

PLANETARY HEALTH: TOWARDS JUST FUTURES

21 - 25 July 2025

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE UTRECHT



*summer*school
UTRECHT



UMC Utrecht

COURSE MAGAZINE

General information (1)

Welcome to the Planetary Health: Towards Just Futures summer course! As climate crises and environmental degradation escalate, understanding the interconnections between human health and planetary well-being has never been more critical. The disproportionate impact on marginalized communities highlights the need for a focus on justice and equity. This summer course on Planetary Health and Climate Justice provides an interdisciplinary opportunity to examine the health impacts of climate change, environmental degradation, and global inequalities, emphasizing the need for holistic solutions.

Led by experts from various fields, participants will explore the broader planetary health crisis, including the societal inequities in health outcomes, resource access, and political power. The course covers themes such as decoloniality, the determinants of health, and the role of the private sector in both harming and promoting health. It also investigates the effects of urbanization and infrastructure on health and living environments. By engaging with case studies and the latest research, the course encourages transformative thinking, and exploration of personal and professional roles as academics, professionals, and change-makers, fostering a sense of responsibility and agency to address the pressing challenges posed by the planetary health crisis.

Course aims:

By the end of this course, participants will be able to:

- Describe the relationship between ecological change and human health, and analyze how environmental changes impact (public) health outcomes and living environments.
- Describe the social, political, and commercial determinants of (planetary) health, and critically evaluate the role of the public, private, and governance sectors, distinguishing between health-promoting and health-harming components within those sectors. Identify existing global and intersectional inequities, including the relevant historical context, and explain how those inequities are intensified by and contribute to the ecological crisis. Formulate, explore and apply concepts of Climate Justice and Just Transitions Apply transformative thinking to the climate crisis, and envision alternative, just and sustainable futures. Reflect on their various roles as academics, professionals, and societal members to identify areas where they can meaningfully impact the planetary crisis
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General information (2)

Course Directors: Dr. George Downward, Dr. Joyce Browne, Prof. dr. Ajay Bailey, Prof. dr. Roel Vermeulen, Dr. Charisma Hehakaya, drs. Camilla Alay Llamas, drs. Juliette Mattijsen

Course Dates: July 21-25, 2025, 09:00 - 17.00 daily. See day to day course programme for details.

Course Code: M12

ETCS Credits: 1,5

Location: University College Utrecht

Contact:

drs. Camilla Alay Llamas - c.a.llamas@uu.nl

drs. Juliette Mattijsen - j.c.mattijsen-3@umcutrecht.nl

Course Program

	Mon, 21/07	Tue, 22/07	Wed, 23/07
	<i>Foundations of Planetary Health & Climate Justice (Part 1)</i> Location: University College Utrecht	<i>Foundations of Planetary Health & Climate Justice (Part 2)</i> Location: University College Utrecht	<i>Confronting Global Inequities</i> Location: University College Utrecht
09:30 - 11:00 Session 1	Core team: Introduction to the course and Planetary Health	Complexity and interactions of humans and natural systems (George Kowalchuk)	TBD
11:00 - 11:15 Tea/Coffee Break			
11:15 - 12:45 Session 2	Core team: Cont. Introduction to Planetary Health	One Health	Urban inequalities and intersectional WASH challenges (Ajay Bailey, Ranna Abdulhadi and Daniel Tampi)
12:45 - 13:45 Lunch Break			
13:45 - 15:15 Session 3	Core team: Ecological drivers of Planetary Health crisis	Food systems, environment and health intersections	Mental health and climate change
15:15 - 15:30 Tea/Coffee Break			
15:30 - 17:00 Session 4	Core team: Ecological drivers of Planetary Health crisis & Work on Group Assignment	Challenging corporate power: The current and historical role of private sectors (Dian Blandina)	Workshop: Eco-emotions and climate resilience
Evening Program (Optional)	<i>Groene Zorg Alliantie and Utrecht Municipality:</i> Keynote lecture on global climate action Chair: Godelieve van Heteren		

