**Environmental Displacement and Migration: Drivers, Impacts, Solutions**

**Keynote -** **Where to from here? Displacement in a time of environmental degradation, climate change and disaster**

Madeline Garlick, Senior Legal Coordinator, Division of International Protection, Policy, and Law Service, UNHCR

**Abstract**

There is increasing recognition of the challenges around human mobility, including displacement, refugee protection and migration, in the context of environmental degradation, climate change and disaster, including most recently in the COP26 and the latest report from the IPCC. Yet political sensitivities and differing State perspectives complicate discussions on how to address the phenomenon more effectively, and hinder progress and concrete action. The presentation will examine debates around the application of existing refugee law, and what more is needed to protect human rights in this context. It will consider the relevance of the 1951 Refugee Convention and regional refugee treaties; the role of human rights law; and whether a new international treaty is needed - or possible - to ensure the protection of people forced to flee in the context of climate change, disasters, and environmental crisis. It will ask what measures, if any, international law requires to avert displacement; to help people move with a degree of choice; and to respond to needs if and where people are displaced. It will look at the interaction between the legal principles governing refugee movements and displacement on the one hand, and migration on the other - and the directions in which the law is evolving, in light of political realities and increasing needs.

**Bio**

Dr Madeline Garlick is currently Senior European Union (EU) Affairs officer with the United Nations High Commissioners for Refugees (UNHCR) in Brussels, in charge of Liaison between UNHCR and the EU institutions on refugee and asylum law and policy issues. From 1997-1999, she worked in Bosnia and Herzegovina, with the Commission for Real Property Claims of Displaced Persons and Refugees and the Office of the High Commissioner. She served on the Secretary General’s negotiating team which sought to resolve Cyprus’ political conflict between 1999 and 2004.

**Bridging the evidence gap:** **the need for more data driven research into**

**environmental migration**

John Aston, Harding Professor of Statistics in Public Life, Faculty of Mathematics, University of Cambridge. Former Chief Scientific Adviser and Director-General for Science, Technology, Analysis, Research and Strategy, Home Office (2017 – 2020)

**Abstract**

Migration, both regular and irregular, is an area of policy which can be highly political and controversial. However, it is also an area where evidence and analysis should and do play an important role in understanding the context and options around policy decisions. Evidence can come from many sources both qualitative and quantitative, but the most useful evidence is data and analysis that is designed to inform the discussions rather than to advocate a position. In this talk, I'll discuss a little around the policy-making landscape in migration, and indeed how communication can be used to help trustworthy evidence be a part of the decision-making process.

**Bio**

Sir John Aston is Harding Professor of Statistics in Public Life at the University of Cambridge and former Chief Scientific Adviser at the Home Office. John was an academic at the University of Warwick and at Academia Sinica in Taiwan, before coming to Cambridge. He was a founding director of the Alan Turing Institute and is a member of the management board of the Winton Centre for Risk and Evidence Communication. He is also a non-executive board member of the UK Statistics Authority.

**Climate change as a potential driver for migration**

Emily Shuckburgh, Director of Cambridge Zero, and Professor in Environmental Data Science, Department of Computer Science and Technology, University of Cambridge

**Bio**

Professor Emily Shuckburgh, OBE, is a climate scientist, mathematician, and science communicator.

She is Director of Cambridge Zero, the University of Cambridge's climate change initiative, and is a

fellow of Darwin College, Cambridge. Her research interests include the dynamics of the

atmosphere, oceans and climate and environmental data science. She is a theoretician, numerical

modeller and observational scientist. Emily Shuckburgh has led the UKRI Centre for Doctoral Training

on the Application of AI to the study of Environmental Risks. Adding to this, she is a fellow of the

Royal Meteorological Society and co-chair of their Climate Science Communications Group.

**People on the move: data collection and analysis in the context of climate**

**change**

Alessandro Nicoletti, Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) Associate, International Organization for Migration (IOM)

**Abstract**

Data generated for humanitarian responses has great potential for researchers from all areas. Even so, differing data needs between responders and researchers, and researcher's lack of access to humanitarian data collection and limited contextual knowledge of how operational constraints impact the data can result in underutilisation of operational data in other fields. The Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) is the International Organization for Migration’s primary data collection tool for displaced and migrant populations. Active in over 80 countries, DTM is the main data source in many displacement contexts, providing timely and actionable data to the whole humanitarian community. In 2020, DTM produced an analytical framework with the aim of improving its own methodologies to better capture movements influenced by climate change. Considering the increasing expectations of donors and partners around this topic following COP26, a mapping exercise of all current DTM activities was initiated with the aim of understanding challenges and potential of data collection exercises in the context of climate change, as well as the evolving needs of the whole humanitarian community in terms of data.

The primary objective of this paper is to invite further exploration of the analytic potential of DTM data on climate-driven mobility by presenting a detailed review of the different active methodological approaches, defining their variation between contexts, strengths, and limitations. This detailed exposition will support efforts to bridge the divides between practitioners and academics and make operational data more accessible to researcher from diverse institutions both within and outside the humanitarian sector.

**Bio**

Alessandro Nicoletti works as Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) Associate at the International Organization for Migration in London (UK). In his daily work, he supports DTM country missions worldwide, especially in their analysis of human mobility influenced by climate change. Originally from Italy, he studied economics, international development and migrations at Bocconi University and Sciences Po. Prior to joining IOM, he worked with the European Commission – DG HOME and the Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations.

**ClimMobil: judicial and policy responses to climate change-related mobility in the European Union with a focus on Austria and Sweden**

Monika Mayrhofer, Senior Researcher, Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights, and Lecturer,

Department of International Development, University of Vienna

**Abstract**

More than 11,000 decisions rendered by Austrian appellate courts in asylum procedures between

the beginning of 2008 and mid-2020 contain disaster-related keywords (such as drought, floods,

cyclones). Based on a sample of more than 600 decisions, the proposed article analyses how the

normative gap with regard to cross-border disaster- and climate change-related displacement is

addressed in Austrian asylum procedures. The paper elaborates on the role of disaster- and climate

change-related factors in decisions on international protection and humanitarian forms of

protection. The contribution also discusses the intersections of disaster-related drivers with other

factors relevant in the decisions, such as conflict, individual characteristics (e.g., gender, family

status, age), family and social networks, education, or economic situation. A particular focus of the

presentation will be on decisions involving complainants from Somalia as they show an exceptional

degree of judicial engagement with the disaster also in relation to different social categories such as

gender, family status, economic background of the complainant, health status and many others.

**Bio**

Dr Monika Mayrhofer is a political scientist and a senior social researcher at the Ludwig Boltzmann

Institute of Fundamental and Human Rights in Vienna/Austria and a lecturer at the Department of

International Development at the University of Vienna. Her research focuses on climate change-

related displacement/migration/mobility, equality, and antidiscrimination, the European and

international human rights system, refugees and asylum, racism, gender, and queer studies, political

and human rights theory. At the moment Monika (co-)leads two research projects: The Concept of

Vulnerability in the Human Rights Context (2019-2023), funded by Austrian Science Funds and

ClimMobil - Judicial and policy responses to climate change-related mobility in the European Union

with a focus on Austria and Sweden (2019-2022), a research project together with Raoul Wallenberg

Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law in Sweden, funded by Austrian Climate and Energy

Fund.

**Immigration policy responses to climate change and migration impact**

Seema Farazi, Partner, EY

**Bio**

Seema Farazi is EY's UK Immigration Leader, Financial Services and Brexit and leads on UK

Immigration policy and government liaison. Seema supports EY clients on global immigration, cross

border remote work, strategic global workforce planning, M&A, risk, compliance and multi-

jurisdiction private client cases. Seema has spent 20 years at the cutting edge of immigration law,

practicing at leading chambers in complex immigration, extradition, and international law cases

before moving to corporate practice. Seema is very active in the policy space. Seema has been

leading EY’s EMEIA PAS COVID-19 response. Seema holds a Doctorate in International Law (PhD)

from the London School of Economics, Master of Laws with Distinction, and Bachelor of Laws

(Honours).

