

# Asya Dimitrova

## Researcher

Public health researcher and environmental economist with technical knowledge on the impacts of climate change on population dynamics and human health and a specific focus on low- and middle-income countries. Proficient in quantitative research, health impact assessment and policy analysis.



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Potsdam, Germany

## SKILLS

Data analysis

Health impact assessments

Epidemiological analysis

Population projections

Systematic reviews

Communication skills

Project management

Organisation and time management

Teamwork

## LANGUAGES

English

Full Professional Proficiency

German

Professional Working Proficiency

Spanish

Limited Working Proficiency

Bulgarian

Native or Bilingual Proficiency

## WORK EXPERIENCE

### Postdoctoral researcher

#### Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK)

02/2022 - Present

Potsdam, Germany

##### Achievements/Tasks

- Applying state-of-the art empirical and modelling techniques to gridded climate, crop yields and population data to quantify past and future impacts of climate change on 1) temperature-related neonatal deaths in low- and middle-income countries; 2) heat-related mortality and morbidity in Uzbekistan; 3) child mortality and malnutrition via changes in crop yields in Burkina Faso.
- Teaching a Planetary Health course at Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin

### Scientific consultant

#### Air Pollution Group, Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)

11/2021 - 12/2021

Vienna, Austria

##### Achievements/Tasks

- Conducted an external review of the current methodology for health impact assessment in the Greenhouse Gas and Air Pollution Interactions and Synergies (GAINS) model.
- Offered comprehensive recommendations to enhance the health impact assessment methodology in GAINS, which was subsequently used by IIASA for updating their model.

### Pre-doctoral research fellow

#### Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal)

03/2018 - 10/2021

Barcelona, Spain

##### Achievements/Tasks

- Developed and applied novel cohort-component projection and static microsimulation models to multi-dimensional population data and gridded air pollution and energy access data from an integrated assessment model to quantify future health co-benefits of climate change mitigation in India.
- Developed an interdisciplinary research project during the 2019 Young Scientists Summer Programme (YSSP) at the Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), focusing on quantifying health co-benefits of climate change mitigation.
- Participated in the 2019 UN Summer Academy on World Risk and Adaptation Futures: Demographic Change, Accra, Ghana.

### Research fellow

#### Institute for Managing Sustainability, Vienna University of Economics and Business

03/2015 - 03/2018

Vienna, Austria

##### Achievements/Tasks

- Independently managed and coordinated Eurostat projects on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Europe 2020 Strategy with 17 research partners.
- Co-authored and edited Eurostat publications on monitoring and evaluating the European Sustainable Development Strategy, the SDGs and the Europe 2020 Strategy.
- Provided assistance in organizing, planning, data analysis, and preparation of deliverables related to the EU Framework Programmes for Research and sustainable development.

### Blue Book Stagiare

#### European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, D3-Social Protection and Activation Systems

10/2014 - 02/2015

Brussels, Belgium

##### Achievements/Tasks

## DIGITAL COMPETENCE

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Matlab

STATA

SPSS

MS Office

- Co-authored the Commission's annual monitoring report on socio-economic developments in Member States as part of the European Semester cycle.
- Drafted a report on monitoring long-term care in the EU and helped in the development of an EU assessment framework in the area of health.
- Supported the unit in the preparation, execution and follow-up work of workshops and prepared country-specific briefings on Member State's social policies.

### Research fellow

#### Institute for Managing Sustainability, Vienna University of Economics and Business

12/2012 - 10/2014  
Achievements/Tasks

Vienna, Austria

- Co-authored and edited Eurostat publications on monitoring and evaluating the European Sustainable Development Strategy and the Europe 2020 Strategy.
- Delivered working papers commissioned by the Committee of the Regions on the Europe 2020 strategy's implications for regional development; conducted and analysed interviews with relevant stakeholders.

### Research Intern

#### Community Infosource CIC/ Third Sector Internships Scotland (TSIS)

02/2012 - 08/2012  
Achievements/Tasks

Glasgow, United Kingdom

- Conducted extensive research and developed two independent reports on the most efficient modern methods of sustainable energy provision and information and communication technologies for rural areas in developing countries.
- Engaged in strategic planning, funding applications and liaising with donors for the organisation's development projects in Ghana and the Republic of the Congo.

