

## **CFP Extended until September 1st: Climate Justice and Migration: Mobility, Development and Displacement in the Global South**

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Type:

Call for Papers

Date:

November 26, 2019 to November 27, 2019

Location:

Germany

Subject Fields:

Environmental History / Studies, Immigration & Migration History / Studies, African History / Studies, Asian History / Studies, Middle East History / Studies

Workshop Climate Justice and Migration: Mobility, Development and Displacement in the Global South 26-27 November 2019

A collaboration between the Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung and Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin

This workshop seeks interdisciplinary contributions from the social sciences on environmental mobility, migration and displacement in countries projected to be heavily affected by climate change. The workshop will address questions of definition, causality, and the consequences of environmental mobility and immobility in the global South, engaging with the pressing problem of climate change as a matter of public policy, social scientific research, and social justice. A key priority is to relate 'environmental' processes to 'human' factors that induce mobility in the South. These include war and conflict, but also ill-conceived and unsustainable pathways of growth-led development. Urbanization, urban gentrification, infrastructure building and resource extraction – processes that barely figure in debates about climate migration – will receive close scrutiny.

The workshop will challenge the treatment of environmental migration as a physical process without reference to the political, economic and historical contexts that shape politics, governance and social relations beyond the global North. Questions of resource distribution, environmental governance at various scales, as well as questions of social justice will be incorporated to broaden the terms of a debate that too often separates 'nature' from politics and human affairs.

The workshop has four main objectives and areas of exploration:

- i) Definition of concepts: The workshop will address the difficulties in defining environmental migration, not least the problem of isolating 'environmental' from 'human' factors. The political, legal and practical implications of such classifications will be explored in a context increasingly shaped by Malthusian anxieties about migrant flows to Europe and the United States from the global South.
- ii) Causality and context: The workshop seeks to shed light on the way migration is bound up with developmental pathways. This implies context-based analysis of environmental governance – policies

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that cause or respond to human mobility, displacement and environmental change.

iii) Consequences: The workshop seeks to analyse the dynamics of environmental migration in their full complexity, taking into account migrant experiences and diverse outcomes of mobility. Much environmental migration is effectively forced displacement that causes trauma and hardship, driving peasants and rural dwellers into largely undocumented informal urban economies. But are there also circumstances under which environmental migration leads to relatively favourable experiences for forcibly relocated individuals and communities or those migrating as an adaptive strategy? How do migratory outcomes vary in accordance with state rehabilitation packages and other contingencies?

iv) Immobility/Displacement: The trajectories of those who depart from a place that undergoes environmental transformation must be related to narratives of those who do not or cannot emigrate, and indeed to the experiences of newcomers who arrive in degraded environments. The concept of 'dis-placement,' as referred to in this workshop, refers to a phenomenon that can occur in the absence of mobility - in broad terms - as any kind of alienation from one's habitat due to rapid transformations of environments.

### **Units of analysis and case studies**

Country-based studies from urban and/or rural localities and regions in Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America are welcome; so too are alternative framings that allow for the study of connections, networks and pathways of mobility that go beyond the borders of nation-states.

### **Accommodation and travel funding**

Accommodation for two or three nights and, where possible, travel costs of participants will be covered. Please state your requirements for travel funding. Please send paper proposals of 500 words and a short bio by September 1st 2019 to: [ali.nobilahmad@zmo.de](mailto:ali.nobilahmad@zmo.de) Early submissions are welcome. Successful participants will be notified of their selection by 15 August 2019.

### **Publication**

An edited publication based on paper presentations and discussions is envisaged, featuring written contributions from participants.

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