



Safeguarding human health in the Anthropocene

Humanity is having pervasive and increasingly dominant effects on natural systems worldwide leading many scientists to conclude that we live in the Anthropocene epoch. Environmental trends include large-scale changes to climate, freshwater availability and quality, land use, marine ecosystems and biodiversity loss.

Professor Andy Haines will discuss the findings of The Rockefeller Foundation-Lancet Commission on planetary health, which has documented how these environmental trends pose major challenges to sustaining health advances of recent decades. He will outline how such trends and their drivers can affect a range of health outcomes such as non-communicable diseases, water-related and vector-borne diseases. Furthermore he will explore the health effects of increased frequency and intensity of extreme events, such as floods, droughts, and heat waves, and the impacts of environmental change on food security and undernutrition.

In its report, the Commission shows how policies to deal with these threats can also help tackle the unfinished agenda of largely poverty-related environmental health challenges; increase resilience to emerging threats, and address the driving forces of environmental change.

Practical Information

8 March 2016

15:00 - 16:00

Festsalen

Frue Plads 4

1168 Copenhagen K

Admission free, registration at:
www.sustainability.ku.dk/sustainability-lectures/signup

Hosted by the
 Sustainability Science Centre
 University of Copenhagen
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Andy Haines is Professor of Public Health and Primary Care at LSHTM. He was Dean (subsequently Director) of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine for nearly 10 years until October 2010. He was a family doctor in inner London for many years and formerly Professor of Primary Health Care at UCL. His international experience includes working in Jamaica, Nepal, Canada and the USA. His publications cover topics such as climate change and health, evaluation of complex interventions in primary care and various aspects of global health policy. He has been a member of many national and international committees including the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the WHO Advisory Committee on Health Research and Sustainable Development Solutions Network. He was chair of the Rockefeller Foundation /Lancet Commission on Planetary Health.

Steffen Loft, head of the Department of Public Health at University of Copenhagen, Professor, DMSc, is the moderator for this lecture. He is worldly recognised for research in the fields of health effects of particles, molecular epidemiology and oxidative DNA damage and repair.



COSI is a network across the Sustainability Platform at CBS, the Sustainability Science Centre at UCPH, and the Global Decision Support Initiative at DTU.



Sustainability Lectures at UCPH aim to create attention and visibility of the challenges to sustainable development. The lectures are open to the public and help create a bridge between science and society. Watch previous lectures at sustainability.ku.dk.