

## Exploring Individual Heat Stress Adaptation in Utrecht City, The Netherlands

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### Project Description

The project is part of the Ph.D. study under the “BEAT THE HEAT” project, which aims to promote the South-North-South learning cycle of heat stress adaptation knowledge, with one case study in Dhaka, Bangladesh (Global South) and another in Utrecht, the Netherlands (Global North).

Heat stress research is gaining priority since it affects the daily lives of almost everyone. Each year’s increasing heat has been breaking the previous records. February 2024 is recorded as the warmest February on the planet. However, individual heat stress adaptation is not well-studied, particularly regarding which conditions individuals need and how those conditions influence their adaptation. We call this Everyone’s Adaptation, which is also influenced by community conditions, governance capacities, and practices. We have started the research at the individual level, and the empirical study will begin in Dhaka in June 2024. However, we require an individual-level adaptation study in parallel in Utrecht, which is also crucial since most of the heat stress adaptation studies in the Netherlands are on community-level adaptation. The Ph.D. candidate for this project will conduct a field study in Dhaka, and the bright-minded fellow is required to assist her with her fieldwork in Utrecht. With this, we can represent everyone's individual adaptation conditions related to heat stress, particularly the daily modifications of activities through place-based livelihood opportunities and agency in the Global South and North. Thus, we require a bright student assistant who would like to experience being part of a research team for some time, and who can conduct the study at the level of individual households in Utrecht.

This study will employ triangulation of three qualitative methods. The photovoice method will be applied after selecting the participants according to different age groups, genders, and socio-economic conditions that are willing to participate. The selected participants will take photos of heat stress adaptation upon permission. Focus group discussions will be conducted with female and male participants. In-depth interviews will be conducted with 2-3 participants from each family, considering different ages, genders, and socio-economic statuses.

### Job Requirements

The research assistant should demonstrate a keen interest in research and be able to conduct qualitative research methods. The assistant should have good writing and communication skills and, preferably, a background in sustainable development and environmental governance. Although the supervisors are heavily involved, the assistant should be able to work relatively independently. The Dutch language is required given the fieldwork in Utrecht. Given that summertime is the best time to do research on heat stress adaptation, we would like the student assistant to start preferably in the summer holidays.