

Two Funded PhD Opportunities

University of Waterloo (starting ASAP) & Dalhousie University (starting in Fall 2018)

Environmental Impacts of Canadian Food Choices

Are you interested in sustainable and healthy diets, addressing food security, and the challenge of eating within planetary boundaries?

Prof. Goretty Dias, of the Faculty of Environment, University of Waterloo, and Prof. Peter Tyedmers of the School for Resource and Environmental Studies, Dalhousie University, are looking for keen PhD students with a track record of successful research at the Masters level who enjoy engaging in multi-disciplinary research.

Students will join a newly established, SSHRC-funded project that will address the questions:

- *How do current Canadian dietary patterns affect resource use (e.g. land, water, energy) and contribute to global-scale environmental challenges (e.g. climate change)?*
- *What are the leverage points (policy, behaviours, etc.) that provide the greatest opportunity to limit impacts in the future while still delivering nutritious and socially-acceptable diets in Canada?*



Why is this important?

Projected global peak population and growing affluence are rapidly increasing pressure on agricultural production and undermining the ability of critical regional- and global-scale life support systems to sustain humanity. To ensure nutritional security and biophysical sustainability, we need to understand dietary patterns, their impacts and what can be done to shape them.

What will be involved?

- PhD 1-Waterloo- Using diverse data sets, this research will identify contemporary Canadian dietary patterns, their nutrition, and model their life cycle environmental impacts and resource use across regions and cultures. Check out our research group and my research here [Goretty Dias-WIEG](#)
- PhD 2-Dalhousie – Building on work of PhD 1 and parallel survey work being conducted on Canadian consumer food preferences and behaviours, this research will model life cycle environmental impacts of potential future food consumption scenarios. [Peter Tyedmers](#)

What are we looking for?

Ideal candidates will have very strong academic backgrounds (as evidenced through grades in course work) in a relevant graduate program, demonstrated ability to engage in research (as evidenced through contributions to publications) and a passion to understand and reduce impacts of human activities. Prior familiarity with life cycle assessment or related biophysical accounting techniques would be an asset, but not essential. We are hoping to recruit the first student at Waterloo to start in September, 2017 but a delay to January, 2018 can be negotiated. The second student would ideally start at Dalhousie in September 2018.

What are we offering?

We have funds in place to provide a stipend for four years for both students. In addition, we will work with students to secure additional scholarship and other support at our respective institutions.

If interested, please e-mail gdias@uwaterloo.ca and Peter.Tyedmers@dal.ca with a note describing your interest and background using the subject line: "PhD in sustainable food". Ideally, attach electronic copies of unofficial transcripts and samples of your writing.