

Cambridge Global Challenges – Newsletter (July 2018)

CGC is the University of Cambridge Strategic Research Initiative (SRI)
for the
United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

News

Selection of news published in June 2018:

- [‘Carbon bubble’ coming that could wipe trillions from the global economy.](#) A collaborative study by University of Cambridge researchers and international colleagues models the economic impact of globally changing demand for fossil fuels in the effort to mitigate climate change.
- [Newton Prize 2017 for Malaysia awarded to University of Cambridge and University of Malaya.](#) Collaborative project on biophotovoltaics between Professor Phang Siew Moi’s team at the Institute of Ocean and Earth Sciences, University of Malaya and Dr Adrian Fisher and Dr Kamran Yunus at the Department of Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology, University of Cambridge wins a Newton Fund 2017 Award.
- [First recipients of the Borysiewicz Biomedical Sciences Fellowship Programme announced.](#) The Office of Postdoctoral Affairs has announced the first nine recipients of the Borysiewicz Biomedical Sciences Fellowship programme
- [A parliamentary lab meeting at MRC.](#) Each year scientists pair up with UK parliamentarians to gain an insight into each other’s worlds, as part of the Royal Society’s Parliamentary Pairing Scheme. Glenn Masson, a postdoc from the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology in Cambridge, shares his experience of welcoming an MP into his lab.
- [UK team develop world’s first green energy storage demonstrator to deliver carbon free power.](#) The world’s first green energy storage demonstrator is now live in the UK and has brought carbon-free fuel, that can be stored or transported for later use, a step closer.
- [How much time is left to meet the Paris climate agreement?](#) Dr Phil Goodwin (University of Southampton) and Professor Ric Williams (University of Liverpool) trial a new methodology for accurate climate change prediction.
- [Funding boost for volunteer infection studies to help combat infectious diseases.](#) Nine research teams are each receiving around £100,000 of seed-funding to help set up new volunteer infection studies. These awards aim to improve understanding of these diseases in order to find better ways to prevent or treat them.
- [£12 million in grants to tackle superbugs in a global context.](#) Multimillion pound grants have been awarded to four UK universities to conduct interdisciplinary research into the biological, social, cultural and economic drivers behind the development of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in low and middle income countries (LMICs).
- [British Academy launches Working Together project: Human Rights and the Sustainable Development Goals.](#) A programme of activities under the banner of Justice, Rights & Equality, which seeks to develop new understanding of the tensions at the interface between global norms and local attempts to realise those goals.
- [MRC introduces new researcher co-investigator status to widen participation in grant proposals and aid career progression.](#) To support the development of researchers across different career stages, the MRC will introduce a new status to recognise the contributions of research staff as researcher co-investigators on grant applications from July 2018.
- [Science Minister announces £20 million Plastics Research and Innovation Fund to turn the tide on plastics production.](#) A new £20 million fund that aims to explore new ideas and innovations that can bring changes in the UK’s plastics manufacturing and consumption patterns is announced today by Science Minister, Sam Gyimah.

- [Successor Framework Programme to Horizon 2020 announced](#). The European Commission has published its proposal for the next Framework Programme (and the successor to Horizon 2020), Horizon Europe.
- [EU and Argentina commits on working together on Migration and Forced Displacement](#). The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Argentina, Jorge Faurie along with the Head of the EU Delegation in Argentina, Aude Maio-Coliche, launched a project to support Argentina's refugee reception and integration policy. The Project will provide a grant of € 2 million and is funded by the EU's Partnership Instrument.
- [Canada pledges \\$228.79 Million to advance Climate Action in Developing Countries](#). Minister of International Development and La Francophonie, The Honourable, Marie-Claude Bibeau has announced Canada's pledge of \$228.79 million (for fiscal years 2018–2019 through 2022–2023) to the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility.
- [Trade and the Commonwealth: developing countries examined by Commons](#). The International Trade Committee takes evidence from textile-industry representatives, and development organisations, in the latest session of its Trade and the Commonwealth: developing countries inquiry.
- [UNHCR publishes its annual Global Trends Survey ahead of World Refugee Day](#). Forced displacement at record 68.5 million: UNHCR's annual Global Trends report shows an average of one person was displaced every two seconds in 2017, with developing countries most affected.
- [Google to open African's first AI centre in Ghana](#). Google announced plans to open Africa's first Artificial Intelligence (AI) centre in Accra, Ghana later this year, noting that people across Africa do amazing things with the internet and technology for themselves, their communities and the world.
- [Brazil and South Africa tech hubs launched to drive international growth](#). Global network of tech hubs will help to grow digital economies in emerging markets and drive growth in tech investment.

