

# RELIGION'S ROLE IN RESPONSE TO CLIMATE-INDUCED DISPLACEMENT AND MIGRATION IN LATIN AMERICA

A workshop organized by American University's Center for Latin American and Latino Studies (CLALS) with generous support from the Henry Luce Foundation  
June 1, 2018

## WORKSHOP AGENDA

**May 31: 6:30pm** Dinner for Workshop Participants

We have made reservations for workshop participants at Casolare, in the Kimpton Glover Park Hotