

# **Transition towards a fair and inclusive future - the social dimensions of climate change.**

**AXA IM Research Award 2023,  
in partnership with the AXA Research Fund**

September 2023

# Transition towards a fair and inclusive future: the social dimensions of climate change

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IPCC's future climate change scenarios<sup>1</sup> depict a critical upcoming situation with major consequences not only for the planet but also for its people with devastating effects on water access, food security and human health<sup>2</sup>, hindering economic development and preventing access to crucial services.

While climate change is a global phenomenon putting at risk everyone, its impacts vary widely across and within regions, countries and people<sup>3</sup> exacerbating already existing poverty and inequality: on one hand, due to worsening living conditions in places that lack the resources to adapt to extreme climate/weather events and their effects; on the other, by marginalising the most vulnerable people, despite being the ones that contribute the least to rising emissions.

Indigenous peoples, for instance, are among the most exposed to the impact of climate change and many of them suffer from its damaging consequences on their livelihoods, often based on agriculture and fishing activities. When crops get destroyed and livestock dead, they have little choice but to give up on their lands and migrate to survive<sup>4</sup>, despite their deep spiritual connections to land. Furthermore, climate change also perpetuates gender inequality, especially in places where women rely on climate-sensitive work such as agriculture and manual labor to make a living<sup>5</sup> posing threats to their livelihoods, health, and safety<sup>6</sup>.

The IPCC warns that without consideration of equity and justice in tackling climate change, the existing inequalities will be reinforced, and new inequalities will arise, undermining development and poverty eradication<sup>7</sup>.

## AXA IM Research Award focus

Addressing the inequalities faced by disadvantaged and marginalised groups in the context of climate change requires tailored solutions that take account of the day-to-day realities of people and communities.

We recognise **science and research have a key role** to play to discover new solutions to help the world become more resilient.

The third edition of the AXA IM Research Award, in partnership with the AXA Research Fund, will thus recognise transformative research that explores solutions to address the **social impacts of climate change**, and ultimately to ensure “**no one is left or pushed behind**” (*The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development's pledge*) in the transition to an environmentally sustainable and climate-safe future.

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<sup>1</sup> [Chapter 4: Future Global Climate: Scenario-based Projections and Near-term Information \(ipcc.ch\)](https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/)

<sup>2</sup> [AR6 Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability — IPCC](https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/)

<sup>3</sup> [Social Dimensions of Climate Change \(worldbank.org\)](https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/climatechange/brief/social-dimensions-of-climate-change)

<sup>4</sup> [Climate change and disaster displacement | UNHCR UK](https://www.unhcr.org/en/refugees-and-displacement/2019/11/1570444444/climate-change-and-disaster-displacement.html)

<sup>5</sup> [What does gender equality have to do with climate change? | Climate Promise \(undp.org\)](https://www.climatepromise.org/en/what-does-gender-equality-have-to-do-with-climate-change/)

<sup>6</sup> [Gender inequality and climate change - here's the connection | World Economic Forum \(weforum.org\)](https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2019/05/gender-inequality-and-climate-change-heres-the-connection/)

<sup>7</sup> [Chapter 8: Poverty, Livelihoods and Sustainable Development | Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability \(ipcc.ch\)](https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/)

We will look at research projects exploring inclusive solutions which will focus on the following areas:

- Innovative and inclusive solutions aimed at **addressing social and gender inequalities, helping the poorest, most vulnerable and most marginalised populations** to protect themselves against climatic hazards, but also **climate transition measures**, so they can adapt to the climate emergency and build resilience for the future to they can thrive.
- Solutions aimed at **protecting human health and well-being**, that support - for example – food security, infrastructure, inclusive social protection, and water policies.
- Novel approaches aimed at **accelerating raised awareness and behavioural changes** through – for example - increase of education, including capacity building; climate literacy; and information provided through climate services and community approaches.
- **Measurement and tracking as the nexus of the socio-economic impacts of climate change**, both in terms of assessing the social progress and challenges of an inclusive transition.

**Nominees applying are expected to demonstrate the novelty, innovation, and impact of their research in these areas.**

## Award Guidelines

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These guidelines provide information for nominators and nominees for the AXA IM Research Award. **This guide may be used as a reference by nominators and nominees. The information presented within overrides any contrary terms that could be found elsewhere.**

### Nomination rules

- Each nominator can nominate up to two eligible **researchers**.
- Self-nominations are not permitted. Family members and relatives cannot be nominated.
- Nominators cannot nominate a researcher from their team or someone they supervise neither a researcher engaged in a co-publication or close collaboration within the past 5 years.
- Researchers already supported by the AXA Research Fund or by AXA IM cannot be nominated even if their AXA grant has ended.

### Researchers eligibility

The AXA IM Research Award is aimed at supporting an advanced researcher **between PhD + 5 years<sup>8</sup> and PhD + 15 years maximum<sup>9</sup>**. Candidates should **consider the full application deadline i.e. 17 November 2023 to calculate their PhD date and assess their eligibility.**

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<sup>8</sup> No flexibility for these dates: researchers below PhD+ 5 years and above PhD+15 years are not eligible.

<sup>9</sup> Career breaks will not be considered, exceptions will only be made for maternity/paternity leave: 6-months per child to be indicated in the CV.

The support should be transformative for the researchers and the advancement of their field. **Candidates should be of the highest calibre** and have demonstrated **outstanding research achievements**, as evidenced by the usual indicators for assessing academic excellence such as research outputs (e.g. publications), research activities (e.g. organising networks, being involved in communities) and research impact (e.g. policy report, specific recognition through awards, etc.).

## Award amount and allocation

The total amount of the award is **100,000€**. The **money must be exclusively dedicated to research purposes**. The amount of the award will be paid to the university with which the researcher is affiliated.