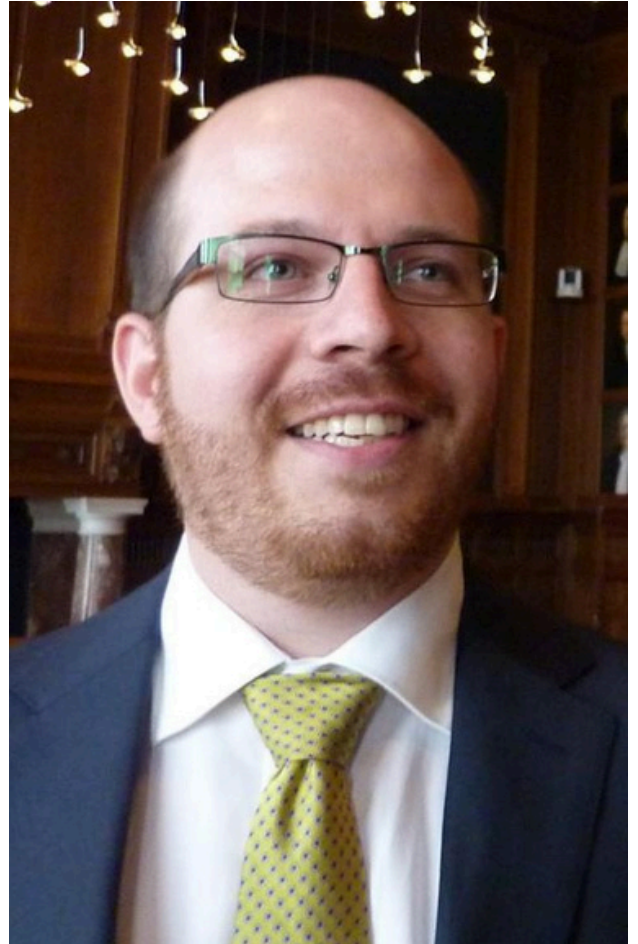
Course Program

	Thurs, 24/07 <i>Inter- and Transdisciplinary systems for the future approaches to building sustainable</i> Location: University College Utrecht	Fri, 25/07 <i>The Green Revolution The Green Revolution</i> Location: University College Utrecht
09:00 - 10.30 Session 1	Decolonising climate and health approaches (Mary Ann Manahan)	Alternative economies and just transitions
10:30 - 10:45 Tea/Coffee Break		
10.45 - 12.00 Session 2	Rethinking health systems for sustainability	Workshop: Working toward health and climate solutions
12:00 - 13:00 Lunch Break		
13:00 - 15:00 Session 3	JOINT CLASS with GHEE: Climate Justice	Final group work
15:15 - 15:30 Tea/Coffee Break		
15:30 - 17:00 Session 4	Collaborative Group Work & Reflection	Final group work presentations: dialogues interweaving insights from personal essays
Evening Program (Optional)	Community dinner	

GEORGE DOWNWARD

COURSE COORDINATOR
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR GLOBAL
HEALTH / EPIDEMIOLOGY / PLANETARY HEALTH,
JULIUS CENTER FOR HEALTH SCIENCES AND
PRIMARY CARE, UMC UTRECHT, THE NETHERLANDS

Dr. Downward is an Assistant Professor at UMC Utrecht and an affiliated researcher at the Institute of Risk Assessment Sciences (IRAS), Utrecht University, where his research focus examines how environmental and planetary disruptions, in combination with personal risk factors, contribute to communicable and non-communicable disease. He has a special interest in planetary health, vulnerable groups, and low-middle income countries. George undertook his Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery at the University of Otago, New Zealand from 2005 to 2005. Afterwards, he received a degree in Master of Science in Public & Global Health from Umeå University, Sweden. In 2015, George was awarded his PhD in Environmental Epidemiology from Utrecht University for his thesis titled “Quantification and characterization of household air pollution exposure from the use of solid fuels; Clues to the lung cancer epidemic in Xuanwei and Fuyuan, China”. He is a member of several consortia, including the Precision Medicine for more Oxygen (P4O2) and Household Air Pollution Consortium (HAPCO), and has received multiple grants and recognition in the past years, including the Health Effects Institute project, “Long-term outdoor air pollution and cause-specific mortality in a pooled analysis of Asian cohorts”. George’s publications examine the relationship between our changing world and human health in a variety of ways as exemplified by recent publications on air pollution on health, the role of scenario analysis in achieving the SDGs, and the importance of sex and gender disaggregated data.



