

ONE LOVE, ONE HEALTH: LET'S GET TOGETHER AND CONSIDER THE ETHICAL IMPLICATIONS OF EQUALLY INTEGRATING HUMAN AND NONHUMAN HEALTH

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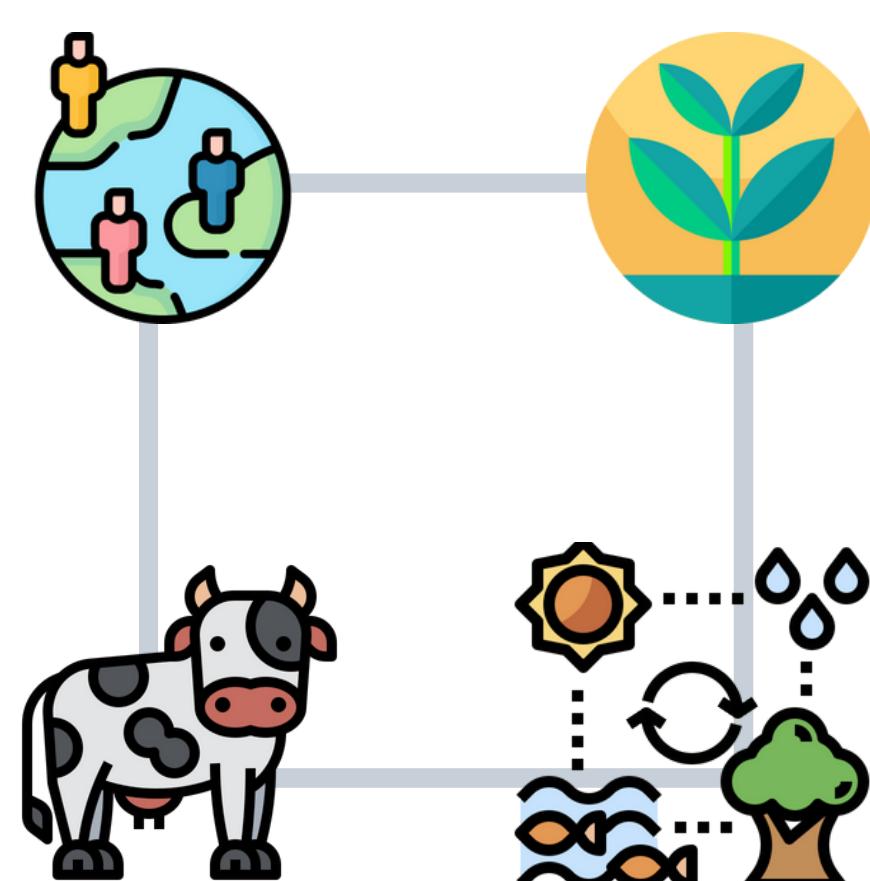
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ABSTRACT

