

National Europe Centre Workshop – *Call for Papers*

Climate Change and Migration Workshop

25-26 AUGUST 2009

In 1990 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change noted that the greatest impact of climate change would be on human migration. Climate change-induced migration is already responsible for instability in the periphery of Australia and Europe yet the policy implications and possible response strategies to this challenge remain under-researched. As the international community of states is approaching the pivotal Copenhagen Summit, climate change-induced migration may, however, not receive the critical attention by policy-makers and academics it so clearly merits. The May 2009 Report by former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan's think tank Global Humanitarian Forum highlights that more than 95 percent of negative ramifications of climate change will be experienced by poorer countries, precipitating spill-over effects in terms of migration dynamics.

The very term "climate change refugee" is still not beyond dispute within academia and urgently requires clarification, as *internal* migration due to adverse environmental phenomena is certainly not a new phenomenon. However, *transnational* environmentally-induced migration is an empirically new, under-explored and pressing issue. It is already apparent in the South Pacific and South Asia.

This workshop aims to provide a forum for the presentation of current research on the climate change-migration nexus in both Australia and Europe. This is an opportunity to examine different scenarios for climate change suggested by the IPCC report and the attendant consequences for migration. The workshop aims to be not just interdisciplinary – drawing in academic experts from natural and social sciences – but also comparative, examining current regional regulatory approaches in the Australia-Pacific region and the EU and its neighbourhood. It provides a forum for frank discussion about the nature and dimension of the challenge and the policy implications for the Australian and European governments.

The workshop welcomes papers that address the following (and other related) questions:

- How can Australian and European policy-makers develop best practice joined-up policy solutions to address the challenges?
- What political and economic factors affect such migratory movements and how can developmental policy be recalibrated to minimise the negative fall-out?
- What are the political, economic, and social ramifications for the affected countries? What kind of national response strategies can be pursued by these countries?
- What are the implications of climate change-induced migration for international law, particularly in the fields of refugee protection and human rights? How can migration policy in Europe and Australia be modified to accommodate new forms of refugee movements?

This workshop also aims to facilitate interaction between scholars from a range of disciplinary backgrounds, policy makers and civil society with a view to exploring opportunities for joint policy-relevant research. The aim is to produce a conference report and discuss strategies for further joint research ventures, policy reports and publications.

Abstracts (maximum 300 words) should be sent via email before 17 July to Dr. Georg Menz (g.menz@gold.ac.uk). Successful applicants will be notified by end July, and a program will be available in early August. Limited funding for domestic travel and accommodation is available. Please direct all enquiries to Bea Hogan (bea.hogan@anu.edu.au)