



Image: courtesy of Karachi Urban Lab, 2020



Social Science Research on heat-health: Current projects and opportunities

Dr Elspeth Oppermann

elspeth.oppermann@lmu.de

Ludwig Maximilians University and National University of Singapore

Why engage with academia?

- **Mind the gap?**

- Differences in objectives?
- Differences in project timelines and requirements?

→ *Growing focus on applied, impactful research funding globally*

- **What's the value of working with social-scientists/academia?**

- Access to more research funding opportunities
- More time/capacity for research
- Rigour and relevance: novel and state-of-the art data collection and analysis, peer-reviewed outputs
- Helps substantiate and evidence your approach and innovations

Why collaborate with social scientists?

- **Wide range of approaches beyond the familiar**
 - Quantitative, Qualitative, Multi-disciplinary (incl. with the 'hard' sciences)
 - Wide range of methods, project designs, disciplines
 - Research-Practitioner networks and alliances (e.g. CDKN, GHHIN)
- **Some (limited!) examples...**



Uses a social practices and ethnographic approach to heat-health

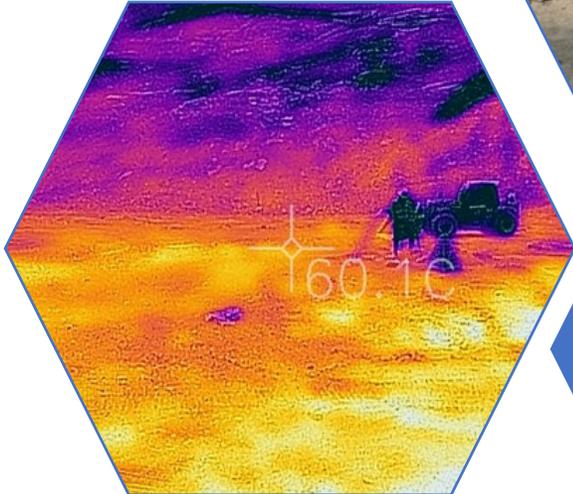
→ Heatwaves might be an emergency, but daily life goes on – how do we integrate interventions into everyday practices?



(Video) Observation, Site 'Walk-throughs'



Interviews



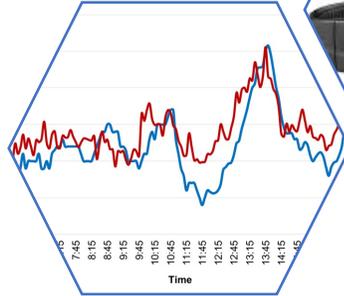
Environmental Monitoring & Thermal Imaging

Environmental Symptoms Questionnaire; Practices Survey; Medical incident analysis

	score (inter-quartile range)	ESQ (inter-quartile range)
	Yes	No
At work		
Rest in shade		
Rest in front of fan		
Pour water over head		
Change clothes		
Ice/wet towels		
Ice packs		
Rest in air-con vehicle		
Rest in air-con building		
Slushies		
Food		
No work strategy		
At home		
Rest under fan		
Power		
Spa/bath		



Physiological monitoring: Respiratory Rate; Heart Rate; Core Temperature



Moving Energy Initiative



ENERGY4IMPACT
ACCELERATING ACCESS TO ENERGY

NRC NORWEGIAN
REFUGEE COUNCIL


UKaid
from the British people


UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

PRACTICAL ACTION
Consulting



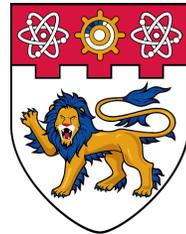
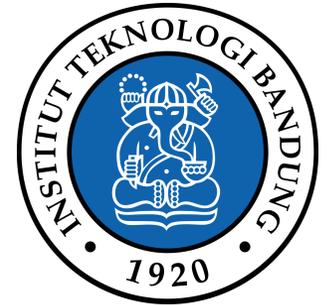
**CHATHAM
HOUSE**
The Royal Institute of
International Affairs

Cool Infrastructures

Life with Heat in the Off-Grid City



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH



NANYANG
TECHNOLOGICAL
UNIVERSITY
SINGAPORE



भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान हैदराबाद
Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad



The support of the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) is gratefully acknowledged

@thermalcultures

www.coolinfrastructures.com



The Heat-Coronavirus Nexus

An analysis of the nexus of thermal practices and virus transmission management in three cities

Research funded by:



Scottish Funding Council
Comhairle Maoineachaidh na h-Alba



<https://coolinfrastructures.com>

Thank You!



elspeth.oppermann@lmu.de