

Planetary health – broadening our conception of collective wellbeing

Climate change and other planetary health crises pose serious threats to our health and wellbeing. Responding effectively to these threats requires an understanding of their causes as rooted in the disruption of essential relationships, driven by systems of colonialism and capitalism. Our responses must not reinscribe the same exploitative power dynamics – instead we must seek to dismantle these systems and recentre relational values. This means broadening our conception of collective wellbeing to encompass all our relatives – human and more-than-human – including the Earth itself. In this address I will outline a vision of planetary health that is grounded in Indigenous worldviews, relationships and knowledges, and identify important tensions when working in this space. Navigating these tensions requires a commitment to decolonisation, re-establishing relational ways of being, and honouring our mutual responsibilities. Reorienting our efforts in this way can contribute to addressing the intersecting crises we face and realising a transformative vision of planetary health.