lasting solutions. Through listening deeply to communities on the frontlines of planetary health challenges, we can often discover novel win-win, nature-based approaches that simultaneously improve ecological resilience, protect health, and support local economies. This session will bring together leading scholars in environmental justice with representatives from frontline communities and from organizations working to develop community-based actions. Armed with intellectual humility and a commitment to building relationships, how can we design a healthier planet from the ground up?</p>

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Tuesday 22 February 2022

<p>07:00 – 08:30 GMT</p> <p>Zoom Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88149887196?pwd=b2k4ZzBRbmlwNDFMbGo2L0krc2NPQT09</p> <p>Meeting ID: 881 4988 7196 Passcode: 679702</p>	<p>Skills Session 2: Community-Engaged Research</p> <p>Facilitator: Dr Corinne Reid, Senior Research Fellow, Global Health Academy, University of Edinburgh</p> <p>This session will help participants develop the approaches and skills needed to effectively collaborate with frontline communities in researching and combatting planetary health challenges. With a particular eye on environmental justice, attendees will learn about developing research partnerships, decolonizing research methodologies, and meaningfully engaging community.</p>
<p>09:00 – 11:00 GMT</p> <p>Zoom Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81531824051?pwd=ekpMK2Ywbm5xemNQ3JURjcwU2J2QT09</p> <p>Meeting ID: 815 3182 4051 Passcode: 039405</p>	<p>Plenary 2: Politics and legal frameworks</p> <p>Chair: Professor Lisa Boden, Chair of Population Medicine and Veterinary Public Health Policy, University of Edinburgh</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Clara Calia, University of Edinburgh • Renzo Guinto, Chief Planetary Health Scientist and Associate Professor of Public and Planetary Health, Sunway University, Malaysia • Dr Erin O'Donnell, Early Career Academic Fellow and Senior Fellow (Melbourne Law Masters), University of Melbourne <p>Do we have a right to health? Can we employ self-defense arguments to justify environmental action – as the following quote from Pulitzer-Prize-winning fictional novel <i>The Overstory</i> suggests? “Our home has been broken into. Our lives are being endangered. The law allows for all necessary force against unlawful and imminent harm.” Can we think beyond human communities and bestow rights upon natural entities – saying that a river, for example, has a right to be clean? Our legal systems define what is right, what is wrong, and what is allowable under the law. An internationally-growing body of research on the health impacts of environmental change could support a host of legal arguments for environmental action. The question is – what does influencing the law actually look like? This session explores what it takes to advance action through law – and whether our legal frameworks can evolve quickly enough to forestall total planetary collapse.</p>
<p>18:30 – 19:30 GMT</p> <p>Zoom Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82086343264?pwd=ZnZYM2lXK3FvWkxmWWVDNDJiNnFJUT09</p> <p>Meeting ID: 820 8634 3264 Passcode: 787383</p>	<p>Social Session 2: Conversation with Indigenous Leaders</p> <p>Hosted by: Lisa R. Smith, Pull Together Now and Steven Newcomb, Director of the Indigenous Law Institute</p> <p>Indigenous leadership from North America will share their experiences with global environmental change, traditional ecological knowledge, and aspirations for change at community, national, and international levels.</p>