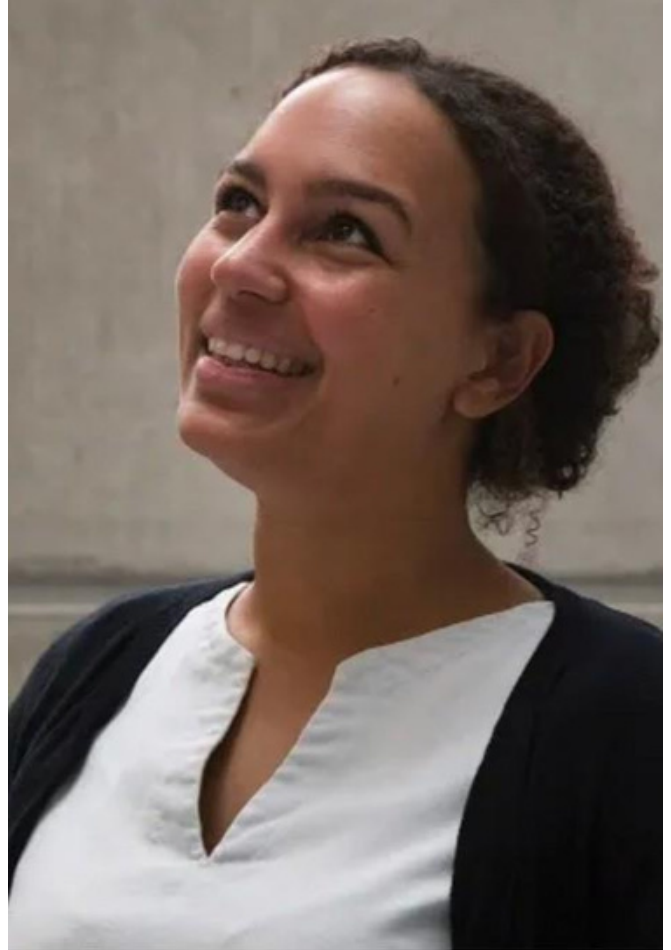
JOYCE BROWNE

COURSE COORDINATOR ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
GLOBAL HEALTH / EPIDEMIOLOGY, WITH A FOCUS
ON MATERNAL HEALTH,
JULIUS CENTER FOR HEALTH SCIENCES AND
PRIMARY CARE, UMC
UTRECHT, THE NETHERLANDS

Dr. Joyce Browne is a medical doctor and epidemiologist. The continuing global inequities in reproductive, maternal and perinatal health are the driving force behind her research and professional interests.

Her work focuses on global maternal health research, health equity and equitable partnerships in global health, research capacity building in low- and middle-income countries, and global health education.

She currently is Associate Professor of Global Health at the Julius Center for Health Sciences and Primary Care, UMC Utrecht in the Netherlands. In addition, she is the chair of Knowledge Centre Global Health (KCGH).



CHARISMA HEHAKAYA

COURSE COORDINATOR
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR GLOBAL HEALTH /
EPIDEMIOLOGY, JULIUS CENTER UMC UTRECHT, THE
NETHERLANDS

Charisma Hehakaya is an assistant professor in the Global Public Health & Bioethics department of the Julius Centrum.

Charisma's interest spans on bridging the gap between science and society, climate justice, system thinking, improving environmental impact on health and wellbeing, interdisciplinary research, science communication and public engagement.

Charisma has experience with qualitative (such as conceptualising, developing and setting up qualitative interviews and focus groups) and quantitative research methods (such as surveying, early health economic modelling).

Charisma founded the First Generation Fund (het Eerste Generatie Fonds) and University Pioneers Community to support first-generation students.



AJAY BAILEY

COURSE COORDINATOR
CHAIR IN GEOGRAPHIES OF HEALTH, INCLUSION,
AND DEVELOPMENT, INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT STUDIES, DEPARTMENT OF
HUMAN GEOGRAPHY AND SPATIAL PLANNING,
UTRECHT UNIVERSITY

Dr. Bailey is passionate about creating sustainable and inclusive futures. He specializes in the intersection of (planetary) health, ageing, and inclusive cities. With a strong foundation in anthropology and demography, Ajay brings a unique perspective to the challenges faced by rapidly urbanizing communities in India, Bangladesh, Curaçao, and the Netherlands, where he focuses on integrating human-centred approaches to health, urban infrastructures, and social equity. Ajay has an extensive experience managing research teams across countries, leveraging my excellent leadership skills to drive collaborative, cross-cultural initiatives, and is very interested in qualitative research, teaching, and capacity building of young researchers. His work ensures that cities grow in ways that are sustainable, inclusive, and resilient for all ages, and is committed to driving innovative solutions that bridge the gap between demographic realities and environmental imperatives, contributing to a healthier planet and more just societies. Ajay is passionate about qualitative research, teaching, and capacity building of young researchers. His work significantly contributes to expanding the field of transnational mobilities, ageing, inter-generational relations, health systems research, health services, reducing barriers to care, while establishing meaningful North-South and South-South collaborations.



