



Centre for Refugee Studies - 2025 Summer Course
Climate Migration Futures: Shaping The Research Agenda for 2050
June 2-6, 2025

The nexus of climate change and human mobility is rapidly transforming, demanding new, innovative research that anticipates the challenges and impacts of the coming decades. *Climate Migration Futures: Shaping the Research Agenda for 2050* challenges conventional approaches and pushes the boundaries of how research can support our response to climate-induced migration. This cutting-edge summer course focuses on bold, forward-thinking research priorities and methods that can help to address the framing of climate migration, climate migration and livelihoods, ethical strategies for climate adaptation and relocation, and envisioning climate migration in 2050.

Leading international academics will provide introductory keynotes on themes critical to climate migration research. Participants will engage with case studies and research findings from climate frontlines, exploring how research scenarios address these questions and reveal both successful interventions and the unintentional, but often time intentional, creation of new vulnerabilities.

Through an immersive combination of expert-led sessions, collaborative design-thinking workshops, and innovative scenario planning, the course will help to: 1) redefine the research agenda on climate migration; 2) explore what research is needed to tackle the impacts of climate migration; 3) advance the appropriate research methods that can inform policy development.

Learning outcomes of this course will empower participants to:

- **Redefine Research Approaches:** Develop innovative frameworks and methods to address the challenges of climate migration, focusing on resilience, climate justice, and ethical adaptation strategies
- **Enhance Policy and Governance Understanding:** Explore the intersection of language, governance, and human rights in shaping adaptive policies and addressing vulnerabilities
- **Foster Collaborative Visioning:** Engage in skill-building workshops and interdisciplinary collaboration to envision transformative solutions for climate migration by 2050

This course is designed for scholars, policymakers and practitioners who are ready to push the boundaries on current research thinking and praxis, bridging interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary tools to address the current and unforeseen factors that will define climate migration by 2050. Participants will leave prepared to advance a transformative research agenda rooted in resilience, climate justice, and innovation in the face of global climate change impacts.

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Monday, June 2	Welcome and Introduction	
8:00am - 9:00am - Registration and Light Breakfast		
9:00am 9:15am	Introduction to Summer Course	<ul style="list-style-type: none">What are the visions and objectives for the CRS Summer Course, Climate Migration Futures: Shaping the Research Agenda for 2050? – <i>Dr. Yvonne Su, CRS Director</i>
9:15am- 10:45am	Opening Discussion: Framing and Governing Climate Migration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Policy labels and the language of climate migration and displacement? Whose perspectives count? – <i>Dr. Roger Zetter, Emeritus Professor of Refugee Studies, Oxford University</i>Climate Migration and Human Rights: Bridging Legal Gaps in Governance- <i>Dr. François Crépeau, Professor, Faculty of Law, McGill University</i>Canada’s [Potential] Role in Climate Migrant Governance - <i>Maureen Silcoff, Canadian refugee and immigration lawyer</i>
10:45am -11:00am - Coffee Break		
11:00am- 12:30pm	Virtual Roundtable	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Global Climate Migration is a Story of Who, Not Just How Many – <i>Dr. Hélène Benveniste, Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental Social Science, Stanford University</i>Enabling People Positive Adaptation Journeys - <i>Dr. Andrea Milan, Senior Programme Manager, Global Centre for Climate Mobility</i>Framing Mobility: Policy Language and Climate Migration in a Changing World – <i>Dr. David Wrathall, Associate Professor, College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences, Oregon State University</i>
12:30pm- 1:00pm	Setting the Stage Speech	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Landscape of Migration Globally and in Canada: A Senator’s Perspective – <i>The Honourable Ratna Omidvar, C.M., O.Ont., and Immigration Policy Fellow at Toronto Metropolitan University</i>
1:00pm -2:00pm - Lunch		

2:00pm – 4:00pm	Sharing Circle: Trauma, Climate Anxiety and Lived Experiences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Warmer World is a More Traumatic World – <i>Dr. Sean Holman, Wayne Crookes Professor of Environmental and Climate Journalism at the University of Victoria</i> • Climate, Anxiety and Disaster Preparedness - <i>Dr. Vincenzo Bollettino, Director of Program on Resilient Communities, Harvard Humanitarian Initiative</i> • “Migrants to Canada are talking more about climate change” - <i>Jill-Anne Santiago, Migrant Resource Centre Canada</i>
4:00pm-4:30pm	Reverse-Mentoring	Introduction of Reverse-Mentoring Practice. In rapid-fire style, participants get to challenge experts on their thinking and reshape the discussion with new ideas.
4:30pm -5:00pm - Coffee break		
5:00 – 6:30pm – Welcoming Reception at York		
6:30pm – End of Day		