**Climate Migration: a solutions-based approach to the legal vacuum**

Yumna Kamel, Executive Director, Earth Refuge

**Abstract**

Climate-induced displacement is occurring globally, but what renders certain groups more vulnerable to its impacts, and where are they located? From Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, to Indigenous communities in Australia, and predominantly Black populations in the US, a common denominator has been identified when contemplating which communities are hit first and worst by extreme weather events. This discussion will consider what rights and duties are evoked by this reality, and where legal liability may lie. What are the advantages and disadvantages of current immigration frameworks and policy initiatives?

The presentation will assess the scope of existing legislation - such as the 1951 Refugee Convention or certain EU member state Acts - to incorporate the protection of climate migrants. Perhaps previously successful initiatives, such as the Nansen passport, could be adapted to address the crisis of statelessness in the face of environmental disaster. Would a uniform legal definition of a ‘climate migrant’ benefit or hinder the experiences of those it would seek to protect? In light of this jagged landscape, choosing a local, needs-based approach may well be a sustainable route to legal protection.

**Bio**

Yumna Kamel is the Co-founder and Executive Director of Earth Refuge, a legal think tank dedicated to climate migrants. The organisation works to fill the gap in protections for communities displaced by climate, whilst providing context about this underreported issue for a wider audience. Earth Refuge seeks to fill the legal chasm through legal research, education, and advocacy. The organisation strives to consult with affected communities to amplify their narratives, assess their needs, and read protections into existing law to provide customised solutions.

**Brides of drought: exploring the relationships between early marriage and climate migration in Western India**

Reetika Subramanian, PhD Candidate, Centre for Gender Studies, University of Cambridge

**Abstract**

Anchored at the intersections of girlhood, labour and marriage migration studies, this paper looks at the myriad ways in which adolescent girl labour is 'made visible' in a climate crisis. Using a feminist ethnographic lens, it explores the role and experiences of young brides in a climate crisis; their gendered subjectivities and everyday labouring realities as they move from the household to the informal wage economy; the new kinship formations and market nexuses that emerge, and how such transitions are shaped by and help shape the political economy of climate migration. The enquiry is located in India's historically drought-prone and caste-ridden Marathwada region. Here, on account of more intense and frequent droughts in the past decade, nearly a million Dalit and Adivasi farmers have turned into footloose labour migrants, particularly in the sugarcane cutting economy.

**Bio**

Reetika Revathy Subramanian is a PhD candidate and Gates Cambridge Trust scholar at the University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies. She has spent the past ten years working as a journalist and researcher in India. She writes on gender, labour, climate, and migration.

**The chronopolitics of climate change adaptation: voluntary immobility and**

**land reclamation in Tuvalu**

Liam Saddington, ESRC Postdoctoral Research Fellow, School of Geography and the Environment, University of Oxford

**Abstract**

Global discourses have depicted atoll states as so-called ‘sinking islands’ that are on the frontline of climate change and spaces of future climate displacement. However, these discourses have been resisted by political leaders and communities from atoll states – particularly concerning inevitable future inundation and migration. Focusing on Tuvalu, an atoll state in the South Pacific, this paper builds on Carol Farbotko’s work on voluntary immobility. It argues that engagement with ‘chronopolitics’ can help scholars to tease apart the complex spatialities, temporalities, and rationales that underpin adaptation strategies. Chronopolitics describes the relationship between the politics of individuals and groups and their perspective on time, thus it can help to unpack how time-perceptions shape decision-making processes around mobility and immobility. Drawing on data from fieldwork in the South Pacific and at the 2018 UN Climate Change Conference in Poland, this paper argues that adaptation serves a performative role in reinforcing an ‘active sedentarism’ that constructs alternative climate futures to migration. Within this paper, I utilise critical geopolitics to show how these futures of (im)mobility are suffused with power relations, at domestic, international, and financial levels.

**Bio**

Dr Liam Saddington is an ESRC Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the School of Geography and Environment, University of Oxford. His research focuses on the geopolitics of climate change concerning small island states and rising sea levels. His work explores how the relationship between territory and statehood is being reimagined in low-lying atolls in light of rising sea levels. Liam’s ESRC Postdoctoral Research Fellowship is titled “Prefiguring the Future: Climate Adaptation and Youth Diplomacy in Tuvalu”. Building on his doctoral research, this project has two focuses. Firstly, on the role that land reclamation plays in climate change adaptation in low-lying atoll states and its broader geopolitics. Secondly, the role of youth and youthful bodies within Tuvaluan climate diplomacy.