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Wednesday 23 February 2022

<p>08:00 – 09:00 GMT</p> <p>Zoom Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87449685309?pwd=dDVtZXdrRQU9OU25yQkg3V3ZEN1Sz09</p> <p>Meeting ID: 874 4968 5309 Passcode: 176697</p>	<p>Social Session 3: Technical vs Cultural: How to marry the two in Planetary Health (Discussion Group)</p> <p>An informal discussion group where participants will be required to read and respond to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ecology of Perception: An Interview with David Abram (available as audio and as a transcript) • Quick fix for care, productivity, hygiene and inequality: reframing the entrenched problem of antibiotic overuse, Laurie Denyer Willis and Clare Chandler
<p>12:00 – 13:30 GMT</p> <p>Join Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87174433491?pwd=VTJmQzlySIBVZ3pjQ1dBT0lGNVhDZz09</p> <p>Meeting ID: 871 7443 3491 Passcode: 412896</p>	<p>Skills Session 3: Policy</p> <p>Phil Mackie, Consultant in Public Health, Clinical and Protecting Health, Public Health Scotland.</p> <p>This session will help participants develop a better understanding of moving research to policy. Participants will spend time discussing how to understand policy priorities, to write policy briefs, and how to effectively influence policymakers.</p>
<p>15:00 – 17:00 GMT</p> <p>Zoom Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81600820657?pwd=NEw1YkFjYWVtMlk3bDBxZUkvS21KZz09</p> <p>Meeting ID: 816 0082 0657 Passcode: 476096</p>	<p>Plenary 3: Strategic communications</p> <p>Chair: Katherine Trebeck, Senior Strategic Advisor, Wellbeing Economy Alliance</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aoife Kirk, Irish Doctors for the Environment • Prathima Muniyappa, MIT Media Lab • Phil Mackie, Consultant in Public Health, Clinical and Protecting Health, Public Health Scotland. <p>The recently-released film, <i>Don't Look Up</i>, starring Leonardo DiCaprio, follows scientists who have discovered an earth-shattering comet destined to strike the planet within six months – and fail to be taken seriously. Strategic communications are central to effectively mobilizing communities towards planetary health action, and yet scientists have struggled to reach a critical mass for decades. This session will explore opportunities for sounding the alarm on planetary health challenges in ways that yield true popular engagement and spark action. Who do we need to reach – and how – to raise the profile of the planetary health crisis? How do we get them to care? The more difficult question: what do we want them to do?</p>
<p>22:00 – 23:00 GMT</p> <p>Zoom Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84140568375?pwd=ZndtR3h3OUZBWk9EZ0g1Tm9WKOZlZz09</p> <p>Meeting ID: 841 4056 8375 Passcode: 113334</p>	<p>Social Session 4: Speed Dating for Researchers</p> <p>Facilitator: Professor Jane Hillston, Deputy Vice Principal Research, University of Edinburgh</p> <p>In this session you will be in a series of quick-fire discussions exploring aspects of your research and your research life. Come along to meet other participants and share your experience of the workshop, how it has influenced your work and what you hope for the future.</p>

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Thursday 24 February 2022

<p>08:00 – 10:00 GMT</p> <p>Zoom Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85824308753?pwd=UWNzNC94WnVrcmg1ajJHMmpwRHNTQT09</p> <p>Meeting ID: 858 2430 8753 Passcode: 337399</p>	<p>Plenary 4: Economics and the private sector</p> <p>Chair: Professor Geoff Simm, Director of the Global Academy of Agriculture and Food Security, and Chair of Global Agriculture and Food Security, University of Edinburgh</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Dominic Moran, Professor of Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of Edinburgh • Dr Sarah Ivory, Lecturer in Climate Change and Business Strategy, University of Edinburgh • Professor Gbenga Ibikunle, Chair of Finance, University of Edinburgh • Dr Winston Kwon, Senior Lecturer, University of Edinburgh Business School <p>Are planetary health challenges fundamentally market failures? What would it take to better account for the true values of environmental resources – and the true costs of planetary degradation? From crafting financial incentives to curb emissions to spurring cutting-edge entrepreneurial solutions, this session will engage varied private sector leaders speaking to systems-level changes that can spur innovation and motivate political action.</p>
<p>15:00 – 16:30 GMT</p> <p>Zoom Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86112856973?pwd=YIB4WXI2a0o2eFBxYTMrRkFhR1Vidz09</p> <p>Meeting ID: 861 1285 6973 Passcode: 325864</p>	<p>Skills Session 4: Interdisciplinary Research: Understanding and navigating the barriers to success</p> <p>Facilitator: Dr Emily Woollen, Academic Developer, Institute for Academic Development, University of Edinburgh</p> <p>Interdisciplinary research has seen a boom in recent years with governments, funders, institutions and other decision makers promoting it as the best way to solve many of societies ongoing problems. However, for researchers it can be perceived as being risky to pursue interdisciplinary research within a research system that is still largely based on disciplinary structures for recognition and evaluation. Similarly, interdisciplinary collaborations require more effort to ensure effective communication and integration of different cultural and disciplinary perspectives. In this workshop we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define different modes and models of interdisciplinary research for individuals and teams • Identify some of the barriers and specific needs for success of interdisciplinary research • Discuss different strategies for how to navigate the barriers for individual careers and collaborative teams. <p>The workshop is aimed at early career researchers with a range of interdisciplinary experiences, and will give participants a chance to understand and reflect on what interdisciplinarity means to them, what barriers might present themselves, and how they might tackle these with different strategies. There will also be opportunities to discuss these with peers during the session. Whether you are an individual who spans a number of disciplines, or a researcher who works as part of an interdisciplinary team, anticipating potential challenges early and troubleshooting these will help individuals and project leads to manage interdisciplinary research successfully.</p>
<p>19:00 – 20:00 GMT</p> <p>Zoom Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84269263635?pwd=VXA5cjB3VzlwXpCQXhWd08vR1N4QT09</p> <p>Meeting ID: 842 6926 3635 Passcode: 624182</p>	<p>Social Session 5: Community Building for Resilience</p> <p>Facilitator: Dr Britt Wray, Stanford University</p> <p>This session will focus on ecoanxiety – and how building community and sharing feelings of grief and despair can build resilience, in terms of both mental health and the climate.</p>

