

SCHOOL OF PHYSICS

UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES



COLLOQUIUM

4-5 p.m., Tuesday, 16 June 2009

School of Physics Common Room

Room 64, Old Main Building

Professor Steven Sherwood

Climate Change Research Centre, UNSW

“Heat Stress, Humidity and Climate Change”

Heat stress is seldom emphasized as a serious consequence of climate change because of the perceptions that it only affects frail individuals, and that humans have adapted to a wide variety of climates. Unfortunately consideration of humidity and the physics of heat transport, each of which has been largely overlooked, indicate that these perceptions are misleading and that heat stress in future climates will impose a limit on our ability to adapt to large warming should this occur. Heat stress will also exact an increasing toll on the work productivity and leisure opportunities for healthy adults, though this is not easy to quantify.

The audience is invited to meet the speaker beforehand at 3.45 p.m. over coffee and biscuits in the Common Room.

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