

Background to the Hothouse

The Planetary Health Equity Hothouse (the Hothouse) is the centrepiece of an ARC Laureate Fellowship (2022-2027) on governance for planetary health equity. The Hothouse addresses drivers of and solutions to three major and interconnected challenges – a rising public health burden, social inequality, and climate change – and aims to provide a roadmap towards planetary health equity (PHE). PHE is the equitable enjoyment of good health in a stable Earth system. This definition of PHE recognises the impact of climate change on social and health inequities. It also recognises the importance for health equity of considering planetary systems.

The cycle of planetary health inequity is aggravated by the global consumptogenic system, which is characterised by institutions, policies, commercial activities, norms and behaviours that encourage and reward excessive production and consumption of fossil fuel-reliant goods and services that are unhealthy and inequitably valued and distributed. The Hothouse focus is at this structural level, not the epidemiology of climate change-related health inequities. The goal of the Hothouse is to generate new knowledge about how to transform the consumptogenic system towards PHE goals. We do this through a governance-focused study: examining the political economy of the consumptogenic system and planetary health inequity; identifying the necessary intersectoral policies and business practices to promote planetary health equity; revealing how powerful actors, ideas and institutions enable or hinder the development of intersectoral policy and business practices that advance PHE; and ultimately identifying strategies that socially-oriented actors can use to promote PHE goals.

The Laureate Hothouse will leave enduring legacies through:

- The transformative integration of health, social and climate change agendas, advancing a new approach in understanding how to redress global failures to act on these problems.
- Creation of the field of governance for planetary health equity.
- New intersectoral and interdisciplinary collaborations and coalitions.

The Planetary Health Equity Futures Leaders Program

What

Key to that legacy is capacity-building in technical expertise, knowledge mobilisation and networks to drive structural change for planetary health equity. Early career researchers (ECRs), PhDs and early career professionals will be future leaders in the field of governance for planetary health equity. The Planetary Health Equity Future Leaders Program will enable ECRs, PhD students and early career professionals at organisations across Australia and globally to spend 2 weeks in Canberra at the Hothouse.

The program aims to build *holistic* minds by harnessing disciplinary strengths in public health, political and social sciences, and systems sciences. We will enable *synthesising* minds that traverse easily between disciplines and sectors; *creative* minds that develop innovative methodological toolkits and theoretical frameworks to examine governance for PHE; *ethical* minds with a commitment to doing research that matters for society and the planet; and *respectful* minds through impactful engagement.

2025 focus

‘Governing for planetary health equity: addressing the consumptogenic system’

Future Leaders Program 2025



The Future Leaders program will involve an intensive fortnight of workshops and masterclasses related to theory, transdisciplinary research methods and knowledge mobilisation, plus some unstructured time for writing and conversations. The program involves interaction with policy makers, advocacy groups, media and business groups. Through these activities, the program offers an opportunity to develop new research skills, spark new collaborative ideas, and generate new opportunities for knowledge mobilisation.

When

The program runs from 1st – 12th September 2025. Participants are welcome to remain at the Hothouse, at their own expense, to think, write and discuss through until 26th September 2025.

Where

Planetary Health Equity Hothouse
School of Regulation and Global Governance
HC Coombs Extension (Building 8), Fellows Road,
Australian National University
Canberra, Australia

The offer

- A Future Leaders Fellowship – financial support to cover travel, accommodation, and incidentals for the fortnight.
- Dedicated time with a world class interdisciplinary team focused on governance and the intersections between health, inequities and climate change.
- New skills in research and knowledge mobilisation.

Expected output from each participant

- Short written piece (blog, opinion piece, journal article)
- If remaining at the Hothouse post two weeks, participants are expected to give a public seminar at the School of Regulation and Global Governance about their own research on the 16th September.

Application process

This is a two-stage competitive process:

1. Expression of interest by COB **19th March** 2025, forwarding the following to hothouse@anu.edu.au:
 - Short CV (no more than 3 pages)
 - 2 pages maximum explaining how participation in this program will help you advance planetary health equity, and your own research career.
2. If shortlisted, you will be invited to a Zoom interview on the 1st or 2nd May 2025.

Eligibility

Applications are welcome from current PhD students, ECRs up to 3 years after award of a PhD, and early career professionals (government or civil society). People from diverse disciplines, from low-, middle-, and high-income countries, and people experiencing financial hardship or social marginalisation are encouraged to apply.

Please apply only if you:

- Can ensure you are fully immersed and present during the whole program. We request that you avoid scheduling meetings/other activities that coincide with the timing of the program.
- Bring a willingness to engage meaningfully, respectfully and constructively with all program participants.