Seminars I — 2026/27

Planetary Health: Connecting Perspectives, Research and Action

Organizers: Cecília Rodrigues, Ricardo R. Santos, Teresa Melo

Where: TTC@ULisboa (Auditorium)
When: Last Friday of each month, 14:00
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The second year of the PhD Programme in Planetary Health at the University of Lisbon will include a monthly seminar series designed as a coherent learning journey rather than a collection of disconnected guest lectures. The series will progressively move from understanding complex systems and more-than-human perspectives, through the links between environmental change and health and the challenges faced by urban and vulnerable populations, towards ecological transition, governance and pathways to action. Each two-hour session, delivered in person or as a webinar, will bring together leading experts and practitioners to explore key Planetary Health challenges and cross-cutting perspectives, including futures and anticipatory thinking, systems approaches, and Planetary Health in practice.

Each session will begin with short student pitches, in which students will present a question, challenge or aspect of their own thesis research that connects with the theme of the session. These pitches will provide a starting point for discussion and create a direct link between the seminar content and the students' ongoing research. The aim is for students to progressively build a repertoire of concepts, perspectives and approaches that they can critically apply to their own thesis projects, while also learning from the questions and challenges explored by their peers.

The seminars will combine short expert inputs with discussion, interaction and problem-oriented activities, encouraging students to question assumptions, connect different disciplines and engage with real-world challenges. Rather than simply receiving knowledge from invited speakers, students will be expected to bring their own research questions into the discussion and explore how different perspectives and approaches can reshape their understanding of their thesis topic. The series will therefore seek to connect **perspectives, research and action**, strengthening students' ability to translate Planetary Health knowledge into research, policy and societal impact.

The programme will feature a diverse range of experts, with speakers confirmed and updated throughout the year.

Seminar Schedule

Date	Invited Guest
30 Oct 2026 10:00 – 11:30	**Complex Systems** **Luis Rocha** — *Binghamton University, NY, USA* Specialist in systems science focusing on complex networks and systems, computational and systems biology, and computational intelligence, with applications to human health and biomedical complexity.
27 Nov 2026 16:00 – 17:30	**More than Human Perspectives** **Anna Tsing** — *University of California, Santa Cruz, USA* Anthropologist and author of *Feral Atlas*, exploring multispecies worlds, ecological disruption and the more-than-human Anthropocene.

Date	Invited Guest
18 Dec 2026 14:00 – 15:30	**Global Health Security and One Health** **Margarida Alho** — *DG HERA, Brussels, Belgium* Medical and veterinary doctor focusing on climate- and environment-related health threats, medical countermeasures, and the implementation of the One Health approach.
29 Jan 2027 14:00 -15:30	**Urban Environment** **José Balsa-Barreiro** — *University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain* Engineer and social scientist focusing on the interface between human dynamics and physical environments, with particular attention to cities.
26 Feb 2027 14:00	**Ecology and Biodiversity** **Ricardo Rocha** – *University of Oxford, UK* Ecologist focusing on biodiversity, ecosystem functioning and the links between ecological change and human health.
26 Mar 2027 14:00	**Food systems and food transition** **Rachel Gibson** – *King's College, London, UK* Researcher focusing on food systems, sustainable food transitions and the social and environmental dimensions of food.
30 Apr 2027 14:00	**Mental Health** **Alessandro Massazza** – *London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, London, UK* Specialist in clinical psychology focusing on mental health in the context of populations affected by adversity.
28 May 2027 14:00	**Governance and Public Participation** **Roberto Falanga** — *University of Lisbon, Portugal* Social scientist focusing on local governance, citizen participation and democratic innovation.
Jun–Jul 2027 14:00	**Annual Conference** Opening lecture **Global health Diplomacy & Non-traditional Security** **Mely Caballero-Anthony** — *Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University, Singapore* International relations specialist focusing on global health security, human security and non-traditional security in Asia.