**Environmental displacement and migration: the need for critical perspectives**

**and epistemic due diligence**

Calum Nicholson, Lecturer, Institute for Continuing Education (ICE), University of Cambridge

**Abstract**

In the post-cold war era, climate change has become the most politically resonant area of the sciences. Migration has simultaneously become perhaps the most politically resonant area of the social sciences. Migration is often framed as the most 'obvious' societal effect of future climate change; climate change is increasingly presumed to be the most 'obvious' cause of future migration.

Research to date has demonstrated that the truth is more complicated, and that there is often a tension between the (often laudable) normative goals of research on so-called 'climate migration', and the ontologies any such concern implies.

 This paper will outline why we need to cultivate a culture of epistemic caution and humility on this issue; what doing this would entail; and what the consequences of failing to do so might be. Crucially, the paper will argue that 'policy-relevant' work on the theme in question cannot be simply understood as a positive project, concerned for producing empirical knowledge. We must also consider 'negatory' work, which is engaged in 'epistemic due diligence', to be as 'policy relevant' as its more positive counterpart.

**Bio**

With a background in social anthropology and human geography, Dr Calum Nicholson has conducted original research that reconsiders how we understand the societal implications of climate change, notably in the context of its relationship to human migration and international development. A former development consultant and Parliamentary researcher, at ICE he teaches courses on international development, international migration, and the politics of climate change.

**Keynote - Migrants and diasporas as leaders for climate change: tapping into the human, financial, and social capital**

Tauhid Pasha, Officer in Charge, International Organization for Migration UK (IOM UK)

**Abstract**

The migration-climate change nexus is a critical and complex one. So far, the main focus has been on migration driven by climate change and its knock-on effects. Less attention has been paid to the opportunities that migration can bring to countries transitioning towards low-carbon, environmentally sustainable futures. To achieve global goals in adaptation and decarbonisation within the agreed time frame, transformation needs to happen at an unprecedented speed. This requires countries to bring everyone to the table, including migrants and diasporas. Without de-emphasising the ethical responsibility of emitting countries towards mitigation and financing adaptation, there is much that migrants and diasporas can contribute to in achieving these goals. Migrant and diaspora remittances can support adaptation at the household and community level by, for example, helping to pay for more climate-resilient infrastructure and practices. Diasporas are also active on the political scene in both countries of origin and residence and can thus influence governments to pursue ‘net zero’, sustainable growth. By understanding the local context back home, migrants and diasporas can act as a bridge for sharing knowledge and experiences between countries. Lastly, migrants and diasporas will play an important role in the green transition. As green skills shortages are a global challenge, dynamic labour markets, allowing geographical mobility of workers, will be crucial for distributing human capital where it is most needed.

**Bio**

Tauhid Pasha is Officer in Charge at the UN Migration Agency’s (IOM's) UK office. At IOM’s UK office he was Senior Coordinator of a DFID-funded migrant protection programme spanning ten countries in North and West Africa. Prior to that he was Senior Specialist in Labour Mobility and Human Development at IOM's headquarters in Geneva. Tauhid previously worked in IOM's Regional Office in Cairo, as well as Amman, Jordan, advising governments and civil society across the region on issues related to labour mobility and protection of migrants'' rights. Tauhid started his international career as IOM Afghanistan's International Advisor within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Tauhid qualified as a solicitor in the UK where he practised immigration law and headed the immigration team of a large legal aid law firm in Birmingham. From 2001-2007 he was the Legal and Policy Director of the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants (JCWI), one of the UK's leading immigration campaign organisations, before joining IOM.

**Migration as a force for sustainability**

Maria Franco Gavonel, Post-Doctoral Research Associate, Department of Geography, University of

Exeter

**Abstract**

There is an apparent migration-sustainability paradox: migration plays a role as a driver of unsustainability as part of economic globalisation, yet simultaneously represents a transformative phenomenon and potential force for sustainable development. We propose criteria by which migration represents an opportunity for sustainable development: increasing aggregate well-being; reduced inequality leading to diverse social benefits; and reduced aggregate environmental burden.

