

**ENVIRONMENTALLY-INDUCED DISPLACEMENT AND RELIGION IN LATIN  
AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN:  
Engaging the Normative and Legal Landscape**

Co-sponsored by American University's Center for Latin American & Latino Studies (CLALS), the South American Network for Environmental Migrations (RESAMA), Paraíba State University's Research Centre on Environmentally Displaced Persons (NEPDA), and the University of Brasília's Institute of International Relations (IREL), with support from the Henry Luce Foundation

Brasília, Brazil, January 23-24, 2020

**WORKSHOP AGENDA**

**Day 1: Thursday, January 23rd**

**8:30am-9:00am** Arrival and Registration

**Please note:** A shuttle will transport workshop participants from the Hotel Cullinan to our meeting venue. Our workshop will be held at the Instituto de Relações Internacionais (sala multiuso) on the Darcy Ribeiro Campus of the Universidade de Brasília.

**9:00am-10:30am** Session 1: Welcomes, Introductions and Framing Discussion

*Description: Brief background of how we got here, including previous Luce-funded projects and ongoing efforts in South America (e.g. NEPDA, RESAMA). Inspiration for, and goals of, current project on environmental migration. Focus of this workshop on assessing existing normative-legal frameworks, and as a basis for developing policy report, among other outcomes.*

**Eric Hershberg** (Director, AU Center for Latin American & Latino Studies)

**Carolina Claro** (University of Brasília and NEPDA)

**Erika Pires Ramos** (Founder, RESAMA)

**Jayesh Rathod and Robert Albro** (American University)

**10:30am-10:45am** Tea/Coffee break

**10:45am-12:30pm** Session 2: Latin America's Progressive Asylum Tradition, National and Regional Trends

*Description: Review of the development and present landscape of asylum law in Latin America and the Caribbean, as a basis for the region's approach to refugees and migrants. The region's distinctive role in evolving international and multilateral deliberations around the category of environmental migrants. Different national responses to the governance and security challenges posed by human mobility across borders, and opportunities and constraints to the development of regional consensus around the humanitarian response to environmentally-induced migration.*

**Moderator: Erika Pires Ramos (RESAMA)**

**Panelists:**

**Erika Pires Ramos**

**Fernanda de Salles Cavedon-Capdeville (RESAMA)**

**Roberto Aruj (National University Tres de Febrero)**

**12:30pm-2:00pm** Lunch

**Please note:** For both workshop days, lunch will be at the Clube das Nações, which is approximately 10 minutes from our meeting venue. Transportation will be provided.

**2:00pm-3:45pm** Session 3: From the UNHCR Process to the 2018 Global Compact for Migration to the Present

*Description: Since the 1951 Refugee Convention what have been the major steps toward, and obstacles to, the development of international standards for recognition of the rights of persons displaced across borders as a result of environmental change or natural disasters? This includes recent efforts through the Nansen and related initiatives to address this issue with the category of "refugee." What are the opportunities and challenges posed by the new compacts for refugees and for migrants, and what has been Latin America's role in these deliberations?*

**Moderator: Jayesh Rathod** (American University)

**Panelists:**

**Elizabeth Keyes** (University of Baltimore)

**Andrea Pacheco Pacifico** (Paraíba State University)

**Carolina Claro** (University of Brasília)

**3:45pm-4:30pm** Transport to public event

**4:30pm-6:30pm** Public Forum: The Crisis of Environmental Refugees: Addressing Knowledge Gaps to Meet Governance Challenges

**Event location:** Auditório Joaquim Nabuco, Faculdade de Direito, Darcy Ribeiro Campus, Universidade de Brasília

**6:30pm-7:00pm** Transport to dinner

**7:00pm-9:00pm** Dinner

**Please note:** We have made reservations at the Restaurante Coco Bambu (lago sul unit): <https://cocobambu.com/>, and have arranged for transport from the meeting space to the restaurant.

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**WORKSHOP AGENDA**

**Day 2: Friday, January 24th**

**9:30am-10:00am** Arrival and coffee

**10:00am-11:30am** Session 4: The UNFCCC Process and Prospects for the Loss and Damage Framework

*Description: As a consequence of the conclusion of the Nansen process and of the 2016 New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, and as part of the work of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the 2013 Warsaw Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts has become an important forum for considerations of how best to respond to the challenges faced by environmental migrants. What are strengths and weaknesses of this approach, and what developments should we expect in Latin America and elsewhere as a result of this effort?*

