

CLIMCON Rethinking the climate-conflict nexus

Department: Human Geography and Spatial Planning

Research group: International Development Studies (IDS)

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Project description

Funded by the NWO Vidi programme, Rethinking the Climate-Conflict nexus (CLIMCON) will generate new insights into the multidirectional links between climate change and armed conflict. Comparing areas



affected by protracted violence in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Burundi, the project will comprehensively examine how exposure to protracted insecurity and conflict affects and interacts with adaptation to climate change. This includes looking at how ongoing insecurity and legacies of armed conflict shape vulnerability and barriers to adaptation, in specific gendered ways. In addition, the project examines to what extent and how climate change shapes ongoing armed conflict. Specifically, it looks at the effects of climate change on armed group recruitment and conflicts that feed into armed mobilization. The project promotes significant methodological innovation in the climate-conflict field by combining participatory and other qualitative methods with quantitative approaches, in the form of household surveys. In this way, it aims to reconcile an actor-oriented approach with multi-scalar analysis.

The student choosing to work on this project will become part of the international, inter-disciplinary CLIMCON project team featuring the PI, a postdoc and two PhDs from the DRC and Burundi. They are offered a unique opportunity to become acquainted with mixed-methods research, including the analysis of survey results as well as data collected through



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innovative participant-led methods. The latter include: community mapping, developing climate and conflict chronologies, climate impact chain analysis, time use diaries, and institutional diagramming.

Specifically, the new CLIMCON team member will assist with:

- Contributing to the analysis of qualitative and/or quantitative research data; including large-n survey data, and those collected through participatory methodologies
- Visualization of research results using infographics
- Assisting with a conceptual literature review on adaptation to climate change in conflict-affected settings, to be published as a journal article co-authored by the student

Job requirements

We are looking for a motivated student with a keen interest in climate change, conflict dynamics and gender in the Global South who is enthusiastic about joining the dynamic, multicultural CLIMCON team. We welcome applicants who have experience with or are seeking to improve their skills in the analysis and visualization of qualitative and/or quantitative data. Given the unique character of the participatory methods used in the project, there is substantial scope to contribute to innovations in data analysis and visualization. We are also looking for someone with strong skills in the analysis and synthesis of academic literature and well-developed writing skills. Above all, we're looking for someone who is open-minded, curious about Sub-Saharan Africa and excited about joining our team.