

Honorary Professor Colin D Butler
CURRICULUM VITAE (5 page summary)

Nationality: Australian

Country of birth: Australia

Formal academic qualifications

1984: Bach. Medical Sci. (Hons Ii) University of Newcastle, NSW, Australia (neuroscience)
1987: Bachelor of Medicine, University of Newcastle, NSW, Australia
1990: Diploma Tropical Medicine & Hygiene, Royal College Physicians, London, U.K.
1997: MSc (Epidemiology), London School Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, Univ. London, U.K.
1998: Dip. Epidemiology, London School Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, Univ. London, U.K.
2002: Ph.D. Australian National University (ANU), Canberra, Australia (epidemiology and population health).

Awards and prizes (selected)

2018: **Tony McMichael Public Health Ecology and Environment Award**, Public Health Association of Australia
2009: **“One of a 100 doctors for the planet”** Association Santé Environnement France (French Environmental Health Association) (co-recipient, one of 100)
2006: **Zayed International Environment Prize** (Scientific and/or Technological Achievement in Environment) awarded collectively to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment
2002: **Borrie Prize** (Australian Population Association)
1998: **Best student submission** (Australasian Epidemiological Association)
1985: **Nobel Peace Prize** International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW); collective; I was then a student member of an IPPNW affiliate.

I have given **19** keynote presentations, 9 at international conferences, including at the 2nd ASEAN¹ conference on biodiversity and also at the Royal Society of Medicine, in London, UK; *also* 6 keynote talks in parallel sessions and 2 in workshops.

Scientific Assessments

I have made (by invitation) substantial contributions to **five** international, multidisciplinary scientific assessments: Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (2 working groups); Global Energy Assessment; Special Programme for Tropical Diseases Research, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) (5th report) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) 6th Global Environmental Outlook. I am, also, sole author for a 70 page report for UNEP on the origin of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Major Grants

2010: Future Fellowship (Australian Research Council) four years of independent research on topic “Health and Sustainability: Australia in a global context”.
2026: Scientific and Technological Talent Recruitment Grant (National Science and Technology Council of Taiwan) to bring me to Tzu Chi University, Taiwan for collaboration.

¹ Association of South Eastern Asian Nations

Current appointments

Honorary Professor, National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health [link](#) and Institute for Climate, Energy & Disaster Solutions, Australian National University, Canberra, Australia (November 1, 2018 – October 31, 2028)

Co-founder and Director, Benevolent Organisation for Development, Health and Insight (BODHI) Australia (November 1989-current) [link](#)

Co-founder and Director BODHI (US) (July 1989-present)

Previous professional appointments (selected)

Visiting Professor, Institute of Religion and Humanities, Tzu Chi University, Hualien, Taiwan (Feb 15 – June 30, 2026)

Professor of Public Health, University of Canberra (2015 – 2016) (Level E)

Associate Professor, National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health (NCEPH), Australian National University (ANU) (2008 - 2012) (Level D)

Senior Research Fellow in Global Health, School of Health and Social Development, Deakin University, Melbourne, Australia (2006 – 2007) (Level C)

Visiting Research Fellow, NCEPH, ANU (2005 - 2008)

Research Fellow in Epidemiology, NCEPH, ANU (Level B)

Post-doctoral Fellow, National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health, Australian National University (2002-2003)

General Medical Practitioner (vocationally registered), Tasmania (1988 - 2000)

Major written research outputs 293 (about 50% sole-authored or sole-edited, 20% first-authored or first edited.)

Google Scholar: 17,373 citations; **H index:** 45 (1/07/26) [link](#)

Scopus: 4,919 citations for 169 publications listed, H-index 29 (1/07/26) [link](#)

Orcid: [link](#)

Edited Books

Butler C.D. and Higgs, K. *Climate Change and Global Health. Primary, Secondary and Tertiary Effects*. CABI, 2nd edition.

Butler C.D. (2016) *Climate Change and Global Health*. CABI, Wallingford, UK (softback)

Butler C.D., Dixon J., Capon A.G. (2015) *Health of People, Places and Planet. Reflections based on Tony McMichael's four decades of contribution to epidemiological understanding*, ANU Press [link](#)

Butler C.D. (2014) *Climate Change and Global Health*. CABI, Wallingford, UK (hardback)

Dhammasami K., .. **Butler C.D.**, and Peoples D.O. (2011) *Buddhist Virtues in Socio-Economic Development*, Ayutthaya, Thailand: Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University

Journal articles, book chapters and letters (Selected from 294)

