

Postdoctoral Fellow Description

The [Assessing the risk of Climate Change on population Mental and physical health outcomes - ACCLIMATE](#) - study is a collaboration between [Dr. Shabab Wahid](#) (Georgetown University) and the World Bank in Bangladesh, the world's seventh most vulnerable country to climate change. Building on [previous research](#) that established an association between increases in temperature and humidity and depression and anxiety in Bangladesh, ACCLIMATE aims to develop a nationally representative individual and household level panel dataset. Two rounds of the data (n=16,054 individuals) have already been collected in January and May/June 2024, with two further rounds planned for 2025.

ACCLIMATE will assess the connection between climate-related stressors such as heat, humidity, and exposure to floods, and a host of mental health outcomes. These include depression, anxiety, substance abuse, and suicide risk, and related outcomes/mediators such as sleep quality, emotional regulation, loneliness, and gender-based violence. ACCLIMATE will also investigate the economic impacts of poor mental health outcomes and if climate-related stressors have a role in synergistic interactions between mental health conditions and a range of physical illnesses. In addition to measuring climate-stressors during the time of the surveys, ACCLIMATE has historical climatic data going back to 1991, and will leverage longitudinal methods to examine lagged effects of exposure to stressors and health outcomes.

The full-time position is a 2-year fellowship that focuses on epidemiological research dedicated to improving the evidence base on the connection between mental health and climate change. The Postdoctoral fellow will work closely with the investigators on design of upcoming surveys, conduct data analysis, scientific writing, and dissemination of study outputs. The opportunity is there for the Fellow to conceptualize and lead an independent study nested within the two upcoming survey rounds in 2025. There will also be opportunities to develop new research grants and teaching responsibilities may be expected of the fellow as well.

This opportunity will provide the fellow with opportunities to strengthen research skills, publish, write grants, and gain experience in epidemiology of mental health conditions in the context of climate change.

Key Responsibilities:

- Support data management of large nationally representative panel datasets
- Conduct statistical data analysis of longitudinal data on climate change and mental health
- Scientific writing of several manuscripts for submission to peer-reviewed academic journals, with the expectation of the Fellow to produce at least 1 manuscript as lead author, and contribute to several manuscripts as co-author
- Engage in dissemination activities of the scientific outputs of ACCLIMATE

Key Requirements:

- PhD or equivalent terminal degree in Global Health, Psychology, Psychiatry, Public Health, Epidemiology, Health Economics, Biostatistics, or a related field.
- Interest in developing climate change and mental health as a key area of research focus
- Experience with conducting data analysis with mental health datasets

- Demonstrated ability in leading statistical analysis of longitudinal data in STATA, SPSS, R, or an equivalent statistical software package (STATA is preferred)
- Publication record that demonstrates the candidate's capacity and proficiency with advanced statistical and computational programming
- Experience with conducting Network Analysis for Psychometrics (e.g. [Beard et al., 2016](#)) will be considered a significant advantage

How to apply:

There is a multi-phase application process. For the first phase, please send a ≤ 350-word statement highlighting skills and interest in the position, and an updated CV to Dr. Wahid at ssw64@georgetown.edu. Only qualified candidates selected for the second stage of the application will be contacted. We regret that it will not be possible to respond to every email, so kindly requesting no follow up emails afterwards. Thank you for your understanding.

Deadline: October 10, 2024. Late applications will not be reviewed.