**Bio**

Dr Maria Franco Gavonel is an economist currently working as a Post-Doctoral Research Associate in the Department of Geography at the University of Exeter. She is part of two projects: Migration, Transformation, and Sustainability (MISTY) and Linking Climate Change, Habitability and Social Tipping Points (HABITABLE). Within these, she works on the theoretical and empirical relationships between migration and sustainability, which includes assessing and explaining the existence of social tipping points. As part of her current research, she also examines the links between migration and human capital, where adaptation plays a key role mediating these two.

**Mobilising resources and managing environmental stressors to flourish in a new context: the IC-ADAPT model in action**

Eolene Boyd-Macmillan, Senior Research Associate, Co-Director IC research, Department of Psychiatry, Cambridge Public Health, University of Cambridge

**Abstract**

Environmental displacement can contribute to specific mental health and psychosocial problems (DeMarinis, 2018). At the same time, those who survive environmental displacement and migration have mobilised their resources to cope with varying environmental demands and stressors. Since post-displacement or migration may be experienced as even more stressful than the displacement/ migration itself, multi-sector, inter-disciplinary programming is needed that recognises, supports, and augments individual, familial and group resources as well as addresses psychosocial struggles. Running programmes with mixed groups of both displaced and non-displaced persons, will foster mutual understanding, relationship-building, and social cohesion across differences and potential disagreements. Within a public mental health promotion framework, the ecosocial IC-ADAPT model (Boyd-MacMillan and DeMarinis, 2020) understands social justice as the moral foundation of public health, human wellbeing as the ultimate aim of the principles of justice (DeMarinis and Nordendahl, 2022; Powers and Faden, 2006, 2019), and good mental health as the basis of all health (WHO, 2004). IC-ADAPT programmes support reflection on experiences of disrupted societal structures and systems (safety/ security; relationships; justice; identities/ roles; meaning systems) and development of individual and group capacities to engage prosocially with environmental stressors related to difference and disagreement. IC-ADAPT has been used to create a MHPSS-SEL high level framework for the UNICEF-Cambridge-Microsoft Learning Passport; to shape a public mental health promotion programme in its third year of piloting in Sweden; and to inform policy recommendations based on analyses of a large online survey disseminated in a Belgian city during the pandemic.

**Bio**

Dr Eolene Boyd-MacMillan is Senior Research Associate and Co-Director of IC Research, Cambridge Public Health, University of Cambridge. She is a social psychologist working within the framework of public mental health promotion to develop and test community-based interventions that increase self-regulation, resilience and social cohesion and reduce destructive social polarisation and inequalities.

**Intersection of crises: dwindling climate finance and increasing climate migration**

Nazia Habib, Director, Resilience and Sustainable Development Programme (RSDP), and Senior Research Associate, Centre for Industrial Sustainability, University of Cambridge

**Bio**

Dr Nazia Mintz Habib is the Founder and the Director for the Resilience and Sustainable Development Programme (RSDP), she is also a Senior Research Associate at the Centre for Industrial Sustainability at the Institute of Manufacturing (IfM). Her work focuses on fostering resilience and sustainable development through public-private partnerships by improving public sector decision making in emerging countries using multidisciplinary research, methods, and training. As a multidisciplinary scholar, she focuses on integrating socio-system dynamics analysis into responsible innovation and sustainable investment design in order to design, develop and deliver sustainable solutions across the value chain of a specific policy or product.

**The health and mental wellbeing effects of climate change and**

**environmental migration**

Tine Van Bortel, ARC Principal Investigator in Public Health & Wellbeing, University of Cambridge

**Abstract**

The global challenges we are facing from climate change, biodiversity loss and environmental displacement are manifold, increasing and accelerating. In their most recent report (2022), and for the first time ever, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has included the adverse effects of these on our mental health too. There is an association between experienced climate change challenges and worsening mental health including (acute and chronic) stress, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression and even suicide. Research has shown that hotter temperatures can impact blood flow, affect how well medications work and worsen sleep, which are contributing factors towards our mental health. Further, exposure to extreme weather events such as floods, hurricanes, and droughts, can lead to a wide range of mental health problems (e.g., acute stress, anxiety, PTSD, depression) as well as increase conflict in society due to water shortages, crop failures, food insecurity, loss of land and home. These events are often very stressful and traumatic, resulting in ongoing changes to individuals and communities and forcing people to move from their homes.

