Thursday, August 24

10:00-11:15 PANEL 1: Climate, security, and migration: connecting the dots

1. Kanta Kumari Rigaud (World Bank, USA), “The potency of climate migration: an anticipatory approach to avert the crisis” (online, confirmed)

   ABSTRACT: Climate change is a defining challenge of our times. Not a day goes by when we do not hear of climate induced crises. These events are becoming more frequent, more intense and more widespread. The World Bank’s flagship Groundswell reports find that in the absence of concrete climate and development action, the potency for climate change to drive internal migration will ramp up in the coming decades. By 2050, just six regions—Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, East Asia and the Pacific, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and Latin America—could see more than 216 million people forced to move within their countries in response to slow-onset effects of climate change. The poorest and most climate vulnerable areas will be hardest hit. These trends, alongside the emergence of “hotspots” of climate in- and out-migration, will have major implications for climate-sensitive sectors and for the adequacy of infrastructure and social support systems. An anticipatory approach will ensure that the countries are braced not just for the challenges of climate migration but have the readiness to avert and harness opportunities in the face of such mobility. The urgency to reduce greenhouse gases remains paramount to reduce the scale of climate impacts that could otherwise drive increased levels of climate migration—but this window of opportunity is rapidly narrowing.

   BIO: Dr. Kanta Kumari Rigaud is a Lead Environmental Specialist at the World Bank with more than 25 years of professional experience in natural resources management, environmental management, and climate change adaptation. She joined the World Bank in 2004 and has worked in the Middle East North Africa Region, the Climate Change Group, and is currently working in the Africa Region as the Regional Climate Change Coordinator. In her current role, she led the development of the Next Generation Africa Climate Business Plan, and continues to support the rollout and implementation of the plan and associate knowledge work working with team across the institution. She also works directly in Uganda and Kenya, including on their National Determined Contributions.

2. Gregory White (Smith College, USA), “Anticipatory frameworks and climate security: the fictive threat of climate migration” (in-person, confirmed)

   ABSTRACT: Climate migration (CM) is perpetually invoked as an emerging risk to national and international security. This paper seeks to challenge the appeal of CM narratives on normative and empirical grounds. Such
narratives are evident in journalist analyses, the social sciences, and works of creative fiction. The appeal of the narratives is based on an intuitive logic: the climate crisis has and will induce changes that will make regions of the world “uninhabitable.” As a result, so goes the logic, people will be displaced great distances and will pose a security threat. By contrast, the paper argues that this is not only a fundamental misreading of actual human migration dynamics but also that the “anticipatory frameworks” deployed to contend with the supposed threat of CM are fraught politically and deeply counterproductive. The paper ends with a call for genuine efforts at mitigation, adaptation and a reimagining of reparations.

BIO: Gregory White is the Mary Huggins Gamble Chair of Government at Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts, USA, where he currently directs the Environmental Science & Policy Program. He holds a Ph.D. in Political Science and African Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and has also held Fulbright scholarships to Tunisia and Morocco. White is the former editor of the Journal of North African Studies. He is also the author of Climate Change and Migration: Security and borders in a warming world (Oxford University Press, 2011) and coeditor with Yahia Zoubir of North Africa: Continuity and change (Routledge, 2015). In 2009-10 he received a New Directions Grant from the Andrew Mellon Foundation and was in residence at Columbia University’s Earth Institute. He is currently at work on a monograph, Refugees of the Apocalypse: A critique of the concept of “climate refugees.”

3. Elizabeth Ferris (Georgetown University, USA), “Climate change, internal migration, and security” (online, confirmed)

ABSTRACT: While much of the literature on climate, migration and security focuses on the potential for large numbers of climate migrants to turn up on the borders of other countries (especially borders of developed countries), this presentation will focus on the potential impact of internal climate change-induced migration and displacement on security. Virtually all projections of future population movements due to the impacts of climate change indicate that most people are likely to move within the borders of their countries. For example, the UN’s Africa Climate Mobility Initiative projects that 70-80 million Africans will move internally because of climate change by 2050, but only 1.2 million are expected to cross borders. Much of this movement is likely to be from rural to urban areas, increasing pressures on cities and on municipal authorities. This presentation will focus on the potential security implications of these internal movements of people, including the impact on development, fragility and civil conflict and will argue that it is in the international community’s interest to support governments to manage this migration. The presentation will conclude with policy recommendations for both multilateral institutions and governments for doing so.

