

HOTTER AND SICKER: Climate Change, Human Health, and the Tangled Evolutionary Roots of Our Species' Dependence on External Energy

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Climate change and non-communicable chronic disease have emerged worldwide over the past two centuries. Our dependence on external energy expenditure (e.g., fire, fossil fuels) has deep, evolutionary roots in our species and is a common, root cause of these modern crises. Developing replacements for fossil fuels is essential if we are to confront these crises and maintain our species' external energy portfolio and way of life.



Herman Pontzer, Associate Professor of Evolutionary Anthropology and Research Associate Professor of Global Health at Duke University, investigates energy expenditure and evolution in humans and other apes. He measures daily energy expenditure in human populations around the globe to understand how differences in daily energy requirements vary with respect to activity, diet, and other aspects of ecology.

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