1. **Butler, C.D.** (2025) Eco-anxiety, climate change and the “bottom billion”: a plea for better understanding *BMJ Mental Health* 28:1-3. [Link](#)
2. **Butler, C.D.** and Rao, M (2025) What “dose” of anxiety is needed to awaken transformative action on climate change? *BMJ*, 388, q2584. [Link](#)

3. **Butler, C.D.** (2024) Grand (meta) challenges in planetary health: environmental, social and cognitive. *Frontiers in Public Health* 12 137378 [Link](#)
4. **Butler, C.D.** (2024) Bioethics, climate change and civilization. *J Climate Change Health*:100329. [Link](#)
5. **Butler, C.D.** (2022) Comparing and contrasting two United Nations Environment Programme reports on COVID-19 *Science in One Health* 1, 100003. [Link](#)
6. Van Helden, J., **Butler, C.D.**, *et al.* (2021) An appeal for an objective, open and transparent scientific debate about the origin of SARS-CoV-2. *Lancet* 398, 1402-04. [Link](#)
7. **Butler C.D.**, and Hanigan I.C. (2019) Anthropogenic climate change and health in the Global South. *International Journal Tuberculosis Lung Disease* 23: 1243-1252. [Link](#)
8. **Butler C.D.** (2019) Philanthrocapitalism: promoting global health but failing planetary health. *Challenges* 10(1), 24. [Link](#)
9. **Butler C.D.** (2018) Climate change, health and existential risks to civilization: a comprehensive review (1989-2013). *Int J Envtl Research and Public Health*, 15(10) 2286 [Link](#)
10. **Butler C.D.** (2018) Planetary Epidemiology: towards first principles. *Current Environmental Reports*. 5(4) 418-29. [Link](#)
11. **Butler C.D.** (2017) Limits to growth, planetary boundaries and planetary health. *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability* 25: 59-65. [Link](#)
12. **Butler C.D.** (2016) Planetary Overload, Limits to Growth and Health. *Current Environmental Health Reports* 3(4): 360-69.
13. **Butler C.D.** (2016) Sounding the alarm: Health in the Anthropocene. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* 13, 665. [Link](#)
14. Bowles D., **Butler C.D.** & Morisetti N. (2015) Climate change, conflict, and health. *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine*, 108 (10): 390-395. [Link](#)
15. **Butler C.D.** (2015) Revised hunger estimates accelerate apparent progress toward the MDG hunger target. *Global Food Security* 5(6) 19-24. [Link](#)
16. McMichael A.J., **Butler C.D.**, Dixon J. (2015) Climate change, food systems and population health risks in their eco-social context. *Public Health* 129: 1361-68. [Link](#)
17. Black P.F., **Butler C.D.** (2014) 'One Health' in a world with climate change. *Revue Scientifique et Technique de L'Office International des Epizooties* 33 (2), 465-73. [Link](#)
18. McMichael A.J., Zhou Z-N., .. **Butler C.D.** (editor) *et al.* (2013) Research Priorities for the Environment, Agriculture and Infectious Diseases of Poverty. First report of the World Health Organization/Special Program on Tropical Diseases Research Thematic Reference Group IV. Technical Report 976 (125p+xiii) [Link](#)
19. Bowles D., Friel S., **Butler C.D.** (2014) Climate change and health in Earth's future. *Earth's Future* 2 (2) 60–67. [Link](#)
20. **Butler C.D.**, Weinstein P. (2013) The future of global health. Reasons for alarm and a call for action. *World Medical Journal* 59(3) 82-90. [Link](#)
21. **Butler C.D.** (2012) Towards Buddhist economics, building on EF Schumacher. In G. Ricci (Ed.): Transaction Publishers, Volume 5 Culture and Civilization, pp 119-160.
22. **Butler C.D.** (2012) Infectious disease emergence and global change: systemic thinking in a shrinking world. *Infectious Diseases of Poverty* 1:e5 [Link](#)
23. Hanigan I.C., **Butler C.D.**, *et al.* (2012) Suicide and drought in New South Wales, Australia, 1970-2007. *Proceedings National Academy Sciences (USA)* 109: 13950-55. [Link](#)
24. Jeggo M., **Butler C.D.**, Fang J., Weinstein P., Daszak P. (2012) EcoHealth and the Influenza A/H5N1 dual use issue. *EcoHealth* 9: 1-3. [Link](#)
25. **Butler C.D.**, Weinstein P. (2011) Global ecology, global health, ecohealth. *EcoHealth* 8(3): 253-4.
26. McMichael A.J. and **Butler C.D.** (2011) Promoting global population health while constraining the environmental footprint. *Annual Review of Public Health* 32: 179-97. [Link](#)
27. **Butler C.D.** (2010) Climate change, crop yields and the future. *SCN News* 38 18-25.

