

FUNDED MASTERS RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY

VENTURE CAPITAL & SUSTAINABLE FOOD FUTURES

OVERVIEW

Dr. Phoebe Stephens is recruiting a Masters student starting **September 2024** to explore the role of venture capital in sustainable food innovations and transitions. This project is funded by a SSHRC Insight Development Grant.

Students would pursue a Master of Environmental Studies in the School for Resources and Environmental Studies at Dalhousie University.

PROJECT SUMMARY

Scholars, practitioners and the wider public increasingly recognize the need to transition away from industrial methods of agricultural production. Innovation is required for such a transition and innovation must be financed. Finance, however, is not neutral and the type of finance strongly dictates the direction of innovations.

Venture capital (VC) is a specialized form of financial intermediation that frequently funds technological innovation. In 2021, VC investors channeled \$51.7 billion toward agrifoodtech globally – a 1,500% increase over 2016. Though financial investment is needed to support more sustainable food systems, there is debate about VC's merits, demanding a critical look at VC finance in the agrifood industry.

This project seeks to gain insight into how VC is deployed in agrifoodtech to build a more sustainable future.

This 2-year project will involve conducting scans of the literature, interviews with industry actors, participant observation and analyzing and synthesizing qualitative data. There will be opportunities to present findings at academic conferences and co-author publications.



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INTERESTED?

Email Dr. Stephens by **September 15th, 2023** with a brief message stating your research interests and background, a copy of your CV and unofficial transcripts.

**In the subject line of your email include the word:
Resilience**



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To learn more about Dr. Stephens' research
visit: www.phoebegwenstephens.com