



Wilton Park

Provisional programme

Shifting power in global health

2 November 2021 | 1400-1610 (GMT) | WP1997V

Context and key policy issues

Over the past three years, there have been an increasing number of voices – both individual and institutional – that have called for a reassessment of global health and a greater recognition of its colonial heritage. From its inception as tropical or colonial medicine, through its evolution to its contemporary form, global health has long been a field of research and practice that has privileged the voices of those in positions of power over the populations affected. Abimbola et al. have outlined additional facets of supremacy, including patriarchy, racism, white supremacy, and saviourism, that together with colonialism have laid the foundation for a system that is structurally flawed across the board - from research to governance, to funding and procurement – and that contributes to the maintenance of power asymmetries and privilege within global health.

Spurred in part by post-Covid-19 ambitions to 'build back better', 'decolonising global health' has gained pace as a collection of activist movements that seeks to transition from the theoretical to the practical. Whilst differing in approach it is notable that many of the most vocal groups are led by researchers; to effect change, a global cross-sectoral set of actors will need to be mobilised. Furthermore, whilst it seems as though decolonising global health is a current hot topic, many highly influential organisations are not engaged in this topic, whilst others have actively expressed scepticism towards the decolonial agenda.

This is the first in a series of dialogues to be convened by the United National University, Development Reimagined and Wilton Park. The series will bring together diverse groups of stakeholders—especially under-represented voices—providing a safe space for open and honest discussion about the future of the decolonising agenda in global health.

Goal and objectives

The dialogue will specifically:

- Bring together a diverse range of perspectives from across the global health sector
- Create space for open discussion and provide a platform for underrepresented communities within discussions on decolonising global health
- Start to articulate the ideas and visions of different groups for what a decolonised global health looks like and identify points of convergence

In association with:



UNITED NATIONS
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International Institute
for Global Health



**DEVELOPMENT
REIMAGINED**

- Facilitate several stakeholder identified 'thematic' deep dives for prioritised areas in which action can be most feasibly taken and tangible change achieved.

Speakers invited and themes proposed *denotes confirmed

Tuesday 2 November

1400-1610 (GMT)

Orientation session

Technical check ahead of the official start of the meeting.

1400-1405

Welcome and introductions

***Nancy Lee**

Programme Director Wilton Park

1405-1435

1. Ideas, actions, and forces - the decolonising global health conversation thus far

This session will explore the ideas, forces and actions that are working towards decolonising global health. The session will specifically explore: what does a decolonised global health look like to different individuals, groups, and institutions? What is the most significant action or idea that is contributing to decolonising global health? Where is there most consensus on the actions needed to decolonise global health?

Chair: *Pascale Allotey

United Nations University - International Institute for Global Health (UNU-IIGH)

***Eugene Richardson**

Assistant Professor, Harvard Medical School

***Samuel Oji Oti**

Decolonising Global Health Africa

***Hannah Ryder**

Development Reimagined

1435-1455

2. Why is this conversation important? Values and principles underpinning the decolonising discourse

Olivia Rutazibwa

University of Portsmouth

***Aarathi Krishnan**

UNDP

***Alex Ezeh**

Drexel University

1455-1500

Break

1500-1530

3. Breakout groups

Reflecting on the plenary discussions smaller groups will discuss:

- What does a decolonised global health mean/look like to you?
- Which actors or voices are missing from the discussion?
- What actions needs to be taken by the different actors?
- What actions have been taken and what examples of good practice stand out?

1530-1545

Group feedback

1545-1605

4. Driving the agenda forward

The final session will explore where future discussions need to focus, including how the follow-up dialogues in this series can best support these efforts. What are the most critical drivers of change to move towards a decolonised global health? Where should/could the decolonising community be focusing their efforts? How is not yet engaged in these discussions that needs to be?

Chair: *Hannah Ryder
Development Reimagined

Tara Lloyd
Pivot

Thomas Kariuki
African Academy of Sciences (AESAs)

1605-1610

5. Wrap-up and next steps

This is a preview programme and as such may be subject to change.

Participation is by invitation only.

Enquiries about the programme and participation to:

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