ROEL VERMEULEN

COURSE COORDINATOR
PROFESSOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL EPIDEMIOLOGY AND
EXPOSOME SCIENCE, INSTITUTE FOR RISK
ASSESSMENT SCIENCES, UTRECHT UNIVERSITY

Roel Vermeulen is Professor of Environmental Epidemiology and Exposome Science at the Institute for Risk Assessment Sciences at Utrecht University. He holds an adjunct professor position at the Julius Center, Department Public Health Healthcare Innovation and Medical Humanities (UMC Utrecht) and a Visiting Professorship at Imperial College London, UK. Vermeulen has been appointed Distinguished University Professor at Utrecht University as of 15 July 2024. Since 2024 Roel is Scientific Director of the Institute for Preventive Health (i4PH) of the EWUU alliance of the universities of Eindhoven Wageningen (WUR) , Utrecht and UMC Utrecht. He chairs the planetary health community of Utrecht Life Sciences.

Roel coordinates the Dutch research program on the exposome (Exposome-NL), leads an EU project (EXPANSE) as part of the European Human Exposome Network, coordinates the Dutch Hub of the European infrastructure on Exposome research (EIRENE-NL), co-coordinates the International Human Exposome Network (IHEN) and coordinates an EU project on micro- and nanoplastics (AURORA). He is the Principal Investigator of several large case-control and prospective (biobank) studies in occupational and the general population. Additionally, he has served on many international committees including the World Health Organization and the National Toxicology Program in the USA. He was a member of the Dutch Health Council for over 12 years and has authored/co-authored over 800 academic publications.



CAMILLA ALAY LLAMAS

COURSE ASSISTANT
PROJECT MANAGER AND PHD CANDIDATE, JULIUS
CENTER FOR HEALTH SCIENCES AND PRIMARY
CARE, UMC UTRECHT, THE NETHERLANDS

Camilla Alay Llamas (Alay) is general physician from the Philippines where she worked on providing medical and surgical assistance to underserved and/or far-flung areas, in partnership with an NGO called BayanihanMD. She acquired her Master's in Public Health/ International course for Health Development from KIT Royal Tropical Institute in Amsterdam in 2018. A year later, Alay worked as a course tutor for the Netherlands tropical course and Master of International Health course at the same institute.

Currently, she is working as a project manager and PhD student at UMC Utrecht, collaborating with global public and planetary health colleagues. Her current work focuses on capacity building and equitable partnerships in Asia, such as the "Catalysing Transformative Change in Planetary Health Education" or CATA-Earth. Her research looks at transformation or reimagination of knowledge utilization through a planetary health lens.



JULIETTE MATTIJSEN

COURSE ASSISTANT
MEDICAL DOCTOR, PROJECT MANAGER
AND JUNIOR RESEARCHER, GLOBAL HEALTH /
PLANETARY HEALTH, JULIUS CENTER, UMC
UTRECHT, THE NETHERLANDS

Juliette Mattijsen is a medical doctor, activist, and researcher dedicated to advancing health justice, decolonizing medicine and addressing ecological and social determinants of health. Determined to achieve health for all, she has participated in over 12 high-level United Nations political meetings, advocating for the integration of health in all policies.

Juliette is affiliated with UMC Utrecht, where she works as a project manager and junior researcher, focusing on climate justice and planetary health education. As an activist, she founded the People's Health Movement Netherlands and engages in a wide range of grassroots initiatives—from supporting Doctors for Gaza to organizing local efforts in Rotterdam aimed at tackling housing inequality and promoting universal health coverage. Driven by a commitment to social transformation, Juliette works at the intersection of healthcare, climate advocacy, and community action, striving to build a more just and equitable world for all.



RANNA ABDULHADI

PHD RESEARCHER IN THE
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STUDIES GROUP AT
THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN GEOGRAPHY AND
SPATIAL PLANNING, UTRECHT UNIVERSITY, THE
NETHERLANDS

Ranna Abdulhadi is a PhD researcher in the International Development Studies group at the Department of Human Geography and Spatial Planning. She holds a Master's degree in Environmental Sciences (graduated in 2020) and a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Social Sciences (graduated in 2017) from Utrecht University.

Ranna's current research is on access inequalities to housing and Water, Sanitation, Hygiene (WASH) in Indian slums. She is exploring the interconnectedness between housing and WASH and how different social identities (age, gender, socio- economic status, etc.) have unique ways of experiencing access (or the lack thereof).