BIO: Elizabeth Ferris is Research Professor with the Institute for the Study of International Migration at Georgetown University. In 2016, she also served as Senior Advisor to the UN General Assembly’s Summit for Refugees and Migrants in New York. She has written extensively on humanitarian issues, including Consequences of Chaos: Syria’s Humanitarian Crisis and the Failure to Protect, with Kemal Kirsici (Brookings Institution Press, 2016). Her latest book, Refugees, Migration and Global Governance: Negotiating the Global Compacts (with Katharine Donato), was published by Routledge in July 2019. She received her BA degree from Duke University and her MA and PhD degrees from the University of Florida.

11:30-12:15 PANEL 2: Climate migration: European perspectives, part 1

1. Niklas Bremberg (Stockholm University, Sweden), “Climate, peace and security in a changing geopolitical context: next steps for the European Union” (in-person, confirmed)
ABSTRACT: Climate change is arguably one of the most protracted crises facing our societies, and the intensity and frequency of climate-related risks is likely to be felt to an increasing extent (IPCC 2023). The EU was among the first major international actors to acknowledge the nexus between climate change and international security within CFSP and CSDP. The nexus between climate, peace and security is increasingly relevant in discussions on EU 'strategic autonomy' since securing access to rare earth minerals and other critical raw materials is seen as crucial for Europe’s transition to a carbon neutral economy as it is for the task of ‘greening’ its armed forces. Russia’s war against Ukraine also highlights how geopolitical dynamics are increasingly intertwined with climate, energy and environmental concerns in ways that expose vulnerabilities related to energy supplies and critical infrastructure in many EU member states. Despite important progress since 2020, there is still a lack of alignment between the climate and conflict-sensitizing work of the EEAS and the climate adaptation and mitigation work of the European Commission remains. This is particularly noticeable within the European Green Deal—the EU’s framework to become climate neutral and more resource efficient—despite its acknowledgment of global climate and environmental challenges as a source of instability. This paper takes a critical look at current efforts to align resources and tools between the EEAS and relevant European Commission meant to foster actions that are preventative rather than reactive to climate-related security risks in the short to medium term.


2. Dimitrios Kantemnidis (Lesvos Reception and Identification Center for Refugees, Greece), "Climate Security and the European Union" (online, confirmed)

ABSTRACT: 2015 saw the greatest increase in migration to Europe since the Second World War. One of the main entry routes for people fleeing their home countries and seeking asylum in Europe was Lesvos. Local communities attempted to help first, but subsequently they also tried to be helped. Up to the day disappointed migrants set fire to it, Moria was a camp with a capacity for 1,200 refugees but was estimated to be housing 23,000 people. The European Union and the Greek state turned their focus to coming up with a solution in the new structure, which now has capacity for 8,000 people. Therefore, the actors involved acted on three axes: quick registration and identification processes, adequate reception facilities, and quick asylum application processes, in order to avoid repeating the pictures of 2015 when the first migrants arrived and the images of 2020 when Moria burnt. Although Greece and Europe now have significant and successful tools in place for the identification and reception of refugees and immigrants, there are no tools for forecasting the issue. The migration approach for Europe overlooks factors like climate change, significant natural disasters, societal conflicts, and economic conditions. In other words, more dealing features and fewer prediction and prevention elements are present in the management of the issue.

BIO: Dimitrios Kantemnidis is Managing Director at the Lesvos Reception and Identification Center for Refugees and Fellow of the European Doctoral School of Environmental Security and the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) of the European Union.
13:30-14:15 PANEL 3: Climate migration: European perspectives, part 2

1. Stefania Panebianco (University of Catania, Italy), “Climate migration in the wider Mediterranean: A European policy in the making?” (online, confirmed)

ABSTRACT: Climate change’s potential to trigger large-scale migration and internal displacement has entered both political and research agendas. Yet, climate change migration remains an understudied research issue. To better understand the connections between climate change and migration, this paper will focus on most recent trends in the wider Mediterranean to assess the European policy attention. On the one hand, the EU adopts a broad definition of security and includes climate change and migration in comprehensive road maps such as the new Agenda for the Mediterranean (European Commission, 2021). On the other, the EU lacks specific policy tools to address climate migration, that remains a category hardly recognized also at EU level. Both the European Agenda on Migration (European Commission, 2015) and the New Pact on Asylum and Migration (European Commission, 2020) lack a specific conception of climate migrants’ protection. Human security, including also the security of migrants compelled to leave their home country due to dire climate conditions, is still at risk. Document analysis relies at the basis of this paper, that intercepts another case of EU as an organized hypocrisy, whose talks decouple from action.

