

ENVIRONMENTAL MIGRATION UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

Legal and policy responses, individual and collective dimensions of a global phenomenon

Online international conference | 30 – 31 May 2022
DIRPOLIS Institute - Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies

“Climate change and disasters are impacting the lives of millions of people across the globe, and forcing many people to leave their homes, including in some cases to cross international borders.

Their adverse effects will often expose the limited ability of an affected community to adapt, reflecting its pre-existing vulnerabilities.”

[UNHCR](#), October 2020

Introduction to the International Conference

From 2008 to 2020, 24.5 million new displacements per year have been registered, 88.9% of which are weather-related.¹ This equals to 67,000 displacements each day.² The 2021 World Bank's Groundswell report suggests that climate change and environmental degradation may result in the displacement of 216 million people by 2050 due to slow-onset events.³ Although the majority of people affected by environmental threats are projected to be internally displaced, the exposure to slow-onset events, such as sea-level rise or desertification, may significantly trigger cross-border environmental migration in the future.⁴ Today, approximately 80% of the world's poorest populations live in degraded rural areas affected by drought and desertification, which have been recognized as drivers of forced migration.⁵ Data suggest, therefore, that environmental factors have constantly shaped migration movements in the past and will continue to do so, even more strongly, in the future.⁶

The increasing awareness and scientific evidence of the adverse climate and environmental impacts on human

mobility contrast, however, with the lack of high-quality and reliable research on key features of environmental migration; these pertaining to both legal and policy responses to environmental drivers of migration, and to the individual and collective dimensions characterizing people compelled to flee because of environmental threats.

This considerable gap lies at the core of the present International Conference titled “*Environmental migration under the spotlight. Legal and policy responses, individual and collective dimensions of a global phenomenon*”. This event is organized by the Institute of Law, Politics and Development (DIRPOLIS) of Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies, in the framework of the Jean Monnet Module MARS “Migration, Asylum and Rights of Minors” (2019-2022).

In the double attempt to contribute enriching the academic debate on environmental migration and to encourage decision-makers to endorse a proactive approach to migration governance, this International Conference offers a comprehensive, multidisciplinary, and far-sighted analysis to unveil some essential, so far overlooked, causes, impacts, features, challenges and opportunities of this long-lasting and intertwined phenomenon.

The two afternoon sections, each composed of five presentations, seek to provide new insights to some of the most relevant yet unexplored facets of environmental migration. The first section (30th May 2022) looks at the legal and policy responses to environmental migration emerging at the international

¹ IDMC, [Global report on Internal Displacement](#), 2021.

² UNHCR, UNDP, [Partnership on Forced Displacement](#), 2021.

³ World Bank, [Groundswell Part 2: Acting on Internal Climate Migration](#), 2021.

⁴ OHCHR, [The Slow onset effects of climate change and human rights protection for cross-border migrants](#), Human Rights Council, Thirty-seventh session, 26.02.–23.03.2018.

⁵ UN General Assembly Resolution n. 72/220, [Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa](#), adopted on 20 December 2017

⁶ Most recently, Mariam Traore Chazalnoël and Alex Randall, [Migration and slow-onset impacts of climate change: taking stock and taking action](#), in IOM World Migration Report 2022, 1 December 2021.

and regional level, while the second section (31st May 2022) focuses on individual and collective features influencing their movements on environmental grounds.

The speakers will explore largely unpathed topics, unveil peculiar interconnections, and provide fertile material to stimulate relevant actors' responses and future research on the matter. The analyses respectively embed a gender-based, child-sensitive, political, legal, evolutionist, cultural and religious perspective. Attendees will benefit from the advanced expertise, research projects' outcomes, and in-depth academic knowledge of outstanding international experts in the field.

Registration: To register, please send an email to chiara.scissa@santannapisa.it by **May 25, 2022**. The link will be provided in due course.

The Jean Monnet Module MARS “Migration, Asylum and Rights of Minors”.

The three-year Jean Monnet Module MARS “Migration, Asylum and Rights of Minors” (2019-2022) aims to spread the knowledge of EU law on the protection of migrant children's rights through different types of teaching activities and events, both for students and professionals. In fact, despite many studies devoted to migration and asylum issues, the protection of migrant and refugee children's rights deserves a broader investigation in the academic fields, both in research activities and in training courses for students and professionals.

For more information see the MARS website (www.mars.santannapisa.it).

Speakers

Robert Albro, *American University*

Francesca Biondi Dal Monte, *Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies*

Marco Borraccetti, *University of Bologna*

Elizabeth Ferris, *Georgetown University*

Eric Hershberg, *American University*

Monika Mayrhofer, *Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Fundamental and Human Rights*

Manuel Marques Pereira, *International Organization for Migration*

Telmo Pievani, *University of Padua*

Stefano Porfido, *Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies*

Chiara Scissa, *Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies*

Caroline Zickgraf, *University of Liège*

Draft agenda

FIRST SESSION - INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL DIMENSIONS OF ENVIRONMENTAL MIGRATION: LEGAL AND POLICY RESPONSES.

30 May 2022, h. 2.00 pm (CET time)

2.00 pm – 2.10 pm

Opening and welcome remarks

Francesca Biondi Dal Monte, Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies

2.10 pm – 2.30 pm	Legal challenges and gaps in the context of environmental migration <i>Francesca Biondi Dal Monte, Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies</i> <i>Chiara Scissa, Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies</i>
2.30 pm – 2.50 pm	Q&A
2.50 pm – 3.10 pm	Migration, environment and ecological transition: From New York to Brussels <i>Marco Borraccetti, University of Bologna</i>
3.10 pm – 3.30 pm	Q&A
	BREAK

3.40 pm – 4.00 pm	Disaster-related displacement into Europe: Judicial practice in Austria and Sweden <i>Monika Mayrhofer, Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Fundamental and Human Rights</i>
4.00 pm – 4.20 pm	Q&A
4.20 pm – 4.40 pm	The principle of <i>non-refoulement</i> and environmental migration: A legal analysis of regional protection instruments. <i>Chiara Scissa, Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies</i>
4.40 pm – 5.00 pm	Q&A BREAK
5.10 pm – 5.30 pm	Guiding Principles for Children on the Move in the Context of Climate Change <i>Elizabeth Ferris, Georgetown University</i>
5.30 pm – 5.50 pm	Q&A
5.50 pm – 6.00 pm	Concluding remarks <i>Chiara Scissa, Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies</i>

SECOND SESSION: INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE DIMENSIONS OF ENVIRONMENTAL MIGRATION.

31st May 2022, h. 2.00 pm (CET time)

2.00 pm – 2.10 pm	Welcome remarks <i>Francesca Biondi Dal Monte, Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies</i>
2.10 pm – 2.30 pm	Climate change and human migration: An evolutionary perspective <i>Telmo Pievani, University of Padua</i>
2.30 pm – 2.50 pm	Q&A
2.50 pm – 3.10 pm	Building the capacity of States on different dimensions of human mobility in the context of climate change <i>Manuel Marques Pereira, IOM MECC Division</i>
3.10 pm – 3.30 pm	Q&A BREAK
3.40 pm – 4.00 pm	Assessing the evidence of forced environmental migration and environmental victimhood: The Omo-Turkana case-study <i>Chiara Scissa, Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies</i> <i>Stefano Porfido, Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies</i>
4.00 pm – 4.20 pm	Q&A
4.20 pm – 4.40 pm	Gendered aspects of the environment-migration nexus <i>Caroline Zickgraf, University of Liège</i>
4.40 pm – 5.00 pm	Q&A BREAK
5.10 pm – 5.30 pm	Accounting for non-economic loss and damage amidst environmental migration: Perspectives from Latin America and the Caribbean

	<i>Eric Hershberg, American University</i> <i>Robert Albro, American University</i>
5.30 pm – 5.50 pm	Q&A
5.50 pm – 6.00 pm	Concluding remarks <i>Francesca Biondi Dal Monte, Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies</i>