**Moderator: Robert Albro** (American University)

**Panelists:**

**Rueanna Haynes** (Climate Analytics)

**Robert Albro**

**11:30am-11:45am** Tea/Coffee Break

**11:45am-1:15pm** Session 5: Religiously-inspired Approaches to Environmental Migration

*Description: Faith-based actors in Latin America have sought historically to protect the rights of vulnerable populations, participated in environmental struggles, and been present as part of the humanitarian response to the plight of international refugees and migrants. But we know little about how religious actors and ideas have contributed, or might contribute in future, to deliberations around environmental migration. Faith-based traditions include potentially relevant concepts of accompaniment, sanctuary, or harm, among others. How these might contribute to regional normative-legal frameworks for environmental migration, and what forms such engagement might take nationally and internationally, is a topic requiring further attention.*

**Moderator: Evan Berry** (Arizona State University)

**Panelists:**

**Evan Berry**

**Michele Pistone** (Villanova University)

**Ryan Alaniz** (Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo)

**1:15pm-2:30pm** Lunch

**2:30pm-4:00pm** Session 6: Impacts of Latin America's Changing Political Landscape upon Prospects for Cooperation around Environmental Migration?

*Description: The changing political environment in Latin America and the Caribbean, including implications of new populisms and a resurgent Right, rising anti-immigrant sentiment, and the varied regional landscape of acceptance or rejection of migrants. These are among the factors influencing national and regional governance and security policies impacting environmental migrants and represent potential constraints upon the development of any regional normative and humanitarian consensus about this question.*

**Moderator: Eric Hershberg** (American University)

**Panelists:**

**Jayesh Rathod** (American University)

**Luciana Gandini** (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Mexico)

**Eric Hershberg**

**4:00am-4:30pm** Next Steps and Closing Remarks

**Jayesh Rathod** (American University)

**Erika Pires Ramos** (RESAMA)

**Robert Albro** (American University)

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**WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS**

**Ryan Alaniz** is Assistant Professor in Sociology at Cal Poly State University, San Luis Obispo. He received his PhD in Sociology from the University of Minnesota, and has conducted research on post-disaster recovery, relocation and resettlement, and also climate change, water scarcity and draught, and livelihood resilience. His most recent book is *From Strangers to Neighbors: Post Disaster Resettlement and Community Developments in Post-Disaster Honduras* (University of Texas Press, 2017), and he is currently completing a book on his experiences teaching at a correctional facility. Over the years Dr. Alaniz has also worked closely with various academic institutions, including the UN University's Institute for Human and Environment Security, the International Social Science Council, and Fulbright program. Email: [ralaniz@calpoly.edu](mailto:ralaniz@calpoly.edu)

**Robert Albro** is Research Associate Professor at American University's Center for Latin American & Latino Studies. He received his PhD in Sociocultural Anthropology from the University of Chicago, and has conducted ethnographic research and published widely on popular and indigenous politics along Bolivia's urban periphery. Much of this work is presented in his book, *Roosters at Midnight: Indigenous Signs and Stigma in Local Bolivian Politics* (SAR Press, 2010). His research interests also include: resource wars, responses to climate change, and climate policy. And he recently edited the collection, *Montañas y paisajes sagrados: Mundos religiosos, cambio climático e implicancias del retiro de los glaciares* (Fondo Editorial Universidad Antonio Ruiz de Montoya, 2019). Dr. Albro has held fellowships at the Carnegie Council, Kluge Center of the Library of Congress, and Smithsonian Institution, and currently serves as co-PI on the "Religion and Environmentally-Induced Displacement" project. Email: [robert.d.albro@gmail.com](mailto:robert.d.albro@gmail.com)

**Roberto Aruj** is a professor at both the National University of Tres de Febrero and the University of Buenos Aires. He received his PhD in the Social Sciences (Sociology) from the University of Buenos Aires. His research and writing have focused largely on the causes and impacts of migration in Latin America and Argentina, including impacts of political migration, economic migration, climate change, discrimination, migration and human rights, the right of return, and in-migration to Argentina. He was the Coordinator for many years of Argentina's Secretary of the Environment and Sustainable Development. In 2009 he was lead investigator of the project "Social Transformations in a Globalized World: Migration

and the Environment.” He has edited the volume, *Migraciones, ambiente y cambio climático: Estudios de caso en América del Sur* (International Organization for Migration, 2017) and published two books, *Los hijos del retorno. Una nueva comunidad inmigratoria* (Editorial Prometeo Libros, 2008) and *Por qué se van* (2004). Email: [raru@yaho.com](mailto:raru@yaho.com)

