

NRI Capacity for PhD Supervision in Climate, Environment and Development

The Natural Resources Institute, as part of the University of Greenwich, is pleased to be able to offer PhD supervision on Climate, Environment and Development, as part of the International Development Pathway of the UBEL Doctoral Training Partnership. This document introduces the training route and NRI's capacity to supervise within it. Potential applicants need to apply through the UBEL website (<https://ubel-dtp.ac.uk/esrc-studentships-main-competition/>) and should read carefully the guidance given there.

Please Note: Some NRI staff are also available to supervise within the Intersectional Gender Inequalities route as part of the Gender and Sexuality Pathway. For further information on this please contact Professor Tracey Reynolds (t.a.reynolds@gre.ac.uk).

Research into relations between development in the Global South and environmental trends (for which consumption patterns in the Global North are largely responsible), including climate change, biodiversity loss, and deforestation, has long formed an important strand of our research work within development studies, strengthened in 2020-21 by several new appointments. To our longstanding research focus on vulnerability, resilience, inequalities and adaptation among the rural poor, including the role of local and national institutions, we have added new research areas, such as the qualitative and quantitative understanding of the climate-conflict-food security nexus, issues around biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation, and relationality, political ecology and transformative change. We have capacity to provide doctoral supervision on all these topics.

Our research initiatives in these areas are coordinated by the Climate Change Research Group and the Political Ecology, Arts & Culture Research Group, within a broader Centre for Society, Environment and Development. NRI researchers have recently published in journals including: *World Development, Nature Food, Journal of Agricultural Economics, Global Environmental Change, Climate and Development, Environmental Development, Food Security, Heliyon, International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction, and Sustainable Production and Consumption*. A key indicator of the excellence and impact of NRI research is the engagement of several NRI staff in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), notably John Morton who served as Coordinating Lead Author on Rural Areas for the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report and Valerie Nelson who is serving as Lead Author on the current IPBES Transformative Change Thematic Assessment and on the UN Environment Programme GEO 7 State of the Environment Report (for further details see <https://www.nri.org/latest/news/2022/ipbes-and-ipcc-awarded-the-gulbenkian-prize-for-humanity-combatting-the-ecological-and-climate-crisis>).

NRI has 15 current PhD students working on social science topics related to climate and environment. These students benefit from the wider facilities and opportunities enjoyed by NRI's 50+ PhD student cohort, including a flourishing NRI Postgraduate Society (NRIPS).

We have a large pool of potential supervisors. Some of these, especially Morton, Martin, Islam, Wellard, Shee and Lamboll are experienced supervisors having supervised multiple PhDs to completion. Others listed may be newer to PhD supervision, but have highly relevant research experience and interests. Under University of Greenwich regulations, each research student is supervised by a team of three supervisors, so more experienced staff may act as co-supervisors. Further details of potential supervisors are given below, please follow the links to their webpages for a fuller account of their research interests.

For discussion on proposed projects for a UBEL application, please contact at most two of the named supervisors below, following the guidance on the UBEL website. For more general queries, please contact Professor John Morton: j.f.morton@gre.ac.uk

Supervisor	Indicative Research Interests	email
John Morton*	Impacts of and opportunities for adaptation to climate change among the rural poor; pastoralism and livestock-environment interactions; anthropology of science and science-policy interfaces	j.f.morton@gre.ac.uk
Adrienne Martin*	Household strategies for food security; policy and practice for agricultural research and innovation; community-based natural resource management; urban environmental issues; gender	a.m.martin@gre.ac.uk
Md. Mofakkarul Islam	Adaptation and vulnerability/resilience to climatic changes; attitudes and behaviour relating to agri-environmental issues and climate-smart agrifood innovations; climate finance justice; climate-conflict-development nexus	m.m.islam@gre.ac.uk
Kate Wellard	Social, institutional and policy aspects of agricultural innovation; agriculture-climate change interactions at farmer and community levels; the agriculture-nutrition nexus, from household gender relations to policy	k.l.h.wellard@gre.ac.uk
Apurba Shee	innovative microinsurance and risk-contingent credit instruments; poverty, agricultural development and sustainable intensification; agriculture and food value chain analysis; applied econometrics	a.shee@gre.ac.uk
Richard Lamboll	Climate change responses; agro/wild biodiversity management; governance and service delivery in agriculture	r.i.lamboll@gre.ac.uk
Baqir Lalani	Conservation Agriculture/sustainable intensification; farm-level economic analysis and simulation; agriculture and food value chain analysis; neuroscience-development studies interfaces	b.lalani@gre.ac.uk
Pamela Katic	Environmental/resource and agricultural economics, particularly in relation to land and water resources; values of nature and economics of biodiversity; water governance and water justice; Indigenous Peoples' food systems	p.g.katic@gre.ac.uk
Valerie Nelson	Post-growth economies; decoloniality; transformative change, biodiversity, human-nature relations and relationality; food and land politics and meanings; transdisciplinarity; gender & intersectionality.	v.j.nelson@gre.ac.uk
Uche Okpara	The climate-conflict-fragility nexus; conflict economies; the transnational nature and spillover effects of climate conflict, especially in transboundary river basin territories; peace-prosperity dimensions and pathways	u.t.okpara@gre.ac.uk
Laxmi Pant	Geographies of regional and rural innovation; community engagement and stakeholder participation in co-creation and development of low-carbon and climate-resilient food systems	l.p.pant@gre.ac.uk
June Po	Feedbacks and dynamics of social-ecological resilience; transformations to sustainability; agency, power, and gender dynamics; institutional interplay in natural resource governance; diverse and hybrid knowledge systems	j.y.t.po@gre.ac.uk

* Available only for co-supervision

NRI is pleased to offer interdisciplinary co-supervision across the social science-natural science boundary. An indicative list of potential supervisors from an environmental science or agricultural science background is found below:

Co-supervisor	Discipline/Research Interests
Lucie Buchi	Crop Ecology; production and sustainability of tropical agri-systems; innovative cropping practices, with a focus on crop production, nutrient cycling, and soil properties
Jeremy Haggar	Agroecology; understanding tradeoffs between agricultural production, ecosystem services and biodiversity; agroecology of coffee
Truly Santika	Resource Management and Environmental Science; spatio-temporal analysis of forest/agricultural land use change using secondary and remotely-sensed data; environmental and human impacts on ecosystems and society
Tanya Stathers	Sustainable Agri-Food and Postharvest Systems; transforming food systems and urban-rural interdependency; reducing food loss and waste; agricultural adaptation to climate change
Conor Walsh	Environmental Science; generation and use of indicators of sustainability including environmental impact and lifecycle assessment across different sectors
Huiyi Yang	Agri-Environmental Modelling; the impact of climate and environmental factors on plant physiology, phenology, crop yield, food security, and the carbon cycle

The deadline for preliminary applications via the UBEL website for entry in September 2024 is **15th January 2024**.