Please visit CGC's [news page](#) for more news.

Funding

Global challenges- related funding calls closing in July 2018:

| Deadline | Call | Description |
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| Eol deadline: 4 th July 2018; full application deadline: 18 th September 2018 | WT Collaborative Awards in Humanities and Social Science | Wellcome Trust Collaborative Awards promote the development of new ideas and bring disciplines together to speed the pace of discovery. This scheme funds teams who are tackling major health-related questions in the humanities and social sciences that require a collaborative approach. |
| Preliminary application: 4 th July 2018; full application deadline: 18 th September 2018 | WT Investigator Awards in Humanities and Social Science | Wellcome Trust Investigator Awards enable humanities and social science researchers with a compelling research vision to tackle the most significant questions in human health. |
| 5 th July 2018 | WT Seed Awards in Science | Wellcome Trust Seed Awards help researchers develop novel ideas that will go on to form part of larger grant applications to Wellcome or elsewhere. |
| 10 th July 2018 | Gates Foundation Proposal Request for novel dual chamber injection device | The challenge is to design and build an initial prototype of a dual-chamber, prefilled, single-dose injection device. These devices will be required in the global health space to enable simple, intuitive reconstitution |

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| | | and injection of drug products that require storage in the dry state (powder or cakes) in remote in-home settings. |
| 12 th July 2018 | MRC Call: Public Health Intervention Development scheme | The Medical Research Council Public Health Intervention Development scheme (PHIND) supports the early stages of development of interventions that address an important UK or global public health issue. Studies funded by the scheme will develop the necessary evidence to underpin the later development and evaluation of novel public health interventions. |
| 16 th July 2018 | Elrha's Research for Health in Humanitarian Crises Programme (R2HC) - 'Open Call' | R2HC aims to improve health outcomes by strengthening the evidence base for public health interventions in humanitarian crises. |
| 19 th July 2018 | BBSRC/ Newton Fund Call: Improving Mexican Crop Resilience to Abiotic Stress | The UK Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, in collaboration with three Mexican partners, announced a call for collaborative proposals on improving Mexican crop resilience to abiotic stress. |
| 23 rd July 2018 | WSUP/ Dubai Cares Call: exploratory research on increasing the impact of school-based hygiene promotion programmes in Madagascar | This research project, commissioned under Water & Sanitation for the Urban Poor's Urban Sanitation Research Initiative, will use a formative research approach to explore barriers and opportunities for improved school Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in Madagascar. |
| 23 rd July 2018 | WSUP/UKAid Call: Incentivising private sector provision of faecal waste emptying services to low-income customers in Kisumu, Kenya | A call for research proposals to improve the provision of sanitation services in Kisumu, Kenya with a view to local private sector involvement. |
| 24 th July 2018 | WT Investigator Awards in Science | Wellcome Trust Investigator Awards enable independent researchers with a compelling research vision to tackle the most important questions in science. |
| 24 th July 2018 | WT Senior Research Fellowships | Wellcome Trust Senior Research Fellowships are designed to support independent researchers who want to tackle the most important questions in science and who are leaders in their field. |
| EoI deadline: 24 th July 2018 | UKRI - JSPS joint call Life Sciences and Environmental Sciences 2018 | UK Research & Innovation and the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science are pleased to invite applications to the first UKRI-JSPS joint call for proposals from the life sciences and environmental sciences. |
| 25 th July 2018 | GCRF Highlight Notice for International Development: Follow on Funding for Impact and Engagement Scheme | The Arts and Humanities Research Council is pleased to announce a new highlight notice under the Follow-on Funding for Impact and Engagement Scheme funded as a part of the Global Challenges Research Fund. |
| 26 th July 2018 | NERC/Newton Fund Latin American Biodiversity Programme: Biodiversity - Ecosystem services for sustainable development | This is a call for multilateral collaborative research proposals through UK-Latin American (LATAM) applications that focus on understanding the role of biodiversity and ecosystem services for sustainable development. |