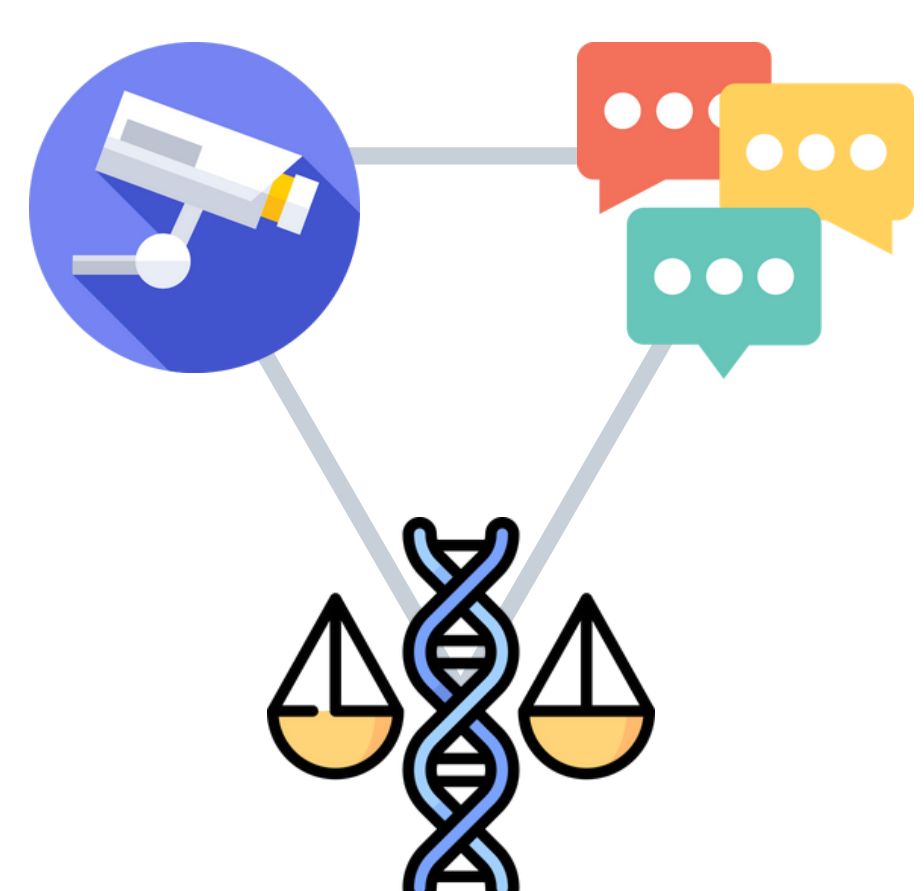
We as a global community are facing many complex problems—climate change, antimicrobial resistance, collapsing biodiversity, etc.—which have already had huge impacts on every life on the planet. If left unaddressed, these problems will drastically reduce future quality of life; however, often only the effects of these issues are investigated, not their wider causes. The One Health paradigm, which acknowledges the interconnectedness of human, animal, and environmental health, is one way of addressing these wider causes. However, while well-intentioned, this paradigm often falters between theory and practice.

My research investigates this transition from concept to execution, looking into the bioethical implications of implementing a One Health paradigm. This examination brings up several questions: does this paradigm view health through an anthropomorphic lens, relegating nonhuman health as purely instrumental to human health? Is nonhuman health important in itself and, if so, ought nonhuman health be considered equally and simultaneously to human health as a matter of justice?

As part of my research, I will explore the benefits and limitations of the One Health paradigm with respect to nonhuman health justice. I will establish that nonhuman health should matter in a non-derivative way and that valuing nonhuman health can improve overall global health justice. I will also adopt a cosmopolitan approach to nonhuman health, arguing that nonhuman entities ought to have both health protecting and health promoting measures that encourage beings to flourish. Ultimately, my research aims to equally integrate human and nonhuman health under a One Health, biosurveillance, and global justice framework.