Tuesday, June 3	Climate Change Impacts: Livelihoods, Adaptation & Displacement	
9:00am - 9:30am - Light Breakfast		
9:30am-11:00am	Climate Displacement and Economic Inclusion Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Climate Change, Adaptation and Labour Migration Pathways - <i>Dr. Roger Zetter, Emeritus Professor of Refugee Studies, Oxford University</i>Climate displacement and Economic Inclusion: Lessons from Mozambique – <i>Dr. Sarah Miller, Senior Fellow, Refugees International</i>Climate-Induced Migration and Integration in the Arctic: Navigating Justice, Technology, and Resilience -<i>Dr. Frank Ojwang, United States International University - Africa</i>
11:00am -11:30am - Coffee Break		
11:30am-1:00pm	Adaptation, Localization and Dislocation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Localizing Climate Adaptation in Refugee-Hosting Communities – <i>Jocelyn Perry, Senior Advocate and Program Manager, Refugees International</i>Localizing humanitarian aid amid climate disasters in conflict zones - <i>Dr. Vincenzo Bollettino, Director of Program on Resilient Communities, Harvard Humanitarian Initiative</i>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitability Thresholds and the Role of Climate Mobility Among Local Coping Strategies – <i>Dr. Julia Blocher, Project Lead and Scientist, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research</i>
1:00pm -2:00pm - Lunch		
2:00pm – 4:00pm	Skill-Building Workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building Research Tools for Climate Migration – <i>Dr. Yvonne Su, Director, Centre for Refugee Studies, York University and Dr. Zhixi Zhuang, Director of DiverCity Lab and Director of the Toronto Metropolitan Centre for Immigration and Settlement</i>
3:00pm- 3:30pm	Reverse-Mentoring	In rapid-fire style, participants get to challenge experts on their thinking and reshape the discussion with new ideas.
3:30pm -4:30pm – Transit to Downtown Toronto		
4:30pm-6:30pm – Optional Guided Tour of Downtown Toronto		
6:30pm – End of Day		

Wednesday, June 4	Storytelling, Lived Experiences and Local Innovations	
9:00am - 9:30am - Light Breakfast		
9:30am-11:00am	Virtual Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Global Health, Indigenous Rights and Youth Climate Advocacy - <i>Qjiel Giuliano Mikhil Zamora, Global Health Advocate, York University Student</i>Adolescent Perspectives on Climate Change and Adaptive Action: Case from Bangladesh - <i>Dr. Gabrielle Wong-Parodi, Stanford University</i>Health, Gender and Climate Migration– <i>Dr. Opportuna Kweka, Chair at the University of Dar es Salaam’s Research Chair on Forced Displacement (UDSM-RCFD)</i>
11:00am -11:30am - Coffee Break		
11:30am-1:30pm	Skill-Building Workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Effective Digital Storytelling – <i>Dr. Sean Holman, Wayne Crookes Professor of Environmental and Climate Journalism at the University of Victoria</i>
1:30pm -2:30pm - Lunch		

2:30pm – 3:30pm - Transit to Downtown Toronto		
2:30pm – 4:00pm VIRTUAL ONLY	Virtual Art Presentation	Virtual Art Engagement by Prof. Ian P. Garrett and Team - Ian Garrett, <i>Associate Professor of Ecological Design for Performance at York University and Graduate Program Director for Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies. A leading Researcher in the field of Sustainability in Arts and Culture.</i> This presentation is aimed at engaging virtual participants as in-person participants take a group trip.
3:30pm-6:00pm	Field Trip	Field Trip! Visit to Food Hall TO, an “incubator food court” that features restaurants run by refugees and newcomers, whose mission is to “advance entrepreneurship through business incubation while decreasing food waste and encouraging healthy and responsible consumption and production.”
6:00pm – End of Day		

Thursday, June 5	Ethical Strategies for Planned Relocation	
9:00am - 9:30am - Light Breakfast		
9:30am-11:00am	Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Competing Global Justice Perspectives on Refugees – <i>Dr. Peter Penz, former Director of the CRS and Professor Emeritus, Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University and Dr. Yvonne Su, CRS Director</i>
11:00am -11:30am - Coffee Break		
11:30am-1:30pm	The Promise and Perils of Planned Relocation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Community-Driven Planned Relocation: A Global Perspective– <i>Dr. Erica Bower, Researcher on Climate Displacement in the Environment and Human Rights Division, Human Rights Watch</i>Limits to adapting to climate change through relocations in Papua-New Guinea, Fiji and Eastern Africa – <i>Dr. Julia Blocher, Project Lead and Scientist, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research</i>“Tell me, how can a fish live on land?”: Disaster-Induced Resettlement as Climate Adaptation in the Philippines– <i>Dr. Yvonne Su, CRS Director</i>
1:30pm -2:30pm - Lunch		

2:30pm – 4:30pm	Skill-Building Workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rights-based Approaches to Planned Relocation Governance - <i>Dr. Erica Bower, Human Rights Watch</i>
4:30pm -5:00pm - Coffee break		
5:00pm-6:30pm	Scenario Planning Part 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rising Seas, Shifting Futures: Scenario Building for Tuvaluan Migration – Identifying historical trends, certainties and uncertainties with <i>Vittorio Bruni – DPhil Candidate, University of Oxford</i> and <i>Dr. Yvonne Su, CRS Director</i>
6:30pm – End of Day		

Friday, June 6	Future: Envisioning Climate Migration in 2050	
9:00am - 9:30am - Light Breakfast		
9:30am-10:00am	Closing Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Speculative Governance of Climate Migration: Cases from Tuvalu, Australia and the Philippines – <i>Dr. Yvonne Su, CRS Director</i>
10:00am -10:30am - Coffee break		
10:30am-12:30pm	Scenario Planning Part 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Rising Seas, Shifting Futures: Scenario Building for Tuvaluan Migration – categorizing uncertainties and impacts on migration with - <i>Vittorio Bruni – DPhil Candidate, University of Oxford and Dr. Yvonne Su, CRS Director</i>
12:30pm -1:30pm - Lunch		
1:30pm-3:00pm	Scenario Planning Part 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Rising Seas, Shifting Futures: Scenario Building for Tuvaluan Migration – deepening scenarios with <i>Vittorio Bruni – DPhil Candidate, University of Oxford and Dr. Yvonne Su, CRS Director</i>
3:00pm – 4:30pm	Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Group discussions on potential research questions and projects to pursue
4:30pm -5:00pm - Coffee Break and Group Photo		
5:00– End of Program		