BIO: Stefania Panebianco is Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Catania and holder of the Jean Monnet Chair EUMedEA. She is the co-editor of Global Affairs and a Researcher of the PROTECT H2020 research project. Main research interests are migration in the Mediterranean, EU foreign policies, and EU-MENA relations. In the last 10 years she served for SISP, ECPR-SGIR, EISA, and is one of the EISA founding members.

3. Chiara Scissa (Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies, Italy), “Italy’s response to protection against disaster displacement” (in-person, confirmed)

ABSTRACT: Although dramatically overlooked by institutions and scholars, Italy provides unique insights into the protection against disaster displacement from a normative and judicial viewpoint. Indeed, after the suppression of relevant provisions in Sweden and Finland in 2021, Italy remains, along with Cyprus, the only country in the European Union (EU) to offer explicit protection to people displaced by disasters. In addition, there is no country in the world other than Italy to offer four national protection statuses that explicitly or implicitly provide protection to people displaced by disasters. What is more, Italian judicial authorities have over time adopted a very extensive approach to national and constitutional provisions, which in turn has led to the recognition of international protection in cases of disaster displacement. After exploring possible avenues of protection against disaster displacement in EU law, this paper sheds light on Italy’s normative and judicial unique responses to disaster displacement. In doing so, a thorough examination of each relevant protection status will be provided together with the presentation of the first-ever analysis of the implementation of the Italian residence permit on calamities. Finally, the Italian innovative case law in the context of disaster displacement will be presented.

BIO: Chiara Scissa is a PhD candidate in Law at the Institute of Law, Politics and Development (DIRPOLIS) at Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies specializing in disaster displacement. Moreover, she serves as external peer reviewer for UNESCO, as Contributor to the UNICEF Guiding Principles for children on the move in the context of climate change, and as Co-ordinating Committee Member of the Interest Group on Migration and Refugee Law of the European Society of International Law. She has been designated by UNHCR as Expert in International Protection and Human Rights at the Territorial Commission for International Protection in Milan.
to determine the need for, and if so to provide, international and national protection statuses to claimants in Italy. She has been Visiting Researcher at the Institute for Migration Studies at the Lebanese American University (Lebanon), at the Migration, Environment and Climate Change Division of IOM Regional Office in Vienna (Austria), and at the Centre for European and Comparative Legal Studies at the University of Copenhagen (Denmark), where she conducted focus-specific research on disaster displacement in and from Central Asia to the EU and Russia, trafficking in persons, and harmful environmental activities.

14:30-15:45  PANEL 4: Regional perspectives on crisis and adaptation to climate change

1. Jeannie Sowers (University of New Hampshire, USA) and Erika Weinthal (Duke University, USA), “Migration and environmental insecurity in the Middle East and North Africa” (both in-person, confirmed)

ABSTRACT: Climate-induced migration within and among MENA countries is underway. While people move for many reasons ranging from fleeing conflict to seeking employment, climate change impacts alter livelihood conditions and increase pressures for rural-to-urban and urban-to-urban migration, within countries and across borders. Policy responses thus far are, however, inadequate, both domestically and internationally. As we and others have argued, securitization by domestic regimes and international actors of climate-induced migration in the Middle East has undermined migrant rights and fostered narrow policy choices. In this paper, we explore climate-induced migration across a spectrum of governance contexts and survey alternative adaptation strategies at national and provincial levels. These include places where states do not monopolize violence and where large swaths of territory are not centrally governed. In Yemen, Syria, Sudan, Libya, and Iraq, we show how the political economies of smuggling networks, armed groups, militaries, and communities shape both migration patterns and policy options.