## EDUCATION

### PhD Biomedicine (summa cum laude)

#### University Pompeu Fabra

03/2018 - 01/2022  
Courses

Barcelona, Spain

- Fundamentals of Epidemiology. ISGlobal and UPF. 2018.; Hands-on Tutorial on a Modelling Framework for Projections of Climate Change Impacts on Health. ISEE. 2019; Numbers for Policy: Practical problems in Quantification. Universitat Oberta de Catalunya. 2019; Smoothing Demographic Data; Data Visualization. Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research. 2020; Causal Inference; Machine Learning. RECSM Summer School. 2021
- Thesis Title: Climate change and health in India – impacts and mitigation co-benefits

### MSc Socio-Ecological Economics and Policy

#### Vienna University of Economics and Business

08/2012 - 06/2014  
Courses

Vienna, Austria

- Principal subjects: Growth, well-being and development; International institutions, governance and policy evaluation; Actors, behaviours and decision processes; Globalisation and social policy; Population, human capital and policy; Quantitative and qualitative research methods.
- Master Class Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) - supplementary class in management and business in CEE countries.
- Master Thesis Topic: Inequalities in access to healthcare in Bulgaria (Grade: Excellent).

### MA (SocSci) Economics (Honours of the First Class)

#### University of Glasgow

08/2008 - 06/2012  
Courses

Glasgow, United Kingdom

- Macroeconomics, Microeconomics; Econometrics; Government and the economy; Government debt and the macroeconomy; Growth, finance and trade in less development countries; Calculus; Real Analysis; Mathematical methods; Mathematics for ecology; Finance; Business and management.
- *Dissertation*: Informal Settlements in Developing Countries: An Economic Perspective (Grade: A4)

## Academic exchange programme

### National University of Singapore

01/2011 - 05/2011

Singapore, Singapore

#### Courses

- Microeconomics II; Macroeconomics II; Urban economics; Econometrics; Complex Mathematical Analysis.

## High School Diploma (graduated with distinction)

### First Foreign Language High School

09/2003 - 06/2008

Varna, Bulgaria

- *Specialisation*: Mathematics; English language; German language.
- *State Examination Exams*: English language (excellent); Bulgarian language (excellent).

## LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

**Dimitrova A.**, Dimitrova A., Mengel M., Gasparrini A., Lotze-Campen H., Gabrysch S., Temperature-related neonatal deaths attributable to climate change (forthcoming)

**Dimitrova A.**, Dimitrova A., Waid J., Undor S., Laudien R., Gornott, Gabrysch S. Impact of climate change on child undernutrition in Burkina Faso via changes in crop yields (in preparation)

**Dimitrova A.**, Marois G., Kiesewetter G., Rafaj P., Pachauri S., KC S., Olmos S., Rasella D., Tonne C. (2022) Projecting the impact of air pollution on child stunting in India – synergies and trade-offs between climate change mitigation, ambient air quality control and clean cooking access interventions. *Environ. Res. Lett.* 16. <https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-9326/ac8e89>

Vijendra, I., **Dimitrova A.**, Sampedro J., Sacoar C., Acacio S., Juvekar J., Roy S., Basagana S., Ballester J., Anto J., Tonne C. (2022) Local mortality impacts due to future air pollution under climate change scenarios in Mozambique, India, and Spain. *Science of The Total Environment* 823, 153832. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2022.153832>

Ortega N., Curto A., **Dimitrova A.**, Nunes J., Rasella D., Sacoar C., Tonne C. (2021) Health and Environmental Impacts of Replacing Kerosene-Based Lighting with Renewable Electricity in Eastern Africa. *Energy for Sustainable Development* 63, 16-23. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.esd.2021.05.004>

**Dimitrova A.**, Marois, G., Kiesewetter, G., KC, S., Rafaj, P., Tonne, C. (2021) The future health impacts of long-term exposure to air pollution in India under climate change, demographic change and urbanization. *Environ. Res. Lett.* 16. <https://doi.org/10.1088/1748-9326/abe5d5>

**Dimitrova A.**, Ingole V., Basagaña X., Ranzani O., Milà, C., Ballester J., Tonne, C., (2021) Association between ambient temperature and heat waves with mortality in South Asia: Systematic review and meta-analysis, *Environment International*, 146, 106170. doi: 10.1016/j.envint.2020.106170.