## Engagement and obligations

It is a requirement that the granted researcher would be **proactive in engaging science with society** when supported by the AXA IM Research Award and commit to share their research with a broad audience including AXA IM and its clients. See Awardee Obligations for more details.

The Grantee and AXA IM will enter into a legal contract for the grant of the award donation. The contract will specify the obligations for the grantee who accepts the award. The award money **must be exclusively dedicated to research purposes**. The amount of the award will be paid to the university with which the researcher is affiliated. It will require that the awardee makes themselves available to partake in communications, either during an event or dedicating a day to film an interview. Additional participation in communications might be proposed but it is not required that the awardee should promote AXA IM in any way. In addition, the Grantee agrees to provide **a project report after the first year**.

## Ethics

AXA IM and the AXA Research Fund place extremely high importance on the ethics of the work they support. Programmes are required to comply fully with all relevant ethical review processes and for this compliance to be evidenced. Cases of scientific misconduct (such as fabrication, falsification, plagiarism or of inappropriate behavior towards staff or other parties) will be considered as breaches of the AXA ethical principles<sup>10</sup> and will be excluded from funding.

## Intellectual Property

The researcher and the host institution remain fully independent to conduct the research project. AXA will not claim any right to the ownership or use of the results.

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<sup>10</sup> AXA Group Compliance and Ethics Guide: <https://www.axa.com/en/newsroom/publications/compliance-ethics-guide>

## Timeline, Application process & Awardee Obligations

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- Nominations and applications must be submitted in English, on time, and complete.
- The research topic must fall within the scope of the eligible topic focus.
- Additional documents to the ones requested will not be considered.

### Timeline

Step	Date
Call for nominations	<b>25 September 2023 – 20 October 2023</b>  Nominations received after the deadline or that are incomplete will not be considered.
Full applications by nominees	<b>3 November 2023 – 17 November 2023</b>
Selection	<b>22 November 2023</b>
Results announcement	<b>23 November 2023</b>  Results will be sent by email to nominees and nominators will be informed of the final result if their nominee is selected.

### Application process

#### Step 1 – Call for nominations – For NOMINATORS

A call for nominations across the **Academic Community will be launched to recommend top researchers connected with the topic under investigation**. Nominators will be able to **submit their nomination(s) via the following link: [Call for nominations form](#) until 20 October 2023**.

Nominators will be asked to provide the following information on the nominee:

- First Name
- Last Name
- Country
- Email address
- Current University / Institution
- PhD defense date (only PhD 5 years – 15 years will be eligible)
- Main research area (50 words)
- Additional information regarding the nominee's main research area
- Reason for nomination (150 words)
- How did you hear about the AXA IM Research Award?

## Step 2 – Screening

The Selection Committee will perform pre-selection to ensure requirements are met.

## Step 3 - Nominee Application - For NOMINEES

AXA's teams will approach pre-selected candidates to inform them that they have been nominated for the AXA IM Research Award and propose that they submit an application as well as share the guidelines and requirements for this Award. **Applications must be submitted via the link provided by email by 17 November 2023.**

Through the application form, the **nominee, if she/he so accepts, will provide:**

- First name
- Last name
- Country
- Email address
- PhD defense date (only PhD 5 years – 15 years will be eligible)
- Current University / Institution
- Current University Country
- Number of citations
- Google Scholar h-index
- Main research area with brief explanation (250 words)
- Further details on current research projects and motivations (250 words)
- Description of three public speaking examples (150 words)
- List of 5 most impactful publications, indicating the publication dates and media (e.g. journal, conference)
- Self-filmed video introducing themselves and research area (max. 2-3mins) – via a non public YouTube or Video link.
- Short CV (3 pages maximum including a link to an online full CV)
- Optional: Link to an existing short video presentation

## **AXA Investment Managers: Acting for human progress by investing for what matters**

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Our ambition is to be a leading responsible asset manager. This means delivering on our purpose to ‘act for human progress by investing for what matters’. This purpose focuses our efforts on acting responsibly as a corporate and investor in reaching net zero targets. By taking accountability for our own footprint and taking steps to reduce it, and as an investor, using our influence and expertise to deliver the investment outcomes our clients need. But we also want to go beyond what is expected of asset managers, where we can. We are consciously channeling capital to invest for a just and green future, including funding innovative research into sustainability-related risks.

We are committed to going beyond what is expected of us by partnering with academia to back researchers and the scientific community through grants, awards or donations to drive the solutions we need, and ultimately to enable the just and green transition and to overcome the world’s sustainability problems. The AXA IM Research Award is the demonstration of a shared commitment and purpose with AXA Group by increasing our role in society and bringing our purpose to life.

Find out more about AXA Investment Managers:

- Website: <https://www.axa-im.com/>
- LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/axa-investment-managers/>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/axa.im/>
- YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@AXAIMCorporate>

## **AXA Research Fund: Accelerating science to protect what matters**

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The AXA Research Fund is AXA Group’s global scientific philanthropy initiative, launched in 2008 to address the most important issues facing our planet. It supports human progress by funding research in key areas related to risk and helping inform public and private decision-making based on science.

In line with AXA’s purpose to act for human progress by protecting what matters, the AXA Research Fund’s support is directed towards accelerating research around risk in the areas of health, climate & environment, and socio-economy & new technologies. The AXA Research Fund seeks to address the most important issues facing our society and our planet by funding transformative research, disseminating findings and promoting collaboration among relevant stakeholders.

Find out more about the AXA Research Fund:

- Website: <https://www.axa-research.org/en>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/AXAResearchFund>
- LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/showcase/axa...>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/axaresearch...>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AXAResearch/>
- YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@AXAResearchFundLive>