



MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS 2024

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR HOSTING MARIE CURIE FELLOWS

HOST INSTITUTION

National School of Public Health – Universidade NOVA de Lisboa

RESEARCH GROUP AND URL

Health Policy and Systems Management

SUPERVISOR (NAME AND E-MAIL)

Supervisor: Professor Christopher Millett

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SHORT CV OF THE SUPERVISOR

Professor Millett is Visiting Professor at the National School of Public Health, NOVA University Lisbon and Professor of Public Health at Imperial College London. He has won £25 million grant funding as Principal Investigator and £40 million as Co-Investigator and has lived and worked extensively in India and Brazil since 2010. Millett has substantial experience of managing large, complex research programmes in the UK and internationally. He has recently been awarded funding as Joint Principal Investigator for a new Global Centre on NCDs and Environmental Change in WHO South-East Asia region (focus countries Bangladesh, India and Indonesia).

Millett's research group has emerged as a leading global centre for applied research on population health and NCD prevention in middle-income countries, with interdisciplinary expertise in epidemiology, policy evaluation, environmental impact assessment and modelling. He has extensive experience mentoring Early and Mid Career Researchers in HICs and LMICs. He has acted as advisor to the WHO and is expert member of 'Action on Salt' a leading NGO for improving nutrition.

5 SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Escher N, Calixto Andrade G, Ghosh-Jerath S, **Millett C**, Seferidi P. 2024, The effect of nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions on the double burden of malnutrition in low-income and middle-income countries: a systematic review, *The Lancet Global Health*, Vol:12, ISSN:2214-109X, Pages:E419-E432
- Hone T, Gonçalves J, Seferidi P, **Millett C**, 2024, Progress towards universal health coverage and inequalities in infant mortality: an analysis of 4.1 million births from 60 low- and middle-income countries between 2000-2019, *The Lancet Global Health*, Vol:12, ISSN:2214-109X
- Kliemann N, Rauber F, Levy R, **Millett C**, Huybrechts I. 2023, Food processing and cancer risk in Europe: results from the prospective EPIC cohort study, *The Lancet Planetary Health*, Vol:7, ISSN:2542-5196, Pages:E219-E232
- Seferidi P, Hone T, Duran AC, **Millett C**, 2022, Global inequalities in the double burden of malnutrition and associations with globalisation: a multilevel analysis of Demographic and Health Surveys from 55 low-income and middle-income countries, 1992-2018, *The Lancet Global Health*, Vol:10, ISSN:2214-109X, Pages:e482-e490
- Chang K, Khandpur N, Neri D, **Millett C**, Vámos EP, 2021, Association between childhood consumption of ultraprocessed food and adiposity trajectories in the Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children birth cohort, *Jama Pediatrics*, Vol:175, ISSN:2168-6211

PROJECT TITLE AND SHORT DESCRIPTION

Title: How food industry adapts their products according to different food environments

Resume: The project aims to explore the dynamic relationship between food systems, dietary patterns, and public health policies. In the past decades, a transition from traditional, localized food systems with minimally processed foods to modern systems characterized by industrialized food production and long supply chains has been observed globally. This shift has led to increased consumption of ultra-processed foods, which are linked to various health issues and environmental impacts. The consumption of these foods is associated with poor dietary quality and chronic diseases such as obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular conditions.

Although studies indicate that the impact of ultra-processed foods on diet and population health is similar across different countries, the prevalence of their consumption varies globally. Higher rates are observed in developed countries, while developing countries show a trend toward a faster increase in consumption. As previously described in the literature, the expansion of the food industry has had particularities in different regions due to local cultures, public policies, and food transitions. In response to these barriers, the industry has adapted in different settings to expand their market share. Evidence suggests that the food industry modifies its portfolio according to local culture and also that the nutritional quality of the products tends to decline in lower-income countries. However, the tactics used by the food industry in different economic and political scenarios are little reported in the literature.

The present project has several goals, including: 1) comparing sales communication channels, food prices, and nutritional quality of ultra-processed products in different countries; 2) comparing the selling price of healthy and unhealthy foods across different countries; and 3) understanding how public policies (such as front-of-package labeling, taxation, and advertising restrictions on sales) influence food purchases worldwide. Data on food sales and purchases from representative studies (such as Euromonitor and national studies) will be used to evaluate these aspects.

SCIENTIFIC AREA WHERE THE PROJECT FITS BEST*

Social Sciences and Humanities (SOC)