Environmentally displaced people also face additional challenges and hardships on their treacherous journeys elsewhere and upon arrival in new places (both within and outside their own country) where they are not always welcome. The stress and trauma of what has been experienced as well as potential difficulties of resettling and coming to terms with loss and a new reality are highly challenging and pose risks to mental health. In many countries, mental illness is also stigmatised and/or good mental health support not readily available which hampers help-seeking, early intervention, and ongoing mental ill-health treatments.

It is estimated that for every one person affected physically during a disaster, 40 people are affected psychologically. Therefore, it is a huge step to see mental health impacts acknowledged for the first time in the IPCC Report as climate change, biodiversity loss and environmental displacement will be one of the biggest threats to our mental health and wellbeing in decades to come.

**Bio**

Professor Tine Van Bortel (PhD) has a background in Health Humanities, Social Sciences & Health, Global Mental Health, Child & Adolescent Wellbeing, and Sustainable Development & Health. She also holds a Professional qualification and related practical experience as a Mental Health & Wellbeing Therapist and Coach (FRTC/BACP CPD). The overall focus and aim of Tine’s work is to “investigate the determinants of our health and wellbeing within/across contexts in order to properly understand and appropriately address these to promote and improve quality of life for people and planet”. Tine is Professor/Director of Global Health & Wellbeing (Leicester) and matched-funded NIHR ARC EoE Principal Investigator in Public Health & Wellbeing (Cambridge). She currently co-leads the large UK-wide ‘Coronavirus: Mental Health in the Pandemic’ study which is a longitudinal mixed-method study investigating UK adult mental health during the pandemic. She also co-leads on several evidence reviews, interventions, and evaluations into public health approaches to address young people’s mental health, suicide prevention population preparedness, determinants of healthy lifestyles and wellbeing, mental health crisis management in India, nature, and mental health, and more.

**Humanitarian action and environmental displacement in armed conflict: the**

**case of Yemen**

Sherine El Taraboulsi-McCarthy, Director, National Centre for Social Research (NatCen) International and Visiting Fellow, Keble College, University of Oxford

**Abstract**

According to the Yemen Humanitarian Needs Overview 2021, the conflict in Yemen remains the world’s largest humanitarian crisis and aid operation. Over six years of violent conflict have had a hugely detrimental impact on the physical security of people as well as the country’s already struggling economy and infrastructure, driving the country to the brink of famine (OCHA, 2021). Environmental crises have been an important but largely overlooked factor in understanding Yemen’s humanitarian crisis. They are man-made, such as the FSO Safer oil spill risk, as well as the result of natural causes such as crises related to water scarcity, disease outbreak and flooding. In April 2020, for example, flooding destroyed roads, bridges and the electricity grid, and contaminated water supplies, cutting access to basic services for thousands of people. Conditions were hardest for already marginalized groups and thousands of families already displaced who lost shelter, food, and household supplies (UN HC, 2020, El Taraboulsi–McCarthy, 2020). Drawing on the author’s extensive research on international and local humanitarian engagement in Yemen and an in-depth review of the literature, this paper addresses the following question: How can the international humanitarian response in Yemen effectively engage with the environmental displacement agenda? It will do so through a three-pronged approach. First, through an analysis of the intersection between environmental displacement and the conflict, political and socioeconomic context in Yemen. Second, through an analysis of existing local agency, coping mechanisms and resilience and third, through an understanding of opportunities and challenges to a cross sectoral response that enhances local resilience and holistically addresses both the impact of climate variability on populations and livelihoods especially for vulnerable groups and implications for internal displacement. This paper approaches environmental displacement as a multidimensional problem that intersects with the political, conflict, economic and social context in Yemen as well as a space wherein the limitations of the international humanitarian response and opportunities for change in policy and practice can be revealed**.**

**Bio**

Dr Sherine El Taraboulsi-McCarthy is Director of NatCen International where she is responsible for expanding the National Center for Social Research's global impact and setting the strategic direction of its international programme. She is an established research expert on humanitarian and development policy, conflict, security, and evidence uptake, and has research experience in over 13 countries. In addition to her role at NatCen, Sherine is a Politics Visiting Fellow at Keble College, University of Oxford where she is leading a project on the political economy of global solidarity in the age of COVID-19.