Her interest lies in urban development and its effect on people's well-being, with a specific geographic focus on East- & West-Africa and South Asia. Previously she worked as a WASH practitioner for a Dutch non-profit. Ranna has hands-on experience in WASH in Ghana, Kenya and India. She has collaborated with various stakeholders, such as non- governmental organizations (NGOs), community-based organizations (CBOs), financial institutions, water utilities, local governments, and donor agencies. Her drive for research stems from its ability to improve decision-making for the betterment of the lives of vulnerable people in marginalized communities. She strongly advocates for evidence- based approaches, grounded in reliable data.



JOHN JAMIR ARUTA

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR ENVIRONMENTAL
PSYCHOLOGY, DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY, MANILA,
PHILIPPINES

Dr. John Jamir Benzon R. Aruta, PhD is an Associate Professor at the De La Salle University, Manila, Philippines. His research program includes 1) the application of psychology principles in promoting environmental sustainability, 2) the interface between climate change and mental health in the Global South context, 3) planetary health, and 4) the mental health of neglected and marginalized populations. Dr. Aruta is the inaugural director of the Sustainability Psychology and Planetary Health Research Laboratory (SPPHERE Lab) - a group of environmentally concerned students and professionals that work on research, advocacy, community building, and policy collaboration. Dr. Aruta is a founding Associate Editor of the journal *Global Environmental Psychology* and is a member of the Editorial Board of *BMC Psychology* and *Nature Communications Psychology*. He is the current Chair of the Environmental Psychology Special Interest Group of the Psychological Association of the Philippines. Dr. Aruta is also an active clinical practitioner in the Philippines, providing mental health assessment, counseling, and psychotherapy for children, adolescents, and early adults. He was awarded an Outstanding Young Scientist 2023 by the National Academy of Science and Technology, the highest award-giving body in science in the Philippines. He was also ranked as one of the top 2% scientists in the world across disciplines based on the 2023 data analyzed by Stanford University.



MARY ANN MANAHAN

ACADEMIC ASSISTANT, CONFLICT RESEARCH GROUP, DEPARTMENT OF CONFLICT AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES, GHENT UNIVERSITY, BELGIUM

Mary Ann is a Filipina feminist activist researcher based in Ghent, Belgium. She is currently an academic assistant at Conflit Research Group in the Department of Conflict and Development Studies of Ghent University. Animated and inspired by decolonial feminism, political ecology and indigenous scholarship, her PhD project looks at the intersections of indigenous peoples' struggles for self-determination, forest conservation and development. Prior to her academic stint, she has 18 years of professional experience working with an activist think tank and advocacy NGO, grant-making organization, and social movements advocating for redistribution, ecological, gender and social justice, and alternatives to development. Mary Ann received her undergraduate degree in sociology from the University of the Philippines-Diliman and her master's degree in Globalization and Development at the Institute of Development Policy and Management at the University of Antwerp, Belgium. She sees her PhD and teaching journey as a politics of self-care that allows her to continue her political work and activism.



DANIEL MAMBO TAMPI

PHD CANDIDATE IN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STUDIES AT THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN GEOGRAPHY AND SPATIAL PLANNING AT UTRECHT UNIVERSITY, THE NETHERLANDS.

Daniel Mambo Tampi is a PhD candidate in International Development Studies at the Department of Human Geography and Spatial Planning at Utrecht University, The Netherlands. His research focuses on WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) in informal settlements, coping strategies, transboundary and drivers in Jakarta's kampung, low-income households. He employs methods, including transect walks and interviews, to analyse WASH insecurities and linked to the planetary health

He is working under the supervision of Bailey and Dr. Mucahid Bayrak. Daniel Master's degree in Urban Studies in the School of Strategic and Global Studies Universitas Indonesia, Jakarta (2017) and a degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Sam Ratulangi, Manado, Indonesia (2015).

He has extensive experience as an academic staff member at the National Institute of Science and Technology (ISTN) and a Researcher at Universitas Indonesia (UI). He has also worked at the National Development Planning (PNN/Bappenas) and the Ministry of Spatial Planning in Indonesia contributing to national urban and regional policy and planning strategies



Collaborating Organizations

The Planetary Health summer course is a collaboration
between:

Utrecht Summer School

summerschool
UTRECHT

Julius Center for Health Sciences and Primary Care, based in
the UMC Utrecht