BIO: Jeannie L. Sowers is Professor and Chair of the Political Science and International Affairs Department at the University of New Hampshire. She studies environmental politics and comparative politics, with a focus on the Middle East and North Africa. Her most recent book is the co-edited Oxford Handbook of Comparative Environmental Politics, in press. Other books include Modern Egypt: What Everyone Needs to Know (co-authored with Bruce Rutherford, Oxford University Press, 2018), Environmental Politics in Egypt: Experts, Activists, and the State (Routledge, 2012), and the co-edited Journey to Tahrir: Revolution, Protest, and Social Change in Egypt (Verso, 2012). She has published articles in International Affairs, Security Dialogue, Climatic Change, Development and Change, International Environmental Agreements, the International Journal of Middle East Studies, Middle East Report, and Current History, among others. Prof Sowers serves on the editorial board of Global Environmental Politics, is a member of Environmental Studies Executive Committee for the International Studies Association (ISA), and a former editorial board member for Middle East Report. She holds a BA from Harvard University and PhD from Princeton University. She has held postdoctoral fellowships and visiting appointments at Brandeis University, Harvard University, and Oxford University.

Erika Weinthal specializes in global environmental politics and environmental security with a particular emphasis on water and energy. Current areas of research include (1) global environmental politics and governance, (2) environmental conflict and peacebuilding, (3) the political economy of the resource curse, and (4) climate change adaptation. Dr. Weinthal’s research spans multiple geographic regions, including the Soviet successor states, the Middle East, South Asia, East Africa, and North America. Dr. Weinthal is author of State Making and Environmental Cooperation: Linking Domestic Politics and International Politics in Central Asia (MIT Press 2002), which received the 2003 Chadwick Alger Prize and the 2003 Lynton Keith Caldwell Prize. She has co-authored Oil is not a Curse (Cambridge University Press 2010) and co-edited Water and Post-Conflict Peacebuilding (Earthscan Press, 2014).
2. Joshua W. Busby (University of Texas at Austin, USA), “Dry growing seasons predict Central American migration to the US” (online, confirmed)

ABSTRACT: Controlling for factors such as criminal violence and poverty, we tested if drier than usual growing season weather was a predictor of emigration from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras to the US between 2012 and 2018. We secured the data for our analysis through a FOIA request to US Customs and Border Protection. Border Patrol intake interviews recorded the original home location of families that arrived at the southern US border. We used this geographic detail to measure recent weather patterns and social circumstances in the area that each family departed. We found 70.7% more emigration to the US when local growing seasons in Central America were recently drier than the historical average since 1901.

BIO: Joshua Busby is a Professor at the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas-Austin. From 2021-2023, he served as a Senior Advisor for Climate at the US Department of Defense. He is the author of numerous peer-reviewed papers and think articles on climate change and security including his most recent book States and Nature: The Effects of Climate Change on Security (Cambridge University Press, 2022). He has a PhD in Government from Georgetown University.

3. Bob Huish (Dalhousie University, Canada), “A place without time: understanding climate refugee preparedness for small island Pacific States “(in-person, confirmed)

ABSTRACT: Kiribati, a small atoll nation in the middle of the Pacific, has about 60 years left. Through a combination of increasingly violent storms and sea-level rise, Kiribati will descend into the sea, leaving its 128,000 inhabitants homeless and stateless. The Kiribati government has purchased territory in Fiji so that i-Kiribati (the people of Kiribati) will have terra firma in order for its citizens will technically have a country. Still, this purchased land merely serves to ensure citizenship and not livelihood. To this end Kiribati is encouraging i-Kiribati to pursue labour mobility. Australia and New Zealand are now offering work visas and The United States now has development programs in place to assist with such mobility. But is this the solution to Kiribati’s climate refugee crisis? What can be understood from this program of outward labour migration, especially when considering gender and family dynamics? How will i-Kiribati migrants be positioned into dynamics of citizenship in Australia, New Zealand or other nations? This presentation addresses these questions and suggests that the climate refugee crisis will push our understanding of citizenship to new limits, especially for those whose countries are under water.

