

CLIMATE CHANGE: HOW SAFE ARE YOU?

Food, water, disease, health, conflict and your pocketbook and what may be coming down the pipe

A David and Cecilia Ting Endowment Fund Lecture Series
February 5 - March 5, 2015 and Fall 2015



***The Future Isn't What It Used to Be* - Presented by Dr. Kristie L. Ebi,**
Professor, Global Health, University of Washington, Seattle

Thursday, February 19, 2015, 7:00 pm,
Room 1900, SFU Harbour Centre, 515 West Hastings

Abstract: Health systems have an impressive history of identifying and reducing health threats, as evidenced by the dramatic increase in life expectancy over the past century. However, climate change is working against these trends. Changing weather patterns have the potential to affect any health outcome that is seasonal or that is associated with weather and climate, including injuries, illnesses, and deaths associated with extreme weather events. Changing weather patterns can affect the geographic range and intensity of transmission of water- and foodborne diseases, vectorborne, and zoonotic diseases; respiratory diseases associated with ground-level ozone and aeroallergens; and undernutrition. Further, weather and climate influence many key determinants of human health, such as food and freshwater availability. Climate change may result in resource depletion and other processes that could lead to large-scale population displacement and its associated physical and mental health impacts. The largest negative health effects are projected for lower-income populations within developed and developing countries, especially those living in tropical and subtropical countries. With more than 150 years of experience in identifying and responding to health threats, health systems are well placed to avoid, prepare for, and respond to the health risks of climate change.

Bio: Kristie L. Ebi is a Professor in the Department of Global Health and in the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, University of Washington; a Guest Professor at Umea University, Sweden; and Consulting Professor at Stanford and George Washington Universities. She conducts research on the impacts of and adaptation to climate change, including on extreme events, thermal stress, foodborne safety and security, waterborne diseases, and vectorborne diseases. Her work focuses on understanding sources of vulnerability and designing adaptation policies and measures to reduce the risks of climate change in a multi-stressor environment. She has worked on assessing vulnerability and implementing adaptation measures in Central America, Europe, Africa, Asia, the Pacific, and the US. She is co-chair of the International Committee On New Integrated Climate change assessment Scenarios (ICONICS), facilitating development of new climate change scenarios. She was Executive Director of the IPCC Working Group II Technical Support Unit from 2009 -2012. She was a coordinating lead author or lead author for the human health assessment for two US national assessments, the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report, the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, and the International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development.

Reservations:

As seating is limited, reservations are recommended:
<http://how-safe-are-you-enviro.eventbrite.com>

Climate Change: How Safe Are YOU? Series <http://www.sfu.ca/coastal/research-series/listing/a-planet-under-pressure.html>
Because global climate change is making us less secure, this series will report on what experts can now see happening to our food and water, to our health and wellbeing, to international conflict, and even to our pocketbook. Loss of security will affect everyone, but there are also pressing ethical dimensions to the unfolding crisis. This series is a call to reasonable, sustained action by us all. We need to lead our leaders.

Upcoming Lectures and Discussions:

February 26, 2015, (security) - Welcome to the Pressure Cooker: How Climate Change is Making Our World More Violent and Less Secure - Room 1400

Dr. Marc Levy, Deputy Director, Ctr. for International Earth Science Info. Network, Columbia University, Palisades, New York

March 5, 2015, (ethics and risk) - Safety and Risk: Why Values Matter

Dr. Ingrid Stefanovic, Dean, Faculty of Environment, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC

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