

**This year, the Planetary Health Equity Hothouse will be delivering the Future Leaders Program in collaboration with The Privilege Project.**

## Background to the Hothouse

The Planetary Health Equity Hothouse (the Hothouse) is the centrepiece of an ARC Laureate Fellowship (2022-2027) on governance for planetary health equity. The Hothouse addresses drivers of and solutions to three major and interconnected challenges – a rising public health burden, social inequality, and climate change – and aims to provide a roadmap towards planetary health equity (PHE). PHE is the equitable enjoyment of good health in a stable Earth system.

The cycle of planetary health *inequity* is aggravated by the global consumptogenic system, which is a web of institutions, policies, commercial activities, norms and values that incentivises and rewards the excessive extraction, production and hyper-consumption of natural resources, including fossil fuel-reliant goods and services. Extensive evidence shows the harmful impacts of this system on the environment and human health, as well as the inequitable distribution of those impacts. The consumptogenic system also incentivises and rewards excessive extraction from societies through economic arrangements that concentrate wealth. This level of wealth concentration is a predictable feature of fossil capitalism's accumulation dynamics, produced by the institutional and political processes that magnify and stabilise returns to existing wealth and by social norms that render such outcomes legitimate and resistant to contestation.

The goal of the Hothouse is to generate new knowledge about how to transform the consumptogenic system towards PHE goals. We do this through a governance-focused study: examining the political economy of the consumptogenic system and planetary health inequity; identifying the necessary intersectoral policies and business practices to promote planetary health equity; revealing how powerful actors, ideas and institutions enable or hinder the development of intersectoral policy and business practices that advance PHE; and ultimately identifying strategies that socially-oriented actors can use to promote PHE goals.

The Laureate Hothouse aims to leave enduring legacies through:

- The transformative integration of health, equity and climate change agendas, advancing a new approach in understanding how to redress global failures to act on these problems.
- Creation of the field of governance for planetary health equity.
- New intersectoral and interdisciplinary collaborations and coalitions.

## Background to The Privilege Project

The Privilege Project is a landmark, NHMRC-funded interdisciplinary research initiative led out of the Australian National University, dedicated to driving research and action on the structural causes of inequity. Understanding that meaningful change requires confronting advantage – not only disadvantage – the project has advanced a novel conceptualisation of privilege as a layered, system-wide phenomenon embedded in public policy design. It has developed and applied cutting-edge analytical tools to interrogate how policies entrench or disrupt privilege across diverse domains including agriculture, infrastructure, investment, and labour. By equipping researchers and policymakers with sharper conceptual and analytical tools to identify, understand, and challenge the mechanisms that sustain advantage, the project is laying the groundwork for more equitable policy – and more equitable health outcomes – for all.

## The Planetary Health Equity Futures Leaders Program

### FLP 2026 focus

#### **The equity imperative: pathways to exiting the consumptogenic system**

This year participants will have a unique opportunity to examine systems of wealth, power, and privilege – and how they can be reimagined for planetary health equity.

#### What

Key to the Hothouse legacy is capacity-building in technical expertise, knowledge mobilisation and networks to drive structural change for PHE. PhD students, early career researchers and early career practitioners will be future leaders in the field of governance for PHE. The Planetary Health Equity Future Leaders Program will enable these cohorts at organisations across Australia and globally to spend 2 weeks in Canberra at the Hothouse.

The program aims to support *holistic* minds by harnessing disciplinary strengths in public health, political and social sciences, and systems sciences. We will enable *synthesising* minds that traverse easily between disciplines and sectors; *creative* minds embrace innovative methodological toolkits and theoretical frameworks to examine governance for PHE; *ethical* minds with a commitment to doing research that matters for society and the planet; and *respectful* minds through impactful engagement.

The Future Leaders program involves an intensive fortnight of workshops and masterclasses related to theory, transdisciplinary research methods and knowledge mobilisation, plus some unstructured time for writing and conversations. The program includes interaction with policy makers, advocacy groups, and the media. Through these activities, the program offers an opportunity to develop new research skills, spark new collaborative ideas, and generate new opportunities for knowledge mobilisation.

#### When

The program runs from 16<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> November 2026.

#### Where

Planetary Health Equity Hothouse  
School of Regulation and Global Governance  
HC Coombs Extension (Building 8), Fellows Road,  
Australian National University  
Canberra, Australia

#### The offer

- A Future Leaders Fellowship – financial support to cover travel and accommodation for the fortnight. All program meals are provided.
- Dedicated time with a world class interdisciplinary team focused on governance and the intersections between health, inequity and climate change.
- New skills in research and knowledge mobilisation.

## Application process

This is a two-stage competitive process:

1. Expression of interest by 11:00pm AEST, **12<sup>th</sup> June** 2026. Late applications cannot be accepted.

Complete the application form online at

[https://anu.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_b0XCCsLsuq780hU](https://anu.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_b0XCCsLsuq780hU) including:

- Short CV (3 pages maximum)
- Explain how participation in this program will help you advance planetary health equity, and your own research career (2 pages maximum).

2. If shortlisted, you will be invited to an online interview on the 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> July 2026.

## Eligibility

Applications are welcome from current PhD students, early career researchers (maximum 3 years after award of a PhD), and early career practitioners from government or civil society (maximum 3 years in current and similar roles). Consideration will be given for significant career interruptions (e.g., parental leave, caring responsibilities, major illness or injury). Please indicate if this applies to you at the application stage.

People from diverse backgrounds, disciplines, and from low-, middle-, and high-income countries are encouraged to apply.

Please apply only if you:

- Can ensure you are fully immersed and present during the whole program. We request that you avoid scheduling meetings/other activities that coincide with the timing of the program.
- Bring a willingness to engage meaningfully, respectfully and constructively with all program participants.

## Expected output from participants

- Short written piece (blog, opinion piece, journal article).