

Effects of Heatwaves on Chinese Mental Health and Wellbeing Losses and damages

PhD Candidate: Shiyi Zhang Supervisors: Dr Sonja Ayeb-Karlsson, Dr Ting Sun

UCL

1. Background

- **Heatwaves** are more intensive and frequent due to climate change.
- The resulting rising temperatures lead to individuals' **non-economic losses and damages (NELDs)** such as wellbeing and mental health problems MHPs .
- Heatwave-induced mental health problem has been widely recognized. The negative impacts can be either **direct or indirect, manifest** over short or

3. Research questions and preliminary findings

This research aims to answer the following questions:

- What does the current **research landscape** reveal about the intersection between heatwaves and mental health?

2. Research Gaps

- **Growing concerns** about the heatwaves' impact on mental health have become more pronounced, and several significant reports recognise its importance.
- There are **several research gaps** in terms of MHPs caused by heatwave:
 - there is a noticeable shortage of studies focusing on MHPs within the health system under the context of climate change
 - the geographic distribution is limited, with a particular need for more frequent and in-depth discussions on China
 - the impact of studies on mental health governance in response to climate change is limited
 - there is an absence of analysis on the empirical evidence of Chinese experience and perceptions of heat-related wellbeing and mental health NELDs.