**To leave or to stay? Dilemmas in light of environmental disasters in the Himalayas**

Hildegard Diemberger, Lecturer, Department of Social Anthropology, University of Cambridge

Libby Peachey, Mongolia, and Inner Asia Studies Unit (MIASU) Research Coordinator, Department of Social Anthropology, University of Cambridge

**Abstract**

Himalayan communities confronted with both old and new environmental challenges (some of which are climate change related) are confronted with difficult decisions, including potential outmigration. This presentation explores the predicament of two villages, one in Nepal and one in Bhutan, dealing with both the fall out and the threat of GLOFs (glacial outburst floods) to show the complexity of their predicament. It shows that knowledge matters but so do the moral and political dimensions of local lived topography as well as the impact of new connectivities. Drawing from the results of the project "Himalayan connections: melting glaciers, sacred landscapes and mobile technologies in a Changing Climate" (University of Oslo and University of Cambridge), it sets Himalayan landscapes in conversation with other environments perceived as 'vulnerable', where migration may at times become the only viable option.

**Bios**

Hildegard Diemberger

The cultures and peoples of Tibet and the Himalayan regions have for centuries been seen by foreigners as principal sites for the study of the ‘traditional’. Today these areas face compelling challenges from global and regional change. Dr Hildegard Diemberger’s project “Tradition and Modernity in Tibet and the Himalayas” carried out research from 2001 to 2005 into aspects of the tradition-modernity issue in these understudied regions. Between 2004-2007, she coordinated the Tibetan-Mongolian Rare Books and Manuscripts project as part of the Mongolia and Inner Asia Studies Unit (MIASU). She is currently working on an AHRC Research Project led by Professor Caroline Humphrey: Tibetan woman-lama and her reincarnations: a study of the bSam-sdings rDor-je Phag-mo (15th-21st Century).

Libby Peachey

Libby Peachey is the Research Coordinator of the Mongolia and Inner Asia Studies Unit (MIASU) in the Department of Social Anthropology, University of Cambridge. Libby held the post of Unit Administrator from 2003–2020. She continues to contribute to the MIASU’s research initiatives and publications output. She is also managing editor of 'Inner Asia', a peer-reviewed, interdisciplinary journal with emphasis on the social sciences, humanities, and cultural studies.

**Climate vulnerability and migration: A case study of Satabhaya Kendrapara,**

**Odisha-India**

Neelima Mishra, Mphil Candidate, Department of Land Economy, University of Cambridge

**Abstract**

The geographic location of the state of Odisha, India, traditionally makes the region vulnerable

to natural disasters, which has been augmented in recent years due to climate change related

issues. Earlier the notion of disaster for Odisha was confined to flood, drought and occasional

cyclonic incidence due to close proximity to Bay of Bengal, is now added with a band of wide

array of natural disasters like flash flood, sea inundation, frequent high intensity cyclones,

lightning, pest attack and many more. The prominent and devastating blow that the state is

receiving in recent years is from the Bay of Bengal. Global warming induced rise in sea level

is engulfing a substantial portion of the land surface of the state, especially the Satabhaya region

in Kendrapara district, reducing the local inhabitant to the status of displaced communities.

Lately, owing to the rise in earth’s temperature, the sea surface temperature is getting hotter.

This creates conducive environment for formation of cyclones in Bay of Bengal, that typically

move in the direction of Odisha making the coastal region of the state vulnerable to cyclones,

storm surge, adulteration of the inland water bodies by the saline water incursion. It has

multiple implications for the rural agricultural economy in terms of health hazards, food

security, loss of livelihood, loss of confidence and loss of social harmony. Amidst this climate

crisis, the state government of Odisha has demonstrated pro-active response mechanism to

address the vulnerabilities of the people. This approach of “Compassionate Governance” has

not only addressed the needs of the people during the disasters but also came forward with lot

of people centric programmes to address the issues of Covid 19. This paper will make an

attempt to capture the issues relating to climate hazards and the coping capacities of the local

communities to build resilient communities.

