



SUSTAINABLE
HEALTHEQUITY

SHEM HIGHLIGHTS



AI Generated image

Rethinking Progress: the Urgent Challenge of Our Time

Juan Garay - SHEM

During the 2024 webinars and debates organized by the Health Equity, Ethics, and Metrics working group, we emphasized the urgent need to shift towards the **WiSe (well-being in sustainable equity)** paradigm and to address the critically broken human deal. We critically examined the shape and trend of international cooperation, updated the ethical threshold on carbon emissions, and identified countries that excel in preserving nature and serve as sustainable equity references. Additionally, we analyzed estimates and the distribution of the burden of international inequity, and defined thresholds for dignity, excess and hoarding. We explored redistribution dynamics aimed at achieving a Humanity that thrives in sustainable equity. We proposed a Sustainable Wellbeing Equity Index that challenges the present development concepts and metrics, as the UN HDI. Based on those concepts and metrics, and the 2024 demographic estimates published by the UN Population division, we are updating last year's atlas on global health equity, which shows signs of decreasing references of well-being in sustainable equity and increasing intra and intergenerational inequities between and within countries. In an era where artificial intelligence (AI) offers exponential capacities for data access and analysis across all dimensions of human life, technology seems to remain disproportionately focused on generating profits and benefiting a select few. Currently, AI is predominantly driven by financial speculation and the accumulation of wealth, concentrating economic, media, political, and military power in ever fewer hands. This dynamic exceeds the hoarding threshold, failing to enhance well-being or advance knowledge for global public goods, while simultaneously undermining the lives of present and future generations. Perhaps, as an alien observer of humanity might wisely suggest (paraphrasing Mahatma Gandhi): **"speed is not only irrelevant, but slowly suicidal, if you are going in the wrong direction"**.

WEBINARS 2024

The Burden of Global Health Inequity in 2024: Metrics and Ethical Challenges

Criteria of sustainable models as a basis for equitable wellbeing

Human wellbeing in balance with nature: selección of wellbeing sustainable reference models.

Geography of Global Injustice: State of the Burden of Global Health Inequity in 2023



SHEM HIGHLIGHTS



Toward Sustainable Wellbeing

D. TADHG O'MAHONY - FINLAND FUTURES RESEARCH CENTRE

Sustainability and well-being are two key global policy priorities that, despite significant overlap, are often treated in isolation. Within well-being discourse, the social dimensions are increasingly recognized, but acknowledgment of environmental and natural factors remains nascent. Conversely, sustainability frameworks often inadequately characterize well-being. While procedural synergies exist, persistent conceptual ambiguity risks undermining both goals, necessitating improved integration. In this review article, key contemporary well-being accounts are considered, including preferences, needs, capabilities, happiness, psychological well-being, and physical wellness. Wellbeing literature suggests that a holistic multidimensional account is strongly supported, that is context- and value-dependent, with a prominent role for social and relational dimensions. A transdisciplinary systems thinking approach is appropriate to integrate the individualism characteristic of well-being into the interdependent human and environmental systems of sustainability. It is recognized that both well-being and sustainability are complex and value-laden, requiring the surfacing of values and ethics. A synthesis of the two branches of literature asserts four fundamental lenses: the framing of growth and change; social justice; the ethics of freedom; and the value of nature. The conceptual synthesis both platforms the relational approach of "care," and underlines the imperative to reconsider the place of consumption. An integrated "sustainable well-being" offers the potential for win-win outcomes, in transformation to a flourishing of human well-being and the natural world.

Read the full article [here](#)

RE-EMERGING DEBATES

VIDEOS

[A New Measure for Growth?](#)

[The role of 'systems thinking' in Transformations to Sustainable Futures](#)

[The PEOPLE'S Index: A New Metric to Go Beyond GDP](#)

READINGS

[What is a Wellbeing Economy?](#)

[The Changing Wealth of Nations 2021: Managing Assets for the Future](#)

[Sustainability and people's wellbeing at the heart of Europe's Open Strategy Autonomy.](#)

Two years of intense collaborative work

As the new year dawns, SHEM extends its heartfelt gratitude to members of its 2023-2024 Steering Committee for their unwavering dedication in advancing our agenda. Over the past two years, these members convened monthly, diligently seeking strategic opportunities for SHEM to advocate for urgent attention to the two most pressing issues of our time: the climate crisis and rising inequalities. In 2025, the movement will experiment with a new work-structure wherein a group of co-chairs will collaborate with the executive committee, guided by a consultative board primarily composed of SHEM founders and former members of its Steering Committee. The ongoing activities, including the monthly publication of SHEM Highlights and News From The Field, as well as the Webinar Series on Ethics and Metrics for Sustainable Health Equity, will continue. Simultaneously, we will explore more engaging ways to amplify the impact of our actions on the global agenda. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all the individuals and institutions that have supported us in the struggle for sustainable health equity.

POINT OF VIEW

SHEM MEMBERS' WRITINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A Comprehensive Deal for Peace in the Middle East

Jeffrey D. Sachs and Ehud Shapiro

Beyond equity, diversity and inclusion: the power of intersectionality in transforming workforces

The Lancet Regional Health – Americas

JOIN SHEM

sustainablehealthequity.org

shequitymov

SustainableHealthEquity

At SHEM we link citizens, public health and healthcare advocates, scientists, academics, and related institutions from all regions, cultures, and ideologies pursuing the universal right to health. We aim to promote sustainable health equity as an ethical principle that guides all national and international economic, social, and environmental policies.

SHEM's Highlights Curators: Andre Luis Sales, Diana Zeballos, Gustavo Buss

MUST ATTEND

SHEM CURATED LEARNING EXPERIENCES

The ethics and metrics of the income/GDP equity thresholds.

Resuming the Webinar Series, the SHEM TWG of Ethics and Metrics is thrilled to invite you to a session with Dr. Tadhg O'Mahony. Dr. O'Mahony has been developing a framework for both conceptualization and implementation at the forefront of thinking on emissions mitigation and sustainable development internationally. On February 6th, from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM UTC, Dr. O'Mahony and Juan Garay will discuss the necessity of comprehensive measures to address the core issues of our time: growing inequalities and environmental sustainability.

Register here