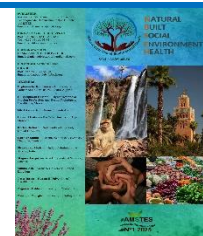




Natural Built Social Environment Health

ISSN 3085-461X

www.nbseh.org



A COMMENDATION

This journal's title has a functional purpose. It means to state that human health and the health of the environment with all its living components depends on its integration. As the complexity of life has increased so has the complexity of environmental problems. These are very often a multi-problem, a problematic; which means that this many-sided problem or multi-problem, or problématique contains its solutions. Waddington [1] made clear that anyone concerned with any of the world's major problems (e.g., population, food supplies, energy) would have to understand all of the major problems and how they interact in producing the problématique. Waddington also referred to the 'networks of networks' which face the researcher, and which require not so much specialised knowledge as general knowledge of the major problems for their solutions to be identified and applied [1, p. 10f.]

Waddington notes the work of Meadows *et al.* [2], and says that these researchers were the first to use computer simulation to study the 'World Problématique' [1, p. 281].

We may say that a worldview in which biology is a central feature must be adapted to solving the multi-problems confronting humanity. This would allow ethics and religion to have their values active in the attempted solving of problems, as much as a sharp awareness of the dangers of human aggression, which is everywhere related to the major problems. Ethics and religions must challenge human aggression and must try to restrain it.

A worldview featuring biology underlies the Sustainable Development Goals. These may be said to indicate necessary facts for social and economic development without adverse impact; e.g., agriculture with no-tillage (Conservation Agriculture) and reduced chemical inputs; development which raises the status of women and encourages girls to aim for an education; resource use which includes reuse and recycling in its system.

This journal, **Natural Built Social Environment Health (NBSEH)**, has a Middle East and North Africa orientation, but looks beyond. Many may feel that the hopes of a New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) have been dissipated. It is clear that in many respects many regions of the Earth are in transition. In France, the Ministère de la Transition écologique, de la Biodiversité, de la

Forêt, de la Mer et de la Pêche operates with the general idea that ‘la transition écologique et solidaire’ affects everyone with justice and a spirit of cooperation: a process in solidarity. It is easy to see many contrary approaches. Consumerism is a deeply rooted habit of over-consumption and personal indebtedness which has joined with the availability of mass credit (*i.e.*, possibility of incurring debts) and is associated with exuberant fossil fuel use and avoidance of alternative energy systems.

But global heating will not be universally beneficial. Impaired air quality is widespread. The pollution of soil is just as dangerous as the loss of soil by erosion and pollution. The pollution of water resources is dangerous in the everyday life of millions of people. A process in solidarity must have an objective towards which a society in transition moves with hope. NBSEH’s idea of the environment and health is worth considering.

References

- [1] Waddington, C. H., 1978, *The Man-Made Future*, (London: Croom Helm).
- [2] Meadows, D. H., Meadows, D. L., Randers, J., & Behrens III, W., 1972, *Limits to Growth: a report for the Club of Rome project on the Predicament of Mankind*, (London: Earth Island).

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How to cite this article

Brett-Crowther M., 2025, A Commendation, *Natural Built Social Environment Health* 1(1), 1-2. DOI: [10.63095/NBSEH.25.932315](https://doi.org/10.63095/NBSEH.25.932315)
