

GW4 EPSRC IAA Climate and Health Workshop

14 July 2021

Workshop highlights

53 participants from across GW4 attended the event to discuss ideas for interdisciplinary collaboration on *existing and future societal vulnerabilities and opportunities in climate and health*. Participant backgrounds included: architecture; biosciences; business; computer science; earth sciences; economics; education; engineering; geography; law; medicine; politics; psychology; and sociology.

The event comprised small breakout discussions with feedback to the wider group alongside several short provocation talks. Talks and plenary sessions are available [online](#).

Breakout session 1

Key themes emerging during the first interdisciplinary discussion session, focusing on the question “wouldn’t it be great if we could...?”:

- Going from research evidence to action: how decision makers understand and consider the potential health and climate consequences of different planning scenarios – including economic and non-economic value considerations
- Institutionalising science policy and long-term policy connections
- Joining up climate and health data and frameworks, including linking human health data to early warning systems
- The changing environment: impact on identity and relationships
- Increasing the diversity of biodiversity: intersections with nature-based solutions
- Practices and structures for bringing in the voices of groups affected by climate change and climate and health policies

Breakout session 2

Building on the themes above, this session focused on fundable research and impact ideas:

Linking human health data to early warning systems

- Setting up climate models to predict ideal conditions to bacterial pathogens e.g., *Vibrio* species - how can we add new variables into these models?
- How are health facility morbidity admissions and climate variability indicators related in Kenya?
- Can early warning systems be adapted to be predictive of drought related spikes in caseloads and health facility morbidity and malnutrition admissions, and/or of passing of capacity thresholds of health systems to absorb those caseloads at multiple levels?

Community voices: participatory and co-created research

- How can we make ESRC IAA impact funding for example much more community-based? Co-creating relationships and using terminology which is shaping rather than engagement. How can University be of service?

Trade-offs: understanding for different communities/groups

- How does the changing environment affect people's identity and relationship to their environments? What are the impacts (on health etc)? How do we support people whilst this is happening? How relate to places and how relate to each other within these places -- the environment can change (can be mine, extreme weather destruction, SIDS with sea level rise) and how it reshapes our values.

Eco-evolutionary theory to embrace rapid behaviour change

- To what extent does the environment influence reproductive decisions? Is there room for translating animal-based modelling into human based models? Would that be more relevant for a research rather than impact grant?

Science policy interfaces and how to institutionalise

- Training for ECRs on science policy and how to influence policy and work with policymakers as they often have unrealistic expectations of how this can be achieved. Building linkages between scientists and politics at undergraduate level.
- Hub on science policy interface - build a cohort of people with a science background who help produce policy briefs, make connections between academic offers and policy problems. Wales Public Policy Institute trying to do this, recognition that Welsh Gov much more accessible than English.

Climate Change from Community Perspective

- Photo Voice - Narratives of how communities experience climate change and health with cross community exchange to share experiences.

Linking modelling frameworks together to inform policy

- On city scale: ability to simulate the urban environment to help outline strategies that support adaptation pathways - map out values (beyond financial).

Valuing nature: building biodiversity into better NBS models

- How do we increase the diversity of biodiversity values in health (individual health, community level health but also systems level healthcare systems)?

Resources flagged during workshop

- [Blue Communities](#): trade-offs of climate and health adaptation options
- [Greener NHS](#) programme
- [Association of Local Environmental Records Centres](#): GI and biodiversity data
- [What Works Kenya](#): impact partners for health and climate (Kenya and international)
- [Earth Negotiations Bulletin \(ENB\)](#) climate reporting service for policymakers
- WHO 2021 report on interconnections of [Nature, Biodiversity and Health](#)
- Importance of [terminology in environment and human health research](#)
- [Sonic Kayaks](#) citizen science project on underwater soundscapes
- British Council [international research workshops](#)