BIO: Dr. Robert Huish is Associate Professor in International Development Studies at Dalhousie University. His research focuses on global health and human security, and specifically how sanctions impact health and well-being. He has published widely on Cuba’s medical internationalism, and he teaches a wide range of courses focused on global health. In 2019, Dr. Huish travelled to Kiribati and has been following its climate preparedness and regional security strategies closely.
10:00-10:45  PANEL 5: Understanding the climate-migration nexus

1. Sarah Nash (Danube University, Austria), “Control by definition? European policy discourses on climate change and migration” (online, confirmed)

ABSTRACT: A central building block of migration policy, of the European Union and of its Member States alike, is migration control. A myriad of instruments exist that define and manage (un)desirable mobilities and designate certain people on the move as a security problem for the Union. Climate change is increasingly being considered as a potential driver of such mobilities, and as such is coming more closely under the scrutiny of policymakers. In this paper, I argue that the ability to exert control over migration occurring in the context of climate change constitutes a key component of policy discourses, which strive to define (un)desirable mobilities in the context of climate change, conceptualized in terms of how they relate to the European border.

BIO: Sarah Louise Nash is a senior scientist at the University of Continuing Education Krems in Austria. Her work focusses on the politics and policy of climate change and human mobilities, and takes a critical, discourse analytical approach. She holds a PhD in Political Science from the University of Hamburg, as well as an MSc in Human Rights and Global Politics (University of Glasgow), an MA in Politics and German (University of Edinburgh) and a BA in Political Science (University of Vienna). From 2020-2022, Nash was the holder of a Marie Sklodowska-Curie Individual Fellowship of the European Commission for her project ‘Climate Diplomacy and Uneven Policy Responses on Climate Change and Human Mobility.’ She is currently part of the Belmont Forum project ‘Human Mobility, Global Challenges and Resilience in an Age of Social Stress.’ Her first book, Negotiating Migration in the Context of Climate Change. International Policy and Discourse, was published in 2019 with Bristol University Press.

2. Etienne Piguet (Université de Neuchâtel, Switzerland), “Climate, mobility, and migration: making sense of a complicated nexus” (online, confirmed)

ABSTRACT: The impact of environmental change on human mobilities and the way migration can act as a response to environmental hazards are attracting an increasing attention from both policy-makers and researchers worldwide in the context of climate change. Yet, knowledge in this field remains limited and fragmented. Numbers of future “environmental refugees” are often forecasted without reliable methodologies and concepts such as “trapped populations” or “climate migrants” are discussed without proper definitions. This talk will provide an overview of the environmental change migration nexus and investigate the key issues at stake. The concepts and methods most adequate to address the complexities of these phenomenon will also be questioned.

BIO: Etienne Piguet (PhD University of Lausanne, 1998) is Professor at the Institute of Geography of the University of Neuchâtel (Switzerland). He is vice-president of the Swiss federal commission for migration (CFM/EKM). Piguet is specialized in migration studies with a focus on the migration/climate change nexus. He has written extensively on issues of migration flows, refugees, labour market integration of migrants, discrimination, statelessness, etc. He was Review editor for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 5th assessment report (IPCC 2014) and has published numerous books and papers on the topic in scientific journals including the Annals of the American Association of Geographers, Population Space and Place, Nature (Climate change),...
Francesca Rosignoli (Universitat Rovira i Virgili, Spain), “The gender-climate migration-security nexus in EU policies” (online, confirmed)

ABSTRACT: This study examines the gender-climate migration-security nexus surrounding European migration policies. By a document-based analysis, it focuses on the different roles played by the most relevant European institutions—i.e. the European Commission, the European Parliament, and the Council—since the early 2000s. Although the selected institutions differ in terms of ontologies and roles played so far, they ultimately reflect a common security agenda more focused on preventing irregular migration than designing gender-sensitive policies to protect the rights of those fleeing environmental disruptions. Notwithstanding the concepts of gender mainstreaming and, more recently, of intersectionality are often invoked as cross-cutting topics to be integrated into all European policies, a closer inspection reveals that the “keywords” of EU policies on migration are more likely to be “security” and “development” with little engagement with gender in the specific policy sectors where a gender perspective would matter.

BIO: Francesca Rosignoli (PhD 2016) is the Maria Zambrano postdoctoral fellow at the University Rovira i Virgili in Tarragona, Spain. Her research interests include climate-induced migration, environmental justice, global environmental governance, climate change, and collective capabilities. Her current research focuses on the role of gender and justice in climate-induced migration. Her latest monograph, Environmental Justice for Climate Refugees, was published by Routledge in May 2022.