**Bio**

Neelima Mishra is from Odisha, a state on the eastern coast of India. She is currently pursuing her M.Phil Environmental Policy at the Department of Land Economy, University of Cambridge. She has an Engineering degree and has also completed her post-graduation in Forestry Management from India. She previously worked as a consultant to the state Government of Odisha in India on monitoring & evaluation of government schemes and scaling up of evidence-based programmes. Having experienced the devastating impacts of climate change through many severe cyclones including a super cyclone and intense heat waves, that claim many casualties in Odisha, she understands that climate change has the potential to derail growth strategies and deepen poverty apart from creating a loss of life, livelihood, assets, and infrastructure. She is also the founder of a social enterprise Ceiba Green Solutions, that creates awareness and implements affordable and frugal waste management solutions.

**Moving a metropolis: politics and (un)intended consequences of** **relocating Indonesia’s capital city**

Viancqa Kurniawan, Mphil Candidate, Centre of Development Studies, University of Cambridge

Ryan Sutherland, Mphil Candidate, Centre of Development Studies, University of Cambridge

**Abstract**

The approval of *Undang-Undang tentang Ibu Kota Negara No. 3 Tahun 2022* (Bill on the National Capital, No. 3, 2022) to move Indonesia’s capital city from Jakarta to East Kalimantan has sparked widespread debate and reprisal. Politicians have justified this decision by citing a desire to increase development beyond Java, to decentralise national political and economic power, and to address the

consequences of climate change as evidenced by the sinking of Jakarta. While the concept of a “Built Capital” is not novel, illustrated by examples such as Canberra and Brasilia, Indonesia’s immense population and political landscape presents unique challenges. As the fourth largest democracy in the world with a population of over 250 million people, critics have voiced concerns that this plan,

rooted in concession and identity politics, has the potential to cause irreparable environmental and socioeconomic damage. Activists and academics who oppose this plan argue that relocating the Capital would increase carbon emissions and contribute to deforestation, leading to the destruction of millions of hectares of rainforest as a result of industry and infrastructure that will threaten endangered flora and fauna. Furthermore, critics have also asserted that this policy may displace local indigenous communities and destabilise local economies while neglecting to address Jakarta’s sinking problem.

This paper seeks to discuss the various social, economic, and environmental impacts of relocating Indonesia’s Capital city, bringing to light the potential (un)intended consequences of this policy and investigating the nuanced ongoing debates surrounding the utility and consequences of this bill.

**Bio**

Ryan Sutherland

Ryan Sutherland is an MPhil in Development Studies student at the University of Cambridge as a Rotary Foundation Global Grant Scholar. He completed a Master of Public Health degree at the Yale School of Public Health in the Social and Behavioural Science Department with a concentration in Global Health. His research focuses on the intersection of international development and public health, centring on homelessness, substance use, refugee rights, and maternal and child health. He was a recipient of the 2020 Dean’s Prize for Outstanding MPH Thesis titled “Tobacco Use, Knowledge of Tobacco Risks, and Perception of Smoking Behaviours Among Urban and Rural Youth in Indonesia” and of the Horstmann Merit Scholarship for academic excellence and potential in public health. He formerly completed internships for USAID and the United Nations Development Programme in Jakarta and was a recipient of the Darmasiswa Scholarship from the Indonesian Department of Education and Culture to study at Syiah Kuala University in Aceh.

Viancqa Kurniawan

Viancqa Kurniawan is an MPhil candidate in Development Studies at the University of Cambridge. She is an alumnus from Coventry University where she obtained her BA (Hons) in Financial Economics and was awarded the Course Tutor’s Prize as the best graduating student. She had previously worked across research and business development in various industries, such as Indonesian Y-Combinator start-up, Central Bank of Indonesia, Fiscal Policy Agency of Indonesia’s Ministry of Finance, and BMW UK. Her interest covers development and its interplay with economic growth, sustainability, and inequality, particularly in her homeland Indonesia. On the side, Viancqa is building Abroadening Indonesia, an initiative which aims to expand access to overseas education for Indonesian students, working with universities and institutions such as the British Chamber of Commerce and McKinsey Young Leaders for Indonesia.