



**Prof. Dr. Matilda van den Bosch**

University of British Columbia,  
Vancouver, Canada



**Dr. Nadja Kabisch**

Humboldt-University Berlin

# **Joint Lecture: Developing & Managing Urban Ecosystems: Challenges & Opportunities for Childhood Health**

**Date: Wednesday, 10 April 2019, 13:00-15:00**

**Location: UFZ Leipzig, KUBUS, Lecture hall 1 A**

## **Abstract**

Urban living comes with many benefits, such as access to health care, jobs and education. At the same time the urban environment is also characterized by high levels of stress, harmful pollutants, and poor access to nature.

These issues result in various adverse effects on urbanites and the full consequences for childhood health and development are yet to be explored.

Matilda van den Bosch and Nadja Kabisch are strongly engaged in this field of research and collaborate closely. Their presentations will focus on how urban natural environments can promote childhood health and development as well as protect children from harmful exposures. They will summarize the current evidence-base around how exposure to nature - at home and in schools - may encourage active play, stimulate cognitive development, and prevent attention and hyperactivity disorders. An **Ecohealth** lens will be used to discuss how we may create cities that support healthy lives while maintaining resilient ecosystems.

## **Topic related publications**

**van den Bosch, M. et al (2018).** Born to be Wise: a population registry data linkage protocol to assess the impact of modifiable early-life environmental exposures on the health and development of children. *BMJ Open* 8(11).

**Kabisch N., van den Bosch M., Laforteza R. (2017)** The health benefits of nature-based solutions to urbanization challenges for children and the elderly - A systematic review. *Environmental research* 159: 362–373.

**Kabisch, N., Korn, H. Stadler, J., Bonn, A. (2017):** Nature-based solutions to climate change in urban areas. *Linkages of science, policy & practice.* Springer, Cham.

### **Contact:**

Prof. Dr. Sigrun Kabisch  
sigrun.kabisch@ufz.de  
+49 341 235 1237

Anika Schmidt  
anika.schmidt@ufz.de  
+49 341 235 1731

## **Short Vitas**

**Prof Dr. Matilda van den Bosch** is a doctor in medicine as well as in landscape planning and public health. She is an assistant professor at The University of British Columbia and holds a shared affiliation between the School of Population and Public Health and the Department of Forest and Conservation Sciences. Her research investigates how exposure to urban natural environments can protect and improve human health and how this displays across various socioeconomic conditions. Matilda van den Bosch has worked as a consultant for various international organizations, including WHO and the UN Environmental Program and leads the nationally funded project **Born to be Wise** which analyzes how early life environmental exposures influence childhood health and development.

**Dr. Nadja Kabisch** holds a PhD and a Diploma in Human Geography from the Martin-Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany. Since 2018, she leads the BMBF-funded junior research group **GreenEquityHEALTH** on the interrelations between urban green spaces, health and socio-environmental justice under global change. Her special interest is on human-environment interactions in cities taking co-benefits from nature-based solutions implementation for human health and socio-environmental justice into account. The junior research group is part of the Department Urban Ecosystems, Health and Environmental Justice at the Institute of Geography, Humboldt-University Berlin.

