Weaving equitable research partnerships to advance global and planetary health

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A fabric of life view of the world

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Interconnected, relational, disruptive

Faerron Guzman et al.

Created by and for the Indigenous Foundation, Design by Meera Baswan
Weaving global health partnerships from academia
My journey as a scientist
Dengue early warning in Barbados

Lippi et al.
Engage early in the process to decide what the problem is.

- Identify project goals
- Identify and invite stakeholders
- Choose modelling tools
- Collect and process data
- Discuss system, build conceptual model
- Run model, discuss results
- Discuss and define scenarios
- Analyze model, discuss improvements
- Present results to other stakeholders and decision makers
- Work on the project until action is taken

How to strengthen climate-health partnerships

• Political mandates on climate & health
• Political will (leadership).
• Formal institutional agreements.
• Data sharing agreements between sectors.
• National Committees on climate & health.
• Regular meetings for climate & health sectors to review seasonal climate forecasts.
• Joint training for climate-health sectors.

(Stewart Ibarra et al PLOS NTD 2019)

Barbados Port, 2017
Dengue Early Warning Tool

Nonlinear and delayed impacts of climate on dengue risk in Barbados: A modelling study


- Drought followed by heavy rainfall 4-5 months later increases the risk of dengue outbreaks.
- Increasing risk of dengue outbreaks with minimum temperatures increasing up to 25°C.
Lessons learned

• Listen first.
• Political leadership and strong governance are key.
• Trust, patience, and persistence are central to a long-term process of partnership.
Weaving partnerships from an intergovernmental organization
Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI)

19
Member countries

32 years
Declaration of Montevideo (1992)

Supporting global change science for a more sustainable and resilient Americas.

Principles of scientific excellence, international cooperation and full and open exchange of scientific information relevant to global environmental change.
IAI Conference of the Parties
• Transdisciplinary research (TD) is necessary when there is high uncertainty and urgency.

• Research is situated in the broader sociopolitical contexts.

• Focused on equitable & respectful collaborations.

• Require reflection on whose knowledge is represented and who benefits from the research.

• Critically examines power asymmetries, colonial legacies, sexism/racism, etc.
What? A partnership of 39 funding organizations, international science councils, and regional consortia committed to advancing TD science. *Hosted by IAI.*

Focus: International TD research that provides knowledge for understanding, mitigating, and adapting to global environmental change.

How? Collaborative Research Actions
To be eligible, the project must be co-developed by natural scientists, social scientists, & stakeholders from at least 3 countries.
Projects will be selected and awarded mid-2024.

Call themes

- Decision-science of environmental behavior and implementation
- Food, Environment, and Biological Security
- Climate Risks to Ecosystems & Populations
Funding Priorities in Latin America & Caribbean

- **Open-source solutions** to make information and tools available

- **Co-development of information** that is applicable by diverse subject matter experts and practitioner types

- **Creating and supporting a research-policy community of practice**

- **Training** in transdisciplinary approaches & science communication
More than 5000 people trained across the Americas

Pan American Climate Resilient Health Systems

Free Certificate-Based Course
April 4 - May 2, 2023
Tuesdays & Thursdays
10:00-11:30 AM EST | 11:00-12:30 PM UYT

New course on climate, health, and migration coming soon!
Climate, Environment and Health Responders in the Americas: Mobilizing Transdisciplinary Knowledge and training for policy action

7-week virtual training
Transdisciplinary skills
Science communication
Sep-Nov 2022

In-person grant workshop
March 2023

12 seed grants awarded, 15 countries
2023-2024
Lessons learned

For research to have an impact on public health, we need to design **spaces of dialogue and research processes** that bring together scientists, public and private sectors, & civil society.

- Training programs and seed grants are needed to build/strengthen research teams and increase EDI before a funding call is launched.

- Trust-based partnerships allow us to pool resources and align priorities/actions.

- Language matters.
New funding call to launch mid 2024

FORESTS 2024

This CRA aims to address urgent social-ecological challenges for the Tropical Forests.

Proposed themes:
- Reduce deforestation, sustainable development, and bioeconomy/locally led economies
- Ecosystem Function, Connectivity, and Climate Change Science
- Environmental Justice and Governance
IAI’s Gender, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Policy

Advances:
• New advisory body comprised of people from indigenous and local communities
• Belmont is adapting the IAI’s EDI policy
• Multilingual training on IAI’s virtual campus.
• Multilingual global funding calls.
• In-person training workshops to build capacities in transdisciplinary research and science diplomacy.
• Virtual self-paced multilingual courses at no cost.
• Library of multilingual resources.
• Books of case studies from Latin America & Caribbean.
• Tools to support the coordination of TD research.
PEDAGOGICAL COMMITMENTS

Building relationships and generative interactions among participants

Foster networking & engagement opportunities for participants (Synchronous and asynchronous)

Understand how knowledge is produced and legitimated & how this legitimation intersects with issues of inequality, power and visibility

Emphasis on case studies as the basis of module content - place-based and context-driven

Emphasize learning outcomes that are practical and applicable to cases and participants’ contexts

Integrate and center local and traditional knowledge systems

Credit: Lily House Peters, Gabriela Alonso, Marshalee Valentine
• Science in diplomacy: Science providing advice to inform and support foreign policy objectives
• Diplomacy for science: Diplomacy facilitating international scientific cooperation
• Science for diplomacy: Scientific cooperation improving international relations.

IAI Science Diplomacy Center
Climate and health at the UNFCCC COP28
hosted by Guatemala in partnership with IAI and Harvard School of Public Health
Science Diplomacy Training for Policy Makers

Introduction to Science Diplomacy Workshop: Panama | 16-21 October 2023

Panama Declaration
https://www.iai.int/en/post/detail/Panama-Declaration
The next generation of science-policy leaders

14 Participating Countries
- Argentina
- Barbados
- Bolivia
- Brazil
- Canada
- Colombia
- Chile
- Jamaica
- Mexico
- Panama
- Peru
- Trinidad & Tobago
- Uruguay
- USA

68 Inter-American Fellows
IAI STeP Fellows Leadership Statement
Book announcement!!
Transforming global health partnerships: critical reflections and visions of equitable relationships at the interface of research and practice.
Co-edited with Desiree LaBeaud.
Key tenets from the book

Acknowledge colonialism & inequity
Disrupt the status quo
Repair our interconnectedness.
Experience the joy and power of human connections.
Center trust
Stay open and humble to learn.
Work within imperfect systems to drive change
Bring our whole selves in service.
Persist in hopefulness!

It is not just what we do or who does it, but how we work together in global health.
Partnerships for Human & Planetary Health:
Bringing transdisciplinary solutions to global climate and health challenges

Thursday, February 1st 2024
4pm to 5:30pm PT
Spilker Room #232
+ virtual via Zoom

Register at bit.ly/3RQ4fxY
Thank you! Gracias!

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Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research
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https://www.iai.int/es