One Health Paradigm:
Humans, Plants,
Ecosystems, Animals



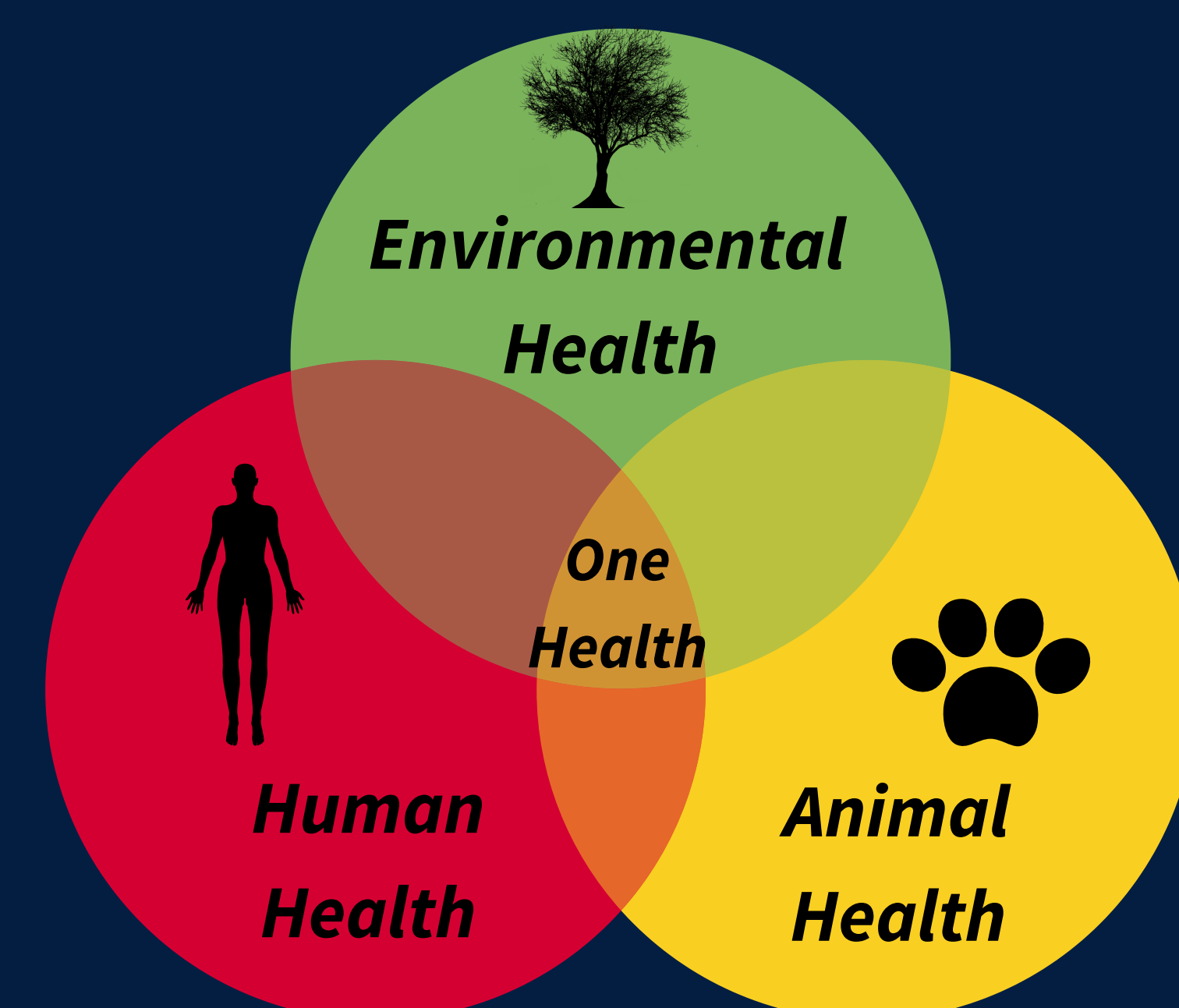
Increased Identification,
Communication, and
Bioethical Investigation



Towards an Integrated One
Health and Global Justice
Framework

WHAT IS ONE HEALTH?