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Friday 25 February 2022

<p>08:00 – 10:00 GMT</p> <p>Zoom Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85185208313?pwd=K1NnMmRzUE03cm9vc2V2VUF5SnFRQT09</p> <p>Meeting ID: 851 8520 8313 Passcode: 380044</p>	<p>Plenary 5: <i>Future scenarios, looking at the future of planetary health in the context of food systems</i></p> <p>Chair: Professor Liz Grant, Assistant Principal (Global Health) and Director of the Global Health Academy, University of Edinburgh</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Simon Fraval, Global Academy of Agriculture and Food Security, University of Edinburgh • Professor Tom MacMillan, Elizabeth Creak Chair in Rural Policy and Strategy, Royal Agricultural University • Dr Lindsay Jaacks, UKRI Future Leaders Fellow and Chancellors Fellow Global Challenges, University of Edinburgh • Nicole de Paula, Strategy Expert, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations • Robyn Alders, Senior Consulting Fellow, Centre for Universal Health <p>This session imagines possible futures in planetary health in terms of food systems, exploring how we mitigate the worst outcomes and arrive at the best possible scenarios. Emphasising the importance of interdisciplinary and multisectoral thinking, speakers will leverage a variety of perspectives – spanning environmental justice, law and politics, strategic communications, and the private sector – to engage in a spirited discussion of what we can expect from the years to come. Speakers will discuss a best case scenario, worst case scenario, and status quo scenario for food systems and planetary health over the next 20 years.</p>
	<p>Closing remarks</p> <p>Professor Liz Grant, Assistant Principal (Global Health) and Director of the Global Health Academy, University of Edinburgh</p>
<p>12:00 – 13:30 GMT</p> <p>Zoom Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88649596190?pwd=K3JsQ3hUSzV5aTJvempNajllaVoyZz09</p> <p>Meeting ID: 886 4959 6190 Passcode: 940746</p>	<p>Skills Session 5: Industry</p> <p>Facilitators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Susan Bodie, Head of Business Development, College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine, University of Edinburgh • John Jeffrey, Head of Business Development, College of Science and Engineering, University of Edinburgh <p>Engaging with industry is a less-common domain planetary health researchers explore in moving their research to action. This session will focus on how to develop connections with industry stakeholders, develop effective presentations and other communications materials for industry engagement, and balance industry and research priorities.</p>
<p>15:00 – 16:00 GMT</p> <p>Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82504580494?pwd=QS8wdVZHNVQzUjptWTFHb3oxU1Qdz09</p> <p>Meeting ID: 825 0458 0494 Passcode: 498412</p>	<p>Skills Session 6: Mentorship</p> <p>Facilitators: Professor Liz Grant, Professor Jane Hillston, Professor Lisa Boden (University of Edinburgh) and Katherine Trebeck (Wellbeing Economy Alliance)</p> <p>Join Liz, Jane, Lisa and Katherine who will be sharing their experiences of what good mentorship looks like.</p>