

**CALL FOR PAPERS:
A JOURNAL SPECIAL ISSUE - IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN REVIEW OF
SOCIOLOGY**

Proposed title:

Exploring the human health impacts of climate change-linked extreme weather events: Sociological perspectives and beyond

Guest editors: Munyaradzi Saruchera, Mzingaye B. Xaba, Desire Chiwandire and Chioma Ohajunwa

Call for papers:

With July 2023 set to be the hottest month on record, the United Nations Director General, Antonio Guterres issued a stark warning that “*The era of global warming has ended, the era of global boiling has arrived. Climate change is here. It is terrifying. And it is just the beginning*” (Besset, 2023). The climate change discourse has largely remained a preserve of natural scientists (Islam and Kieu, 2021) with very little sociological inquiry mainly because the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) as the global voice on climate change has been epistemologically gravitating towards natural scientists (Bhatarasa, 2015). Essentially, there is an absence of sociological voices on the impact of climate change on people’s health - although certainly some environmental sociologists have written widely about the destructive impact of endless capitalist consumption on nature (Cock, 2007; Cock, 2014; Islam and Kieu, 2021).

The main observation by environmental sociologists is that climate change is caused by the capitalist conception of the environment as separate from human beings and the disregard for ecological limits (Fox and Alldred, 2016). From a capitalist perspective, the environment is seen as an external entity that ought to be commodified for the interests of human beings, leading to mass production and pollution of the environment despite this negatively impacting on marginalised indigenous communities (Cock, 2007 and 2014; Hickel, 2020). Like other health sociologists (see Amzat and Razam, 2018) we also believe that good health must encompass the physical, mental and the social aspects of an individual. There is a connection and relatedness between human beings, the physical and existential environments surrounding them (Bosman, 2023; Schelly, Gagnon, Arola, Fiss, Schaefer, and Halvorsen, 2021). Most indigenous communities in Africa align to this worldview (Adepoju, 2012). Despite the above, there has been relatively less attempts sociologically to link climate change and health outcomes – a link which this Special Issue on ‘Climate Change and Health’ takes as its central focus.



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Recent evidence shows that extreme weather patterns such as increased air pollution, heat strokes, floods, droughts, changes in rainfall and temperature patterns have negative health outcomes on communities (Guinto, Cahatol, Lazaro and Salazar, 2022). Most of the research published in the *South African Review of Sociology* journal has not paid adequate attention on the Sociology of Health, at least recently. Jacklyn Cock's 2014 article titled '*Sociology and the 'slow violence' of toxic pollution*' remains one of the few articles that has focused on the work of environmental sociology. Inevitably, the study of the health after-effects of natural disasters leads one to draw concepts from both environmental sociology and the sociology of health.

This Special Issue aims to develop a critical inquiry on the relationship between humans, the environment and their health during and in the aftermath of climate change-linked disasters such as floods and droughts.

Priority will be given to articles which take interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approaches to probe sociological questions and beyond through addressing some, but not limited to the following topics:

- Climate change, health and altered social relations
- Grappling with the after-effects of cyclones
- Climate change activism
- The experiences of people living with chronic illnesses in relation to climate change
- Climate change and health: returning to normality and reconstructive community
- Climate change, indigenous health knowledge systems, and health outcomes
- Politics of food aid during natural disasters
- Policy interventions and health impacts of climate change
- Natural disasters-induced human migration
- Aging, disability, and HIV/Aids in the context of natural disasters
- International/racism-selective functioning of politics with regard to climate change policies.
- Power dynamics and politics in the after-effects of cyclones
- Any other related thematic area linked to climate change and health

Conditions

We will accept abstracts written in English.

We invite 300 word abstracts to be sent to Dr Saruchera at: msaruchera@sun.ac.za by **25th of September 2023**. **Kindly use the same email for any questions or inquiries.**



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Tentative timeline towards publication

A) Feedback on successful abstracts will be provided by the **9th of October 2023**.

B) Authors will be asked to send an extended abstract and article plan of 2000 words which should be sent the editors by the **31 October 2023**.

C) Authors will be expected to send their full papers (max 8000 words) on the **11 December 2023**.

Review process

First stage:

Comments will be sent to contributors by **8 January 2024**.

Authors will then be expected to submit their articles online through SARS Scholar one platform by the **19 February 2024**.

Second stage: double-blind external review.

Contributors can expect comments by the middle of **April 2024**.

After 'revise and resubmit' cycles, final submissions by authors will be expected to be done by latest **early June**; to facilitate online publication for the SARS journal just before the annual SASA (South African Sociological Association) conference early in **July 2024** at Stellenbosch University.

Final decisions lie with the SARS editorial collective.

Biographies of guest editors:

Dr Munyaradzi Saruchera: Interim Director and Senior Lecturer at the Africa Centre for HIV/Aids Management at Stellenbosch University. PhD in Sociology, Stellenbosch University, South Africa. Dr Saruchera has worked in the social change and community development sector across Africa for more than 20 years. He has published scholarly articles and book chapters on a range of topics and edited the book '*Securing land and resource rights in Africa: Pan-African perspectives*.' Dr Saruchera is an Ashoka Fellow for social change since 2009. His research interests are social change and community development and the sociology of health in relation to African indigenous health systems, climate change and corruption. Email: msaruchera@sun.ac.za

Dr Chioma Ohajunwa: Lecturer at the Africa Centre for HIV/Aids Management, at Stellenbosch University. Dr Ohajunwa has interests in indigenous approaches to health,



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wellbeing, education, disability and other issues. She has published widely and presented on many platforms. She is main editor of an upcoming Lexington Book on Religious Hermeneutics, African Philosophies on Disability, and Sustainable Development in Africa and co-editor of an upcoming Routledge book on Religion, Disability and Sustainable Development in Africa.

Dr Mzingaye B. Xaba: Research fellow at the Institution for Pan African Thought and Conversation (IPATC), University of Johannesburg. PhD is Sociology, Rhodes University, South Africa. He has interests in indigenous health, land reform, politics, social welfare and other issues. He has published numerous journal articles and book chapters. Xaba is also currently co-editing a book titled '*Post-colonial human settlements in the SADC region: housing, urban land, and migration*'.

Dr Desire Chiwandire: Chiwandire is a Postdoctoral Research Associate with the Department of Disability and Human Development (DHD) at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). He holds a PhD in Political and International Studies (concentration Critical Disability Studies) from Rhodes University. His research interests are in Disability Politics, specifically the intersectionality of race, class, gender, and disability in the Global South. He has published widely in refereed journals and book chapters. He is a lead-editor of a forthcoming book titled: '*Making the Circle Bigger: South African Higher Education, Social Justice and Students with Disabilities*' to be published by Unisa Press.

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