AN UNEQUAL WORLD WITH UNEQUAL CONSEQUENCES: THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN PUBLIC HEALTH, CLIMATE CHANGE, AND GLOBALIZATION

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Abstract

In this talk I will begin by briefly outlining some of the known public health consequences of climate change and how the consequences are unequally distributed between and within the nations of the world. Second, I will describe the levels and historical patterns of national-level anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions (particularly carbon dioxide emissions), which highlights how particular nations in the world are disproportionately responsible for the accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Third, I will discuss how particular forms of economic globalization and the high consumption habits of wealthy nations contribute to growth of greenhouse gas emissions in poorer nations, suggesting that the carbon footprints of wealthier nations are larger than what national-level greenhouse gas emissions data suggest. Fourth, I will conclude by discussing how political and civil society forms of globalization are able to partially mitigate the harmful environmental impacts of economic globalization, including the mitigation of economic globalization's effects on greenhouse gas emissions in poorer nations.