Tonne C., Adair L., Adlakha D., Anguelovski I., Belesova K., Berger M., Brelsford C., Dadvand P., **Dimitrova A.**, Giles-Corti B., Heinz A., Mehran N., Nieuwenhuijsen M., Pelletier F., Ranzani O., Rodenstein M., Rybski D., Samavati S., Satterthwaite D., Schöndorf J., Schreckenberger, D. Stollmann J., Taubenböck H., Tiwarit G., van Wee B., MazdaAdli M., (2021) Defining pathways to healthy sustainable urban development, *Environment International*. 146, 106236. doi:10.1016/j.envint.2020.106236

Milà C., Curto A., **Dimitrova A.**, Sreekanth V., Kinra S., Marshall JD., Tonne C., (2020) Identifying predictors of personal exposure to air temperature in peri-urban India, *Science of the Total Environment*. Elsevier B.V., 707, p. 136114. doi: 10.1016/j.scitotenv.2019.136114.

Hametner M., **Dimitrova A.**, Ruech R. (WU Vienna); De Rocchi A., Kohli A., Rügge B., Spescha G., Steinemann M., Zandonella R. (INFRAS); Abhold K., Kiresiewa Z., Knoblauch D., Krüger I., Landgrebe R., Lukat E., McGlade K., Prahla A., Smith L., Stein U., Velten E. (Ecologic Institute). *Sustainable Development in the European Union — Monitoring report on progress towards the SDGs in an EU context*. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union. 2017.

Hametner M., **Dimitrova A.**, Ruech R. (WU Vienna), De Rocchi A., Gschwend E. (INFRAS), Umpfenbach, K. (Ecologic Institute). *Smarter, greener, more inclusive? Indicators to support the Europe 2020 strategy*. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union. 2017.

Hametner M., Adelman R., Ruech R., **Dimitrova A.**, Dimitrova A. (WU Vienna). *Figures for the future — Sustainable development in our everyday life — A guide for citizens*. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union. 2016.

Hametner, M., **Dimitrova A.**, Dimitrova A., Schindler P., Ruech R. (WU Vienna), De Rocchi A., Rügge B., Gschwend E., Spescha G. (INFRAS), Prah A., Knoblauch D., Velten E., Lukat E., Abhold K., McGlade K., McFarland K., Kaphengst T., Stein U. (Ecologic Institute). *Sustainable Development in the European Union - A statistical glance from the viewpoint of the UN Sustainable Development Goals*. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union. 2016.

Hametner, M., **Dimitrova A.**, Dimitrova A., (WU Vienna), De Rocchi A., Gschwend E., Steinemann M. (INFRAS), Prah A., Umpfenbach K. (Ecologic Institute). *Smarter, greener, more inclusive? Indicators to support the Europe 2020 strategy*. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union. 2016.

**Dimitrova A.**, Dimitrova A., Hametner M., Martinuzzi R. *FP7 and the SDGs - How did research in the 7th EU framework programme address the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?* Vienna: Institute for Managing Sustainability, Vienna University of Economics and Business. 2015.

Hametner M., **Dimitrova A.**, Dimitrova A., Endl A. (WU Vienna), Fliedner J., Spescha G. (INFRAS), Kesy C. (KRD-Services Sarl), Prah A., Umpfenbach, Eike K., Velten (Ecologic Institute). *Smarter, greener, more inclusive? Indicators to support the Europe 2020 strategy*. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union. 2015.

Hametner M., **Dimitrova A.**, Dimitrova A., Pisano U. (Institute for Managing Sustainability, WU Vienna), Gschwend E., Reutimann J., Rügge B., Zandonella R. (INFRAS), Graf A., Gerstetter C., Knoblauch D., Umpfenbach K. (Ecologic Institute). *Sustainable development in the European Union - 2015 monitoring report of the EU sustainable development strategy*. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union. 2015.

