

## **Call for Applications: Postdoctoral Fellowship in Social-Ecological Dimensions of Food Security and Food Environments**

**Focus:** Determinants shaping community-based food (in)security and food environments in the context of intersecting and compounding social-ecological crises in the Philippines (i.e., extreme weather events and COVID-19 pandemic).

**Opportunity:** We invite applications for a one-year postdoctoral fellowship (with the possibility of renewal) to lead and support several interconnected projects focused on the social and ecological determinants of community-based food (in)security, nutrition, and food environments in the Philippines. These projects will primarily use qualitative research methods, but there is the opportunity to expand the current scope of projects to include mixed methods research. The position will be co-supervised by [Dr. Warren Dodd](#) (School of Public Health Sciences, University of Waterloo) and [Dr. Matthew Little](#) (School of Public Health and Social Policy, University of Victoria) and based in the School of Public Health Sciences, University of Waterloo.

**Project Summary:** Recent intersecting and compounding social-ecological crises (i.e., the COVID-19 pandemic and extreme weather events), have reignited concern for global food and nutrition insecurity. Across low- and middle-income countries, food security challenges disproportionately impact individuals and households experiencing poverty who may not have the financial or social capital to buffer against the shocks created by these intersecting crises. Specifically, in the Philippines, the recent destruction by Super Typhoon Rai/Odette (December 2021) has further exacerbated pandemic-related food and nutrition insecurity.

Within the context of intersecting and compounding social-ecological crises in the Philippines, and guided by a qualitative and community-based research approach, key research questions include:

- How do social, ecological, and political factors interact and shape food environments among populations experiencing poverty?
- How do food environments shape acute child malnutrition and maternal health among populations experiencing poverty?
- How effective are current humanitarian efforts aimed at addressing emergency food insecurity in the context of intersecting and overlapping social-ecological crises?
- How might methodological innovation, including the integration of participatory methods in experimental research designs (e.g., randomized controlled trials, quasi-experimental designs), enhance the evaluation of complex interventions aimed at addressing health concerns among populations experiencing poverty?

The successful candidate will join an interdisciplinary team including researchers based in Canada and the Philippines

**Funding:** This fellowship is supported by funding from the New Frontiers in Research Fund and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. The selected candidate will receive \$55,000/year on a one-year contract (with the possibility of renewal).

## Requirements:

### Education

- Completed PhD in relevant social science (e.g., international development, geography, anthropology, sociology, political science, interdisciplinary studies) or health (e.g., public health, global health, epidemiology) discipline connected to project summary.

### Experience

- Training and experience in qualitative research design, data collection, and analysis
- Experience working with interdisciplinary and international teams

### Knowledge/Skills/Abilities

- Demonstrated experience working with community partners, including non-governmental organizations, to achieve shared research goals
- Experience supervising research assistants and/or students
- Strong interpersonal, communication, and presentation skills
- Ability to design, direct, and guide research processes and outputs
- Strong academic writing skills for different disciplinary audiences

**Application process:** Interested applicants should email Dr. Warren Dodd ([wdodd@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:wdodd@uwaterloo.ca)) with the following materials:

- Cover letter, noting research experience and interest in the position.
- Curriculum vitae, with all relevant employment, volunteer, and academic experience.
- A sample publication/thesis chapter.
- Two names of referees who can be contacted, with their contact information (phone and email). Referees will be invited to attest to the candidate's capacity for critical thinking, research skills, independence, perseverance, originality, organisation, communication, and collaboration.

Review of applications will begin June 1, 2022 and continue until a candidate is selected for the position.

### The institution:

The [Faculty of Health](#) is committed to improving the quality of life for individuals and communities through innovative education and research activities. The Faculty of Health (formerly Applied Health Sciences) is a leader in developing strategies that prevent disease and injury, protect and promote healthy living, optimize physical ability, and improve well-being across the life course.

The [School of Public Health Sciences](#) at the University of Waterloo is training a new generation of leaders, researchers, and change agents adept at thinking and responding to the complex adaptive systems that affect health and health care. Together, we are seeking innovative solutions to some of the significant health challenges of our time: chronic disease prevention and management; health and ageing; health care system integration, management and informatics; food and water safety, security and governance; health inequity, including poverty and Indigenous health issues; and health and the environment.

**Equity statement:**

We are committed to upholding the values of equity, diversity, and inclusion in our living, learning and work environments. We know that diversity underpins excellence, and that we all share responsibility for creating an equitable, diverse and inclusive community. In pursuit of our values, we seek members who will work respectfully and constructively with differences and across levels of power. We actively encourage applications from members of groups with historical and/or current barriers to equity, including, but not limited to,

- First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples, and all other Indigenous peoples;
- members of groups that commonly experience discrimination due to race, ancestry, colour, religion and/or spiritual beliefs, or place of origin;
- persons with visible and/or invisible (physical and/or mental) disabilities;
- persons who identify as women; and
- persons of marginalized sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions.

We recognize that many of these identities intersect and that therefore, equity, diversity and inclusion can be complex. We value the contributions that each person brings and are committed to ensuring full and equal participation for all in our team.