Susana Borràs Pentinat (URV Navarra, Spain), “Climate migration and gender” (online, confirmed)

ABSTRACT: This contribution addresses the challenging socio-legal avenues for the European Union (EU) to respond the climate migration from a gender perspective. The migration policies and laws ignore the climate change and gender as causes of migration flows. This is particularly important at the EU: neutrality diminishes the important challenge for many EU regions—in particular, in Italy, Greece and Spain—to cope with the “migration crisis.” Ignoring such dimensions, gender and climate, impede to protect those who are the most vulnerable, in particular women and girls as migrants. The main objective is to examine the climate change induced migration in the EU from a gender perspective, offering a critical and social knowledge to respond to an urgent and complex social challenge in the EU. The specific objectives are first, analyse the possible regulatory improvements at EU; second, provide a comparative analysis on legal framework of the EU member states on migration, climate change and gender to identify good practices and regulatory improvements. Facing an insufficient commitment and protection of EU towards gender climate migration, this contribution proposes key innovative results, using the systematic interpretation of EU Law with human rights, such as the right to non-refoulement, the right to life and physical integrity for the establishment of a gender-sensitive climate EU migration policy and law.

BIO: Susana Borràs Pentinat is Associate Professor of International Public Law and International Relations in the Department of Public Law at the Rovira i Virgili University (Spain). Her current research is on gender climate migration and she holds a Marie Curie Horizon 2020 grant with the CLIMOV project, “Gender climate migration: innovative European Union socio-legal avenues” (No 101031252). This research project addresses the
challenging socio-legal avenues for the European Union to respond to the climate migration from a gender perspective.

3. Lydia Ayame Hiraide (Goldsmith University of London, UK), “Climate refugee discourse in the popular press in Britain” (online, confirmed)

ABSTRACT: Despite the lack of an explicit and effective international legal framework to deal with climate change related mobilities and migration, the spectre of the ‘climate refugee’ has already begun to haunt discourse and language across Europe. This paper pays attention to the racialised securitisation that underpins the discourses of particular politicians and press outlets in several European contexts – with particular focus on the temporal and spatial configurations that these discourses advance. Such discourses cast climate and ecological breakdown as an event in the future tense through emergent anxieties about ‘climate refugees.’ Moreover, these discourses are spatially configured to Europe and its perceived Others through a racialised logic. Fundamentally, racialisation underwrites much of the use of the term ‘climate refugee’ in ways that pose harm to already marginalised populations. Looking to alternative spaces for generative discussion, in place of ‘climate refugees’, I turn to some of the opportunities that ‘ecological displacement’ might offer as a notion which stresses how and why people are displaced within or across borders. While, indeed, anthropogenic climate change is a real threat to the livelihoods of humans (among other species), it is not the only environmental driver of displacement. By using the term ‘ecology’, I argue for a broader description which encompasses other potential displacement drivers beyond climate change, such as volcanic eruptions, landslides, as well as political violence. Citing ‘displacement’ makes the term available to populations who are displaced by damaged ecologies both within and across borders, in and outside of Europe. The notion of ‘ecological displacement’ and ‘ecologically displaced people’ tries to rehumanise those carrying the heaviest social and ecological burdens on a burning planet.

BIO: Lydia Ayame Hiraide is a doctoral researcher at Goldsmiths, University of London. Her doctoral research thinks intersectionally about environmentalism in the UK and is funded through the CHASE Doctoral Training Partnership from the Arts and Humanities Research Council. Lydia Ayame is also currently a visiting research assistant at the University of Southampton, where she is assisting on a participatory research project with a local grassroots climate network and other stakeholders. Lydia Ayame has a background in literature and the performing arts, holding an MA in Postcolonial Studies from the University of Kent where she was a recipient of the Ian Gregor Scholarship. Her alma mater also includes SOAS University of London, Sciences Po Paris, and the Conservatoire for Dance and Drama.