28. **Butler C.D.** (2010) Lightening our carbon footprint: economics, norms and doctors. *Medical Journal of Australia* 192:485-6. [Link](#)
29. **Butler C.D.**, Harley D. (2010) Primary, secondary and tertiary effects of eco-climatic change: the medical response. *Postgraduate Medical Journal* 86:230-34. [Link](#)
30. **Butler C.D.** (2010) The climate crisis, global health, and the medical response. *World Medical Journal* 56(2):56-58.
31. **Butler C.D.** and McMichael A.J. (2010) Population health: where demography, environment and equity converge. *Journal of Public Health* 32: 157-158. [Link](#)
32. **Butler C.D.** (2009) Without and within: science and the middle path. *Journal of the International Association of Buddhist Universities* 2, 85-95. [Link](#)
33. **Butler C.D.** (2009) Food Security in the Asia-Pacific: Malthus, limits and environmental challenges. *Asia Pacific Journal of Clinical Nutrition* 18(4) 577-584. [Link](#)
34. **Butler C.D.** (2009) Food Security in the Asia-Pacific: climate change, phosphorus, ozone and other environmental challenges. *Asia Pacific Journal Clinical Nutrition* 18(4) 590-597. [Link](#)
35. **Butler C.D.** (2008): Environmental change, injustice and sustainability. *Journal of Bioethical Enquiry* 5(1): 11-19. [Link](#)
36. McMichael A.J., Powles J., **Butler C.D.** and Uauy R. (2007) Food, livestock production, energy, climate change and health. *The Lancet* 370: 1253-1263. [Link](#)
37. **Butler C.D.** and Oluoch-Kosura W. (2006): Linking future ecosystem services and future human well-being. *Ecology and Society* 11(1): 30. [Link](#)
38. **Butler C.D.** (2005): Peering into the fog: ecologic change, human affairs and the future *EcoHealth* 2: 17-21. [Link](#)
39. McMichael A.J., **Butler C.D.**, Folke C: (2003): New visions for addressing sustainability. *Science* 302: 1919-20. [link](#)
40. **Butler C.D.** (2000) Inequality, global change and the sustainability of civilization. *Global Change and Human Health* 1(2): 156-172. [Link](#)
41. **Butler C.D.** (2000): Entrapment: global ecological and/or local demographic? Reflections upon reading the BMJ's "six billion day" special issue. *Ecosystem Health* 6, 171-180. [Link](#)
42. **Butler C.D.** (1997) The consumption bomb. *Medicine, Conflict and Survival* 13: 209-18. [Link](#)
43. **Butler C.D.** (1994) Overpopulation, overconsumption and economics. *Lancet* 343: 582-4. [Link](#)
44. **Butler, C.D.** (2024) Climate change, food security and population health in the Anthropocene, In: *Encyclopaedia of the Anthropocene*, 2nd edition; Editor: M.I. Goldstein, Elsevier, Amsterdam.
45. **Butler, C.D.** (2024) Biodiversità. *Enciclopedia Italiana di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti*. Rome, Italy: Istituto Della Enciclopedia Italiana Fondata da Giovanni Treccani. pp. 167-73
46. **Butler, C.D.** (2024): Climate change and its “tertiary” effects: Thinking systemically in a world of limits In **C.D. Butler & K. Higgs** (Eds.), *Climate Change and Global Health: Primary, Secondary and Tertiary Effects* (Second ed.). Wallingford, UK., Boston USA: CABI, pp 260-9. [link](#)
47. **Butler, C.D.** Climate change, global health and planetary health, *ibid.* pp 42-54.
48. **Butler, C.D.** Famine, hunger, food prices and climate change, *ibid.* pp: 270-85.
49. **Butler, C.D.** Inequality is driving us over a cliff. *ibid.* pp: 20-26.
50. **Butler, C.D.** Population, neoliberalism and "human carrying capacity", *ibid.* pp 125-41.
51. ____ Sexual and reproductive health and rights: The relevance of family planning, *ibid.* pp 125-41.
52. **Butler, C.D.**, & Bowles, D.C. Climate change, migration and health., *ibid.* pp 286-303.
53. **Butler, C.D.**, *et al.* Health, climate and challenges in Africa: 2024-2100. *ibid.* pp 378-94.
54. **Butler, C.D.**, *et al.* (2024). Climate change, conflict, complexity, and health. *ibid.* pp 304-15.
55. **Butler, C.D.** *et al.* Arboviruses, vectors, poverty and climate change., *ibid.* pp 202-18.
56. **Butler, C.D.** & Hanigan I.C. Global air pollution, fire, climate change, and health, *ibid.* pp 242-59.
57. **Butler, C.D.**, *et al.* Climate change and global health: Developing a social vaccine to motivate transformation. *ibid.* pp 496-509.
58. **Butler, C.D.**, & Haryanto, B. Climate change and health in Indonesia, *ibid.* pp 435-44.
59. **Butler C.D.**, *et al.*, Occupational heat effects: a global health and economic threat, *ibid.* pp 166-77.

