Cultural contexts of health: “Environment and Health”

We know that the environment affects our health and well-being. Yet, historical, cultural and socio-economic factors play an important role in terms of what facilitates or prevents the use of and access to landscapes and attractive green spaces as well as how the relationship between environment and health is perceived.

In this seminar, three international experts and United Nations staff members will explore the intersections of health, the environment, culture and socio-economic factors. Catherine Ward-Thompson will focus on the idea of ‘landscapes’ and trace historical evidence of the influence of the landscape on people’s health. She will address how access to nature and attractive green spaces has been a recurring theme in descriptions of therapeutic environments and associated healthy lifestyles. Francesca Racioppi will address how the WHO Regional Office for Europe engages in international environment and health governance by focusing on integrating health consideration in policies about built environments, with respect to transport and mobility in relation to health. Sara Trærup brings a perspective shaped by important contemporary research on the socio-economic aspects of climate change and adaptation. In particular, her talk emphasises the need to incorporate climate change adaptation in environmental development.

For more information, please contact: euGHH@who.int