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| 30 th July 2018 | World Water Challenge 2018 | World Water Challenge is an annual international contest for water solutions, aiming to discover imminent water problems that world is facing and to find feasible solutions to them. |
| EOI deadline: 31 st July 2018; application deadline: 14 th August 2018 | UKRI/NERC/ESRC/AHRC and international partners Call: Towards a Sustainable Earth | Towards a Sustainable Earth aims to significantly improve our understanding of the complex interactions between people and the environment required to make progress in achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. |
| 31 st July 2018 | MRC/ UK Nutrition Research Partnership Collaborative Awards | The Medical Research Council, on behalf of the UK Nutrition Research Partnership is pleased to invite proposals for multidisciplinary pump-priming Collaborative Awards on Human Health and Nutrition. |

The [funding page](#) of the CGC website is updated regularly with these and other funding opportunities – pre-call announcements, open calls, responsive calls and awards – related to global challenges.

Events

Selection of global challenges- related events in July 2018:

Events in Cambridge

- [Energy@Cam IRC Event: The Energy Challenge. Need for Global Systems Engineering](#) – **3rd July 2018, 11:00-12:00, Sainsbury Laboratory Auditorium, University of Cambridge**. A talk by Shaffiq Jaffer, Vice President of Corporate Science and Technology Projects, TOTAL. Shaffiq's talk will focus on the future energy challenges we face and the need for more of a systems engineering approach to tackle them.
- [CRASSH In search of 'Good' Energy Policy Seminar: water energy food policy: Supporting the diffusion of anaerobic digestion](#). – **5th July 2018, 12:00-14:00, Alison Richard Building, University of Cambridge**. The last In Search of 'Good' Energy Policy seminar of Easter term will consist of a talk given by Professor Liz Varga, Cranfield School of Management on "WEF – water energy food policy: supporting the diffusion of anaerobic digestion", with a response by Dr Pablo Salas, C-EENRG, University of Cambridge.
- [BBSRC Open Meeting](#)– **5th July 2018, 11:00-12:00, Sainsbury Laboratory Auditorium, University of Cambridge**. Visit of the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council Executive Group to the University of Cambridge with a talk by the Executive Chair, Professor Melanie Welham, about the strategy and future direction of the BBSRC.
- [RSPB Centre for Conservation Science annual awards and lecture](#) – **5th July 2018, 17:15-21:00, David Attenborough Building, University of Cambridge**. Dr Caspar Hallmann will present his seminal paper "More than 75% decline over 27 years in total flying insect biomass in protected areas".
- ['Development and use of diagnostics for schistosomiasis: the long walk from the lab to the field'](#). [Professor Govert van Dam, Leiden University](#) – **10th July 2018, 18.00-19.00, Audit Room, King's College, University of Cambridge**. What does it take to develop a (rapid) diagnostic for a neglected tropical disease? Professor Govert van Dam will share his research leading to the development of two new diagnostics as well as his trial and tribulations in commercializing the diagnostics, work to ensure they are easy to use in low-resource settings, and steps to use the new diagnostics in routine treatment programmes.
- [NNEdPro International Conference on Medical and Public Health Nutrition Education and Research](#) – **20th July 2018; registration deadline: 13th July, William Harvey Lecture Theatre & Seminar Rooms 1-3, Addenbrooke's Biomedical Campus, University of Cambridge**. The conference theme is "NNEdPro @ 10: From Nutrition as a Hard Science to International Knowledge Application Networks".