Srebotnjak T., **Dimitrova A.**, Hametner, M. *A mid-term assessment of Europe 2020 from the standpoint of EU cities and regions*. 2014. Committee of the Regions.

Hametner M., **Dimitrova A.**, Endl, A. (RIMAS, WU Vienna), Fliedner J., Schwab S. (INFRAS), Umpfenbach K., Timeus Cerezo K. (Ecologic Institute). *Smarter, greener, more inclusive? Indicators to support the Europe 2020 strategy*. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union. 2013.

Hametner M., **Dimitrova A.**, Endl A., Berger G., Pisano U. (Institute for Managing Sustainability, WU Vienna), Fliedner J., Rügge B., Schultheiss A., Steinemann M., Zandonella R. (INFRAS), Davis M., Gerstetter C., Gradmann A., Hirschnitz-Garbers M., Kaphengst T., McGlade K., Umpfenbach K. (Ecologic Institute). *Sustainable development in the European Union - 2013 monitoring report of the EU sustainable development strategy*. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union. 2013.

## PRESENTATIONS

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The burden of temperature-related stillbirths and neonatal deaths attributable to climate change – a global analysis across 29 Low- and Middle-income countries. *Cross-sectoral ISIMIP-PROCLIAS workshop 2023*. Prague, Czech Republic. June **2023**

The burden of temperature-related stillbirths and neonatal deaths attributable to climate change – a global analysis across 29 Low- and Middle-income countries. *European Geosciences Union 2023 Assembly*. Vienna, Austria. April **2023**

Projecting the impacts of climate change mitigation and clean cooking access on future childhood stunting in India. *International Society for Environmental Epidemiology (ISEE)*. Remote. Aug **2021**

Association between ambient temperature and heatwaves and mortality in South Asia – Systematic Review and Meta-analysis. *Gobeshona Global Conference: Research into Action on Locally-Led Adaptation*. Remote. Jan **2021**

Association between ambient temperature and heatwaves and mortality in South Asia – Systematic Review and Meta-analysis. British Society for Population Studies (BSPS). Remote. Jul **2020**

The future health impacts of long-term exposure to air pollution in India under climate change, demographic change and urbanization. *The 6th Stochastic Modeling Techniques and Data Analysis International Conference*. Barcelona, Spain. June **2020**

The future health impacts of long-term exposure to air pollution in India. *UNU Summer Academy on World Risk and Adaptation Futures*. Accra, Ghana. Oct **2019**.

The future health impacts of long-term exposure to ambient air pollution in India. *IIASA YSSP Final Colloquium*. Vienna, Austria. Aug **2019**.

The future health impacts of long-term exposure to ambient air pollution in India. BSPS. Leeds, UK. Jul 2019

The health impacts of the urban heat island effect — projections for two peri-urban areas in India. *Symposium on Urbanization and health: identifying pathways to healthy sustainable urban development*. Hannover, Germany. Oct **2018**.

The future health impacts of long-term exposure to air pollution in India under climate change, demographic change and urbanization. *ISEE*. **2020**

Systematic Review and Meta-analysis of the association between ambient temperature and heatwaves and mortality in South Asia. *ISEE*. Utrecht, the Netherlands. Aug **2019**

## PERSONAL PROJECTS

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### Volunteer

#### Treatment without borders

01/2016 - 03/2018

Vienna, Austria

- Providing logistic and language interpreting help for patients undergoing healthcare treatments abroad

### Founding member

#### Weltkinder\_netzwerk

02/2016 - 03/2018

Vienna, Austria

- Together in a team of four developed a social-entrepreneurship project facilitating the integration of refugee women with children in society and in the labour market in Austria.

### Treasurer and General Coordinator

#### Solidarity Subcommittee of EU Bluebook Trainees

10/2014 - 02/2015

Brussels, Belgium

- Managed finances and coordinated fundraising events for supporting a water sanitation micro-development project in Uganda. Worked with local volunteer schemes to offer help and support to vulnerable members of the community – the homeless, asylum seekers, the elderly, the disabled, children in need to victims of abuse.