

Special Issue

Systems Approaches to Public Health: Navigating Complexity and Advancing Equity

Message from the Guest Editors

Public health challenges like pandemics, climate change, chronic diseases, and health inequalities arise from complex adaptive systems where social, technical, and biological factors interact. Systems thinking provides powerful approaches to address these issues, moving beyond linear methods that overlook key connections. However, practical applications remain limited - few interventions have been implemented or evaluated through a systems lens, leaving practitioners struggling to translate theory into action, particularly in advancing equity and addressing both "hard" (infrastructure, data) and "soft" (trust, relationships) system dimensions. This Special Issue aims to bridge this gap by moving from thinking to doing. We welcome contributions that apply systems approaches to evaluate complex interventions, implement complexity frameworks, and develop innovative methods. Submissions should demonstrate how systems thinking advances equity through processes, structures, or outcomes. This collection will support researchers, practitioners, and decision-makers in navigating uncertainty, driving systemic change, and building more resilient, equitable health futures.

Guest Editors

Dr. Sarah Parker

Centre for Health Policy and Management, School of Medicine, Trinity College Dublin, D02 PN40 Dublin, Ireland

Dr. Louise Caffrey

School of Social Work and Social Policy, Trinity College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland

Deadline for manuscript submissions

31 July 2026



Systems

an Open Access Journal
by MDPI

Impact Factor 3.1
CiteScore 4.1



mdpi.com/si/258405

Systems
Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
systems@mdpi.com

[mdpi.com/journal/
systems](https://mdpi.com/journal/systems)





Systems

an Open Access Journal
by MDPI

Impact Factor 3.1
CiteScore 4.1



[mdpi.com/journal/
systems](https://mdpi.com/journal/systems)



About the Journal

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Systems is a leading venue for the quick and global dissemination of results of cutting-edge research in various areas of systems science and systems-related fields. An increasing number of researchers are realizing the enormous potential of systems thinking in managing the many unprecedented and complex issues in all areas of need. The *Systems* journal provides a home of exceptional quality for the manuscripts of these researchers who often find it difficult to publish their work in conventional discipline focused journals.

Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Ben Clegg
Operations & Service Management Department, Aston Business
School, Birmingham B4 7ET, UK

Author Benefits

Open Access:

free for readers, with article processing charges (APC) paid by authors or their institutions.

High Visibility:

indexed within Scopus, SSCI (Web of Science), Ei Compendex, dblp, and other databases.

Journal Rank:

JCR - Q1 (Social Sciences, Interdisciplinary) / CiteScore - Q2 (Modeling and Simulation)