



جامعة بيروت العربية
BEIRUT ARAB UNIVERSITY



URBAN HEALTH
AND WELLBEING
A SYSTEMS APPROACH



Joint interdisciplinary seminar

Urban Health and Wellbeing: Advancing Systems, Science and Technology

Apr 26-27, 2017, Beirut-Arab University

Background

Today the world is predominantly urban. However, despite improving indicators for life expectancy and health, health risks in urban areas are rising and we have only begun to understand the complex interconnections between human health and the urban environments. Today the importance of health as a cross-cutting and integrating factor for sustainable urban development is increasingly recognized, not only for cities but for global sustainable development. Witness to that are, for example, the WHO and UN HABITAT efforts to show why health can be perceived as the “pulse” of the New Urban Agenda and why a ‘Health-In-All-Policies’ approach could be a cost effective and equitable strategy for urban sustainability. Nevertheless scientific evidence is still needed to show which interconnected determinants of health and wellbeing impact on human lives and the urban planet.

Policymakers and researchers need to understand how these determinants interact and lead to better or worsening of health outcomes. A systems approach to Urban Health and Wellbeing promises innovative advances for science and society. At a practical level, applying a systems approach includes, understanding conceptual issues, formulating appropriate research questions, and planning out the research methods. The Seminar intends to increase awareness of these issues and define future action, to study urban health and wellbeing in the region, using a systems approach.

Beirut-Arab University in collaboration with scientists from Alexandria University, Egypt and the International Council for Science (ICSU) programme on Urban Health and Wellbeing: a Systems Approach, jointly organize an interdisciplinary seminar “Urban Health and Wellbeing: Advancing Systems, Science and Technology” for exchange of knowledge and planning of future collaboration.

Draft agenda

April 26, 2017

0830-0900	Welcome and introductions
0900-0915	<p>The systems approach to Urban Health and Wellbeing</p> <p>Franz Gatzweiler Executive Director, Global science programme Urban Health and Wellbeing: a Systems Approach, International Council for Science (ICSU)</p>
0915-0930	<p>Systems approaches in population health: a non-mathematical view</p> <p>Saroj Jayasinghe Faculty of Medicine University of Colombo, Sri Lanka</p>
0930-0945	<p>Understanding cities as systems: research case studies from Alexandria, Egypt</p> <p>Hany Ayad Faculty of Engineering, Alexandria University, Egypt</p>
0945-1000	<p>Urban health and wellbeing e-labs of the Complex Systems Digital Campus, UNESCO Uni-Twin</p> <p>Celine Rozenblat Faculty of Geosciences and the Environment, Institute of Geography and Sustainability (IGD) – Geopolis, University of Lausanne, Switzerland</p>
1000-1030	Break
1030-1045	<p>Systems approaches as a tool for translating knowledge to policy</p> <p>José Siri United Nations University, International Institute for Global Health</p>
1045-1115	<p>Resilience.io: the systems approach taken by T.E.S.T.</p> <p>Peter Head Founder & Chief Executive Officer, The Ecological Sequestration Trust (T.E.S.T.)</p>
1115-1200	Discussion
1200-1330	Lunch
1330-1400	<p>Identifying <i>activity fields</i> for a UHWB science programme at BAU</p> <p>Collective identification of 5 activity fields (AF) Election of chair and rapporteur for each group/AF</p> <p><u>Examples for activity fields (AF)</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Modeling UHWB, interdisciplinary and participatory approaches (interdisciplinary) 2. Healthy urban environments; green (ecology), grey (roads buildings), blue (water), and yellow (society and institutions) 3. Urban health economics: provision of goods and services; equal access and opportunities 4. Urban planning 5. Urban systems intelligence: smart people, infrastructure and technology
1400-1530	Defining priorities for a UHWB science programme Working groups (WG)
1530-1700	Report from (WG)
1700	Closing

Apr 27, 2017

Time and location: tbc

High level discussions (with Deans, vice presidents, may be president), on the results of the seminar and future steps:

- (1) other training programs,
- (2) how to support the HWB research program in the university, including themes and priorities
- (3) possible conference in 2018
- (4) possible pilot project(s)
- (5) partners and networks for science and demonstration projects