H-Earth is an emerging collaboration of 9 co-founding institutions in 7 countries, which seeks to find self-interested reasons to place the issue of greater health, social and environmental equity more central to the global health agenda. It argues that many of the most pressing problems global health faces are neither mainly social nor mainly environmental, but “eco-social”. It thus follows that solutions must also be eco-social, they cannot be mainly technological. Climate change exemplifies a global health problem which cannot be solved by applying resources mainly to high income populations. While most commentators have argued that climate change largely threatens to harm the health of the poor its foreseeable social consequences include mass migration, conflict, rising food prices, and social instability that would affect all social class. H-Earth seeks to train, educate, and motivate a cohort of public health workers, in collaboration with other disciplines, to better integrate Earth system science not only with health, but planetary scale social science.

About the Speaker:
Colin Butler is a Professor at the University of Canberra, and an Australian Research Council Future Fellow on the topic of "Health and Sustainability: Australia in a Global Context". Dr. Butler is especially interested in future global health, including the consequences of global environmental changes such as to the climate, ecosystems, energy sources and resource depletion. He has published widely, and given many invited talks on topics including food security, population growth, ecology and infectious diseases.

Dr. Butler’s collaborations include the World Health Organization, the Special Program on Tropical Diseases Research, and the World Medical Association. He is co-founder of the NGO BODHI, which is active since 1989, especially in India. He is sole editor of Climate Change and Global Health (CABI, Sept 2014) and the senior editor of Health of Planet, People and Places Reflections based on Tony McMichael’s four decades of contribution to epidemiological understanding (ANU E Press, 2015). Dr. Butler is a member of the scientific steering committee of Global Environmental Change and Human Health, which part of the Earth System Science Partnership. His research interests include Sustainability, Human rights and their links with human health.

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