**Evan Berry** is Assistant Professor in Environmental Humanities in the School of History, Philosophy, and Religious Studies at Arizona State University. He received his PhD in Religious Studies from the University of California, Santa Barbara. His research examines the intersections among religion, globalization, and climate change, and seeks to advance knowledge about the role of religious actors in contemporary environmental contestations. His book *Devoted to Nature: The Religious Roots of American Environmentalism* (University of California Press, 2015) explores the religious sources of the environmental imagination in the United States. He is also co-editor of *Church, Cosmivision and the Environment: Religion and Social Conflict in Contemporary Latin America* (Routledge, 2018). Dr. Berry’s current work combines ethnographic research with philosophical reflection to address the study of religious civil society groups actively engaged with the challenge of climate change. He previously served as PI on CLALS’s project, “Religion and Climate Change in Cross-Regional Perspective.” Email: [evan.berry@asu.edu](mailto:evan.berry@asu.edu)

**Fernanda de Salles Cavedon-Capdeville** is a postdoctoral fellow at the Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina. She received her PhD in environmental law from the University of Alicante (Spain), and JD from the Universidade do Valle do Itajaí. She is, furthermore, a researcher and member of the South American Network on Environmental Migrations (RESAMA). Her publications on human mobility in the context of climate change disasters aim to assess to what extent South American countries have integrated recommendations from the international agenda to address human mobility as a result of climate disasters in their national laws and policies. Her experience encompasses teaching, advocacy and consultancy in legal and political aspects of climate change, disaster risk management, human rights and international environmental law, and environmental human mobility. Email: [cavedon.capdeville@gmail.com](mailto:cavedon.capdeville@gmail.com)

**Carolina de Abreu Batista Claro** is a voluntary Professor and a post-doctoral Research Fellow at the International Relations Institute at the University of Brasília, where she teaches international law, migration, asylum, and human rights. She holds a PhD in International Law from the University of São Paulo (with honors), and a Master’s in Sustainable Development from the University of Brasília. Her main research areas include: environmentally-induced migration, migration laws and policies, statelessness, forced migration and the human rights of migrants. As a professor, researcher, consultant and pro bono lawyer, Dr. Claro has been working on questions relating to international migration in Brazil for over a decade. She is the Adjunct Coordinator for the Program and Research Nucleus on Environmentally Displaced Persons at the Paraíba State University (NEPDA/UEPB). She is also a member of the Red Latinoamericana sobre el Derecho de las Personas Refugiadas, Red Internacional de Migración y Desarrollo (RIMD), and the Brazilian Association for International Relations (ABRI). Email: [cclaro@gmail.com](mailto:cclaro@gmail.com)

**Luciana Gandini** is a Professor at the Universidad Autónoma Nacional de México and Researcher in its Instituto de Investigaciones Jurídicas. She received her PhD in the Social Sciences (Sociology) from the Colegio de México. At the UNAM she coordinates the seminar, “Internal Displacement, Migration, Exile and Repatriation.” Her research and publication focuses on: international and internal displacement and migration, voluntary and involuntary migration, skilled or sector-specific migration, repatriation and the



right of return, among other topics. She is both author and editor of multiple books and articles on these topics, including two 2015 volumes: *¿Escapando de la crisis? Un análisis comparativo de trayectorias laborales de migrantes argentinos en dos contextos de recepción: Ciudad de México y Madrid* and *El retorno en el nuevo escenario de la migración entre México y los Estados Unidos*. Email: [lgandini@unam.mx](mailto:lgandini@unam.mx)

**Rueanna Haynes** is Senior Legal Advisor and Support Team Lead for the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) at Climate Analytics. She received a Master in International Legal Studies from Georgetown University Law Centre as well as a Master in International Environmental Policy from Sciences Po. Rueanna's specialization in international climate law and governance draws from her experience in multilateral environmental negotiations, having participated in the UNFCCC on behalf of Trinidad and Tobago and served as lead negotiator for the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), AOSIS, G77 and China. She currently serves on the Climate Diplomacy team as support team lead to the Chair of AOSIS. Email: [rueanna.haynes@climateanalytics.org](mailto:rueanna.haynes@climateanalytics.org)

**Eric Hershberg** is the Director of CLALS and Professor of Government at American University. He received his PhD from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. As a political scientist, he has published widely on issues of political economy, development and democracy throughout Latin America. Most recently, Dr. Hershberg has conducted studies of community integration of Central American migrants to various parts of the United States. He has served as a consultant to many development and educational agencies, including the Ford Foundation, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, the World Bank, the Chilean Ministry of the Economy, and the Swedish International Development Agency, and is a member of numerous editorial boards. He speaks frequently with major media outlets about public affairs in Latin America and issues affecting Latino communities in the United States. Dr. Hershberg is also PI for the "Religion and Environmentally-Induced Displacement" project. Email: [hershber@american.edu](mailto:hershber@american.edu)