13:30-14:15 PANEL 7: Canadian reflections

1. Will Greaves (University of Victoria, Canada), “Reconsidering climate insecurity and migration in Canada” (in-person, confirmed)

ABSTRACT: Human migration is a commonly cited security issue associated with climate change. In Canada, the ‘securitization’ of climate-related migration is typically linked with the policing and enforcement of national borders, both its land border with the United States and maritime borders around all three coasts. Punctuated by high-visibility sites such as Roxham Road, and high-profile events such as the Ocean Lady and MV Sun Sea arrivals, Canada’s approach to climate-related migration depicts large numbers of poor and desperate migrants trying to reach Canada through irregular means as a security threat caused by climate impacts occurring in the Global South. Shared by large numbers of Canadians, this account functions to conceptually externalize many of the most direct and acute impacts of climate change, and to Other climate migrants as definitionally alien and
non-Canadian. In fact, periodic climate-related migration caused by newly uninhabitable territory and extreme weather events is already occurring within Canada due to changing climate effects such as coastal erosion, flooding, and wildfires. This dynamic will increase in coming years, resulting in sustained domestic demand for federal, provincial, local, and Indigenous governments to provide humanitarian assistance and disaster response, resettle displaced populations, relocate certain communities, and incur associated costs and economic losses. While not immune to international climate-related migration, the greater short- and medium-term threats in Canada associated with climate-related migration are to the human security of Canadians displaced domestically by environmental changes and extreme weather events.

BIO: Will Greaves is Associate Professor of International Relations at the University of Victoria, British Columbia, where his research primarily focuses on climate change and security, North American security and defence, and Arctic geopolitics. He has written more than thirty refereed articles and book chapters, and co-edited two books: *Breaking Through: Understanding Sovereignty and Security in the Circumpolar Arctic* (2021) and *One Arctic: The Arctic Council and Circumpolar Governance* (2017). He is Lead for Climate and Security with three federally-funded research networks: the North American and Arctic Defence and Security Network/Réseau sur la defense et la sécurité nord-américaines et arctiques (NAADSN/RDSNAA), the Canadian Defence and Security Network/Réseau canadien de défence et de sécurité (CDSN/RCDS), and the Réseau d’analyse stratégique/Network for Strategic Analysis (RAS/NSA). Professor Greaves is a member of the NATO Research Task Group on Climate Change and Security, and holds a PhD in Political Science from the University of Toronto.

2. Heather Smith and Gabrielle Daoust (University of Northern British Columbia, Canada), “Starting with the everyday: interrogating Canadian climate change policy” (both in-person, confirmed)

ABSTRACT: Discussions of climate-security relationships and associated responses in the Canadian federal government context have largely reflected state-centric, neoliberal and colonial conceptions of security, insecurity, vulnerability, and disruption (Smith 2010; Smith 2013). In contrast, feminist, post-colonial, and critical literature, focused largely on ‘Global South’ contexts, draws attention to the centrality of the ‘everyday’ in relation to climate insecurity, climate adaptation, and mobility (Selby and Daoust 2021; Castro and Sen 2022; Siddiqi 2022). This body of literature provides insights regarding climate change and its security implications. The literature on the everyday does not start with the state, raises questions about whose voices are heard, requires us to examine the role of the state in driving and creating vulnerabilities, and highlights the multiple ways in which people cope with the experiences and impacts of climate change. Focusing on the ‘everyday’ highlights lived experiences of climate change impacts and reframes our understandings of the connections between climate change, vulnerability, disruption, and displacement. Using the ‘everyday’ literature as our starting point, we assess Canadian climate change policy as represented by the National Adaptation Strategy (2022), Strong, Secure, Engaged: Canada’s Defence Policy (2017) and the Action Area: Environment and Climate Change in the Feminist International Assistance Policy (2017). We ask two questions: what insights can be gleaned by applying the ‘everyday’ literature to the Canadian case, and in turn what are the practical and theoretical implications for our understandings of climate insecurity in Canada and in the world?

BIOS: Gabrielle Daoust is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Global and International Studies at the University of Northern British Columbia. Her research focuses on the political economy of conflict, peacebuilding, and development, the relationships between environmental and climate change, water, and insecurity (including implications for conflict and migration), and approaches to and experiences of humanitarian intervention, with a particular focus on the Lake Chad region and Sudan and South Sudan. Recent publications on climate change and (in)security include *Divided Environments: A Political Ecology of Water, Climate Change and (In)Security*...
coauthored with Jan Selby and Clemens Hoffmann (Cambridge University Press, 2022) and ‘Understanding the politics of climate security policy discourse: the case of the Lake Chad Basin’ with Jan Selby (Geopolitics, 2022), as well as collaborative research and policy reports including the Rapid Evidence Assessment on the Impacts of Climate Change on Migration Patterns for the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO, 2021), Changing Climate, Changing Realities: Migration in the Sahel for the British Red Cross (2022), and climate risk reports on the Central Africa and Sahel regions for the UK FCDO.