60. **Butler, C.D.** & McFarlane, R.A. One Health: from rinderpest to the threat of a four degree world. *ibid*, pp 55-66.
61. **Butler, C.D.** & Rahaman, M. R. (2024). Climate change and health in South Asia, *ibid*, pp 405-18.
62. **Butler, C.D.**, Wareham, S., & Harmer, A. (2024). Health activism and the challenge of planetary change. In C.D. Butler & K. Higgs (Eds.), *ibid*, pp 484-95.
63. **Butler, CD** (2024) Climate change and human health: Primary, secondary, and tertiary effects. In: Letcher, TM (ed) *Living With Climate Change*, Elsevier, Amsterdam, Netherlands. [Link](#)
64. **Butler, C.D.** (2022) Overpopulation: a century of debate that deserves re-examining. In: Saeverot, H. (Editor.), *Meeting the Challenges of Existential Threats through Educational Innovation: A Proposal for an Expanded Curriculum*; Routledge, Abingdon, UK. pp. 67-84. [Link](#)
65. **Butler, CD** (2021) Ecological ethics, planetary sustainability and global health. In: Benatar and Brock (eds) *Global Health: Ethical Challenges*. 2nd edition, Cambridge: CUP, pp. 281-292.
66. **Butler C.D.** (2020) Planetary health. In: *International Encyclopedia of Human Geography*, 2nd edition. vol. 10, Elsevier, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. pp. 153–157. Editor: Kobayashi, A. (Ed.)
67. **Butler CD**, Higgs K. (2018) Health, population, limits and the decline of nature. *Sage Handbook of Nature*, Volume 3, Editor: T. Marsden, London, UK, Sage Reference, pp. 1122-1149.
68. **Butler C.D.**, *et al.*, (2014) Mental health, cognition and the challenge of climate change. In: *Climate Change and Global Health*, Editor: **C.D. Butler**, Wallingford, UK: CABI, pp 251-258.
69. **Butler C.D.** & McMichael A.J. (2013): Environmental health. In: *Social Injustice and Public Health*, Eds: BS Levy, VW Sidel, Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2nd ed, pp 318-338.
70. **Butler C.D.** (2012) Population Trends and the Environment. *Praeger Handbook of Environmental Health*. Editor: R. H. Friis, Westport, CT, USA: Praeger, pp 215-231. [Link](#)
71. **Butler C.D.**, *et al.* (2012) Human Disease: Effects of Economic Development. In: *Encyclopedia of Life Sciences*, Editor: J. Hillier, Chichester, UK: John Wiley & Sons;
72. **Butler C.D.** (2007): North and South, The. In: *International Encyclopaedia of the Social Sciences*, Editor: A. Hedblad, New York, USA: MacMillan Reference USA, Vol 5:542-4.
73. **Butler CD**, Chambers R., Chopra K., Dasgupta P., Duraipappah A., *et al.* (2003): Ecosystems and human well-being. In: *Ecosystems and Human Well-being*, Editor: Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, Washington DC, USA: Island Press alphabetical author order, pp 71-84. [link](#)
74. **Butler C.D.**, Kefford B.J. (2018) Climate change as a contributor to human conflict *Nature* 555:587. [link](#)

Talks (Summary): 266 lectures and other forms of presentation, 225 invited, in 25 nations. Highlights: WHO (joint audience from environmental health and reproductive health in 2013), a working group of World Medical Association, prior to its climate change and health policy, adopted in 2009 as the Delhi Declaration and a keynote address to the 2nd ASEAN conference on biodiversity (2015).

Editorial positions (highlights)

2010-2013: Co-editor *EcoHealth*

2023 – 2024: Planetary health section editor, *Frontiers of Public Health*

Teaching experience

My father and maternal grandmother taught at schools (my father was a high school principal). Although my academic experience has mainly been in research, at least 190 of the 225 invited lectures I have so far given have included some students in the audience. I have also contributed to several short courses, the intended audience of which is mostly PhD students. In addition I designed a Master's course curriculum on global health at Deakin University in 2005-6, and convened two courses on environmental health which I designed and taught (2015-6) at the University of Canberra, Australia. I also taught a class at Tzu Chi University in 2026. I have been primary supervisor for three completed research degree candidates (two doctoral, one honours) and served on the formal supervisory panel for five others.