- [Cambridge Summer School in Applied Human Nutrition](#) – **14-18th July 2018, Wolfson College, University of Cambridge.** NNEdPro Nutrition Week 2018 starts with this comprehensive Foundation Certificate Course for professionals in health and health-related sectors and provides attendees with an in-depth exposure to applied human nutrition including basic concepts, research methods, disease prevention, nutrition in healthcare and public health nutrition and policy.

UK Events

- [Wildlife and well-being in urban landscapes](#) – **10th July, 18.00-17.45, Huxley Lecture Theatre, ZSL London Zoo.** This Institute of Zoology meeting will focus on urban wildlife, including pollinators, a local hedgehog population and urban citizen-science projects, as well as discussing potential linkages between human well-being, physical health and urban ecology.
- [Towards a future that works for all: ESRC scoping workshop](#) – **13th July, 18.00-17.45, Birmingham.** The ESRC is holding a series of workshops to explore the shape of a potential new research investment around Work.
- [Institute of Development Studies Annual Lecture with Peter Piot](#) – **17th July, 17.00-16.30, Huxley Lecture Theatre, ZSL London Zoo.** Professor Peter Piot, director of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and founding director of UNAids, will deliver the IDS Annual Lecture 2018 on “Can we end the aids epidemic? The need for a development approach”.
- [AHRC/GCRF Early Career Researcher's Project Development Workshop](#) – **25-26th October, application deadline: 23rd July 2018, London.** The GCRF programme “Changing the Story: Building inclusive civil societies with, and for, young people in post-conflict countries” has launched a new funding scheme for Early Career Researchers, supporting research that considers the relationship between young people and civil society organisations in post-conflict countries.
- [2018 MASTS Annual Science Meeting: Challenges and Innovative Solutions for Sustainable Seas](#) – **31st October, 9.00-18.00, deadline: 27th July 2018, Technology and Innovation Centre, Glasgow.** This cross-disciplinary meeting will examine the modern challenges that face our marine waters, and identify ways and means to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.
- [Livestock, Environment And People Conference](#) – **7th November, free registration deadline: 30th July 2018, St Anne's College, University of Oxford.** The LEAP conference, sponsored by the Wellcome Trust Our Planet Our Health initiative, will bring together researchers working on multiple aspects of meat and dairy production and consumption to consider its effects on population health, the economy, society and the environment. The aim of the conference is to provide a forum for the presentation of recent multidisciplinary research and build a community of researchers in this field to share evidence and tools to inform action.

International Events

- [AcMedSci/Britac/Royal Society/RAEng Symposion: Inclusivity and Wellbeing, Coastal Communities in a 3°C World](#) – **15-18th July, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.** Symposion organised by the Frontiers of Development Programme on marine and coastal stewardship. The programme works to engage expertise from 4 UK Academies (Academy of Medical Sciences, British Academy, Royal Society, Royal Academy of Engineering).
- [UK-Argentina AMR partnership building workshop](#) – **10-14th September, application deadline: 16th July 2018, Buenos Aires, Argentina.** Ahead of a joint call for addressing antimicrobial resistance in the environment (opening in October 2018), BBSRC and NERC are inviting expressions of interest from eligible UK researchers to attend a partnering workshop in Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- [SDG-Conference: Towards Zero Hunger - Partnerships for impact](#) – **30-31st August 2018, application deadline: 1st August 2018, Wageningen Campus, The Netherlands.** The conference centres around Sustainable Development Goals: end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture (SDG2) and create partnerships (SDG17).

The [events page](#) of the CGC website is updated regularly with these and other events related to global challenges.