Heather A. Smith (she/her) is a settler scholar and Professor of Global and International Studies who has a long history of publishing in gender and Canadian foreign policy, Canadian climate change policy and the scholarship of teaching and learning. She is also a 3M National Teaching Fellow and the former Director of the UNBC Centre for Teaching, Learning and Technology. Her research on both Canadian foreign policy and teaching and learning is grounded in critical feminist perspectives. Key publications include Heather A. Smith and Claire Turenne Sjolander (eds), Canada in the World: Internationalism in Canadian Foreign Policy (Toronto: Oxford, 2013), “Choosing Not to See: Canada, Climate Change and the Arctic” International Journal (Autumn 2010), and Claire Turenne Sjolander, Deborah Stienstra and Heather A. Smith (eds), Feminist Perspectives on Canadian Foreign Policy (Toronto: Oxford, 2003). Her recent work includes, Heather A. Smith and David J. Hornsby (eds), Teaching International Relations in the Age of Disruption (Palgrave Press, 2021); “Silences in Canadian Foreign Policy Textbooks and Course Outlines” International Journal (May 2023) and Heather A. Smith, Mark Boyer, and David J. Hornsby (eds), Oxford Handbook of International Studies Pedagogy (Oxford: Oxford University Press, forthcoming 2023).

14:30-15:00 PANEL 8: Wrap-up and next steps

1. Kiran Banerjee, Brian Bow, Allison Chandler, and Ruben Zaiotti, “Climate/security/migration: outline for a research agenda” (all in-person, confirmed)

ABSTRACT: An outline of some of the connections drawn among the workshop’s presentations, and some next-steps for further research and publication.

BIOS: Kiran Banerjee (PhD Toronto) is Assistant Professor of Political Science, and Canada Research Chair in Forced Migration Governance and Refugee Protection, at Dalhousie University. His research addresses global migration governance with a focus on the normative role of international institutions and domestic political actors in responding to forced displacement. Banerjee’s broader research interests include political theory, international ethics, the history of political thought, international relations theory, and migration studies, as well as legal theory. Before joining the Department of Political Science, Banerjee was a faculty member in the Department of Political Studies at the University of Saskatchewan and a SSHRC Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Global Policy Initiative and School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University.

Brian Bow (PhD Cornell) is Professor of Political Science and the outgoing director of the Centre for the Study of Security and Development at Dalhousie University. He has published on Canadian foreign and defence policy, Canada-US relations, US foreign policy, and regional cooperation. His book, The Politics of Linkage: Power, Interdependence, and Ideas in Canada-US Relations (UBC Press) won the Donner Prize for 2009. His main research project now is a long-term study of security policy coordination in North America, which looks at the political management of cross-border bureaucratic networks as mechanisms for policy innovation and cooperation. Other ongoing projects focus on transnational police cooperation, technocracy and political accountability, and Canada-US relations.
Allison Chandler is a security and development specialist whose work is focused on promoting good governance and building resilient communities. She is pursuing her PhD at Dalhousie, focusing on rebel governance, building legitimacy and authority, and the interdisciplinary nature of post-conflict reconstruction. She is a graduate of the War Studies department of King’s College London (MA, 2015) and of McMaster University’s Arts & Science program (BASc, 2014).

Ruben Zaiotti (PhD Toronto, Mst Oxford, BA Bologna) is Associate Professor in the Political Science department at Dalhousie University. He is the Director of the Jean Monnet European Union Centre of Excellence and Jean Monnet Chair in Border Control. His main areas of interest are border control and immigration policy, European Union politics, public diplomacy, and transatlantic relations. He is the author of the monograph Cultures of Border Control: Schengen and the Evolution of European Frontiers with University of Chicago Press, and editor of books on migration policy, diplomacy and international organizations, language and globalization.