**Elizabeth Keyes** is Associate Professor of Law and Director of the Immigrant Rights Clinic at University of Baltimore. She received her JD from Georgetown University Law Center and a Master of Public Affairs from Princeton University. Her areas of expertise include clinical legal education as well as immigration and naturalization law, focusing on providing justice for immigrants in the fields of immigration, criminal and family law. Formerly at AU's Washington College of Law, her areas of expertise include clinical legal education, asylum policy, immigration and naturalization law. She has also written about unconventional refugee categories, including environmental refugees, including the legal status of this category, associated challenges in adequately defining this term in international law, and durable solutions. She continues to work on this topic. Email: [ekeyes@ubalt.edu](mailto:ekeyes@ubalt.edu)

**Roberto Marinucci** is Associate Director of the Scalabrinian Center of Migration Studies, where he also edits the *Revista Interdisciplinar da Mobilidade Humana*, a quarterly publication of interdisciplinary analysis of challenges relating to human mobility and intended for both academic and pastoral audiences. He graduated, with a focus on Theology, from the Pontificia Università Lateranense, with an MA from the Faculdade de Teologia Nossa Senhora da Assunção de São Paulo. He has written on a wide range of topics relating to migration, including international migration and refugees, forced migration, legislation relating to migrants in Brazil, religious identity in the context of migration, the criminalization of migrants. Email: [remhu@csem.org.br](mailto:remhu@csem.org.br)

**Andrea Pacheco Pacifico** is Professor and Researcher at the Paraíba State University. She received her PhD in the Social Sciences (Sociology) from the Pontifical Catholic University of Sao Paulo, Brazil, and

her LLM in international law from the University of Lancaster (UK). Her research interests include: international human rights law, refugees and migrants, asylum, trafficking and forced migration, with a focus on Latin America and Brazil, as well as the international regime for environmental displacement. She is also author of *Racial Discrimination in Alagoas: The Role of the Minority's Rights Commission of the Brazilian Bar Association in Alagoas*. (EDUFAL, 2011). Dr. Pacifico has previously been a visiting research fellow at Oxford University and York University and has served as a board member of the Brazilian Red Cross of Alagoas since 2017. Email: [apacifico@hotmail.com](mailto:apacifico@hotmail.com)

**Erika Pires Ramos** is Founder of the South American Network for Environmental Migrations (RESAMA) and Federal Attorney at the Brazilian Institute for the Environment and Natural Renewable Resources (IBAMA). She received her PhD in International Law from University of São Paulo, and her research specializes in climate change, disasters, human rights and environmental migration governance. Dr. Pires Ramos also serves as Researcher for the Study and Research Centre on Environmentally Displaced Persons (NEPDA), as well as the Human Rights and Vulnerabilities Research Group UNISANTOS. Email: [erikaprs@gmail.com](mailto:erikaprs@gmail.com)

**Michele R. Pistone** is Professor of Law and Director of the Clinic for Asylum, Refugee and Emigrant Services (CARES) at Villanova University's Charles Widger School of Law. She received her JD from St. John's University School of Law and an LLM from Georgetown University Law Center. Her research focuses on technological innovations in the practice of law, and in legal education, asylum and refugee law, immigration law, migration, and Catholicism. Among other projects, she is currently working on the relationship between asylum and refugee protection, justice, statelessness, and Christian social thought. She is also co-author of *Stepping Out of the Brain Drain: Applying Catholic Social Teaching in a New Era of Migration* (Lexington, 2007). Email: [pistone@law.villanova.edu](mailto:pistone@law.villanova.edu)

**Jayesh Rathod** is Associate Dean for Experiential Education, Professor of Law, and Director of the Immigrant Justice Clinic at American University Washington College of Law. He received his JD from Columbia University School of Law. His body of scholarship includes empirical, applied and theoretical work, and covers topics relating to immigration law, labor and employment law, and legal pedagogy. Professor Rathod's research has appeared in a variety of prominent journals, including the Arizona Law Review, Houston Law Review, Michigan Journal of Law Reform, and U.C. Irvine Law Review. In 2018, he also received the Pauline Ruyle Moore Award for outstanding scholarship in the area of public law. Professor Rathod continues to work on a range of cases and projects relating to immigration detention, removal defense (including criminal-immigration intersections), humanitarian relief, immigrant workers' rights, language access, and more. Email: [jrathod@wcl.american.edu](mailto:jrathod@wcl.american.edu)