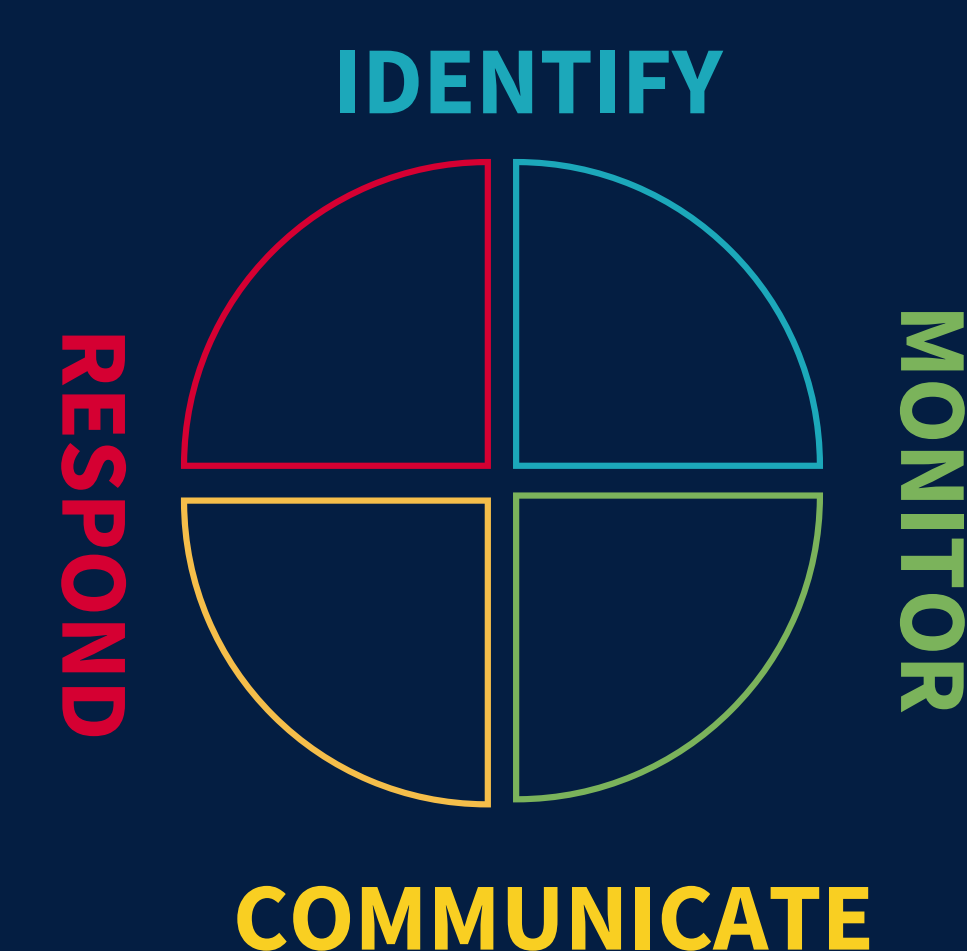
In 2007, the One Health paradigm was suggested as a way of uniting the common interests of humans, animal, plants, and the environment, advocating for an actively interdisciplinary approach to global health (Hulme, 2021).



However, it has become increasingly clear during the COVID-19 pandemic that this approach is limited in its purview and must expand to sufficiently recognise and attend to non-human health outcomes to better protect and promote shared global health.

WHAT IS BIOSURVEILLANCE?

As demonstrated by the COVID-19 pandemic, monitoring of emerging infectious diseases and identification of harmful agents that have pandemic potential, are crucial in the control and mitigation of current and future disease outbreaks. These identifying, monitoring, communicating and responding actions fall into three categories: biosurveillance, biosafety, and biosecurity.



Biosurveillance refers to the monitoring of “infectious disease agents and toxins which constitute noteworthy threats to the economy, biodiversity, food security, food safety, and public health” (Ahmad et al, 2020). “Biosafety” and “biosecurity” refer to actions and activities taken to reduce, mitigate, and control risks. Biosurveillance, biosafety, and biosecurity measures should more explicitly integrate the One Health paradigm and expand it.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS



Non-human biosurveillance: How should recognising and attending to plant, animal, and ecosystem health improve overall global health without creating new, or exacerbating existing, instances of structural injustice?

Human biosurveillance: What are the ethical dimensions of human biosurveillance, including, for example, the impact of such measures on privacy, autonomy, and social justice?

Effects of Non-human and Human Biosurveillance on Global Justice: What are the impacts of human and non-human biosurveillance on global justice and what effects, if any, should emerging and future biosurveillance policies have on global justice?

Integration of human and non-human biosurveillance under a One Health and Global Justice Framework: What are the shared practicalities and ethical responsibilities of both human and non-human biosurveillance actions, and how should both actions be integrated under a One Health and global justice framework?

KEY TAKEAWAYS



Currently, health is shared between humans, animals, and the environment, but not given equal importance



One Health has been proposed as a way of addressing complex problems that affect each sector



There are strengths and weaknesses to the OH paradigm and requires further ethical analysis



Biosurveillance is one tool which could help address unequal health, not only in terms of pandemic preparedness but also in terms of other global issues such as antimicrobial resistance, climate change, etc.



One Health can be used effectively in contexts such as rabies, serving as a proof-of-concept which could lay the foundation for further OH applications