project title: mosquito urbanisms and other-than-human homescapes

project subtitle: How do socio-ecological processes reflect/reinforce/contest social power relations within and beyond the homescape?

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Project description

Global South cities have managed public services through socio-technical configurations that provide differentiated alternatives depending on social position. Populations living in low-income neighbourhoods, which in the South accounts for 60–70% of urban housing, seldom have regular access to piped water. They rely on small-scale providers, rain harvesting, and other arrangements. Nevertheless, we do not know much about what happens once the water is transported and stored inside patios, kitchens and other domestic spaces. **This is a broader trend: we know little about the socio-ecological life within low-income homes in the urban South. This, despite the fact that it is in these homes that many of the processes sustaining life in the city take place.**

The question of how socio-ecological processes unfold within these homes is open and pressing. Especially **considering the fact that Global South cities are home to the majority of residents worldwide** and if we do not understand how the majority live their intimate daily routines, we cannot aspire to build inclusive, sustainable futures**. This project follows *water*, as it is essential for sustaining everyday life, and goes beyond it into other material and atmospheric components of the home. Stored (stagnant) waters are never only water but are also home to communities of organisms such as mosquitoes that eventually continue their lives outside of water.** The concept of homescape is proposed to denote a produced place in which interdependent social and ecological processes unfold in and around the domestic, but are not independent of broader socio-economic power relations and ecological dynamics.

This Bright Minds project will focus on the everyday life inside and around homes in Semarang (Indonesia), OR Maputo (Mozambique), to understand **the interconnected infrastructural histories and arrangements, ecological changes, and social power relations that constitute homescapes**. You have some possibilities in deciding on which city is most suitable for you. You would be invited to: a) Work together with 12 community research assistants (CRAs) in analyzing experiences happening in the context of the home, block and neighbourhood, emphasising their everyday interactions with different types of water (rain, groundwater, treated water), water pollution, and mosquitoes; b) work with a local biologist: while the biologist will provide information on the chemical, physical, and biological properties in stored water and identify the water storage containers where mosquitoes breed in a more successful way, you will be asked to explore (in a final report) how ecological changes shape everyday life within and beyond the homescape.

Job requirements

This project requires a Bright Minds student who is interested on political ecology, collaborative research, urban studies, and feminist scholarship. The student should be motivated to learn, have interest in the

Global South, a curious attitude, and be capable of working in teams and incorporate feedback. Bahasa OR Portuguese-Spanish language skills are a plus. The Bright Minds project will contribute to a broader research team which will study similar issues and will therefore have the opportunity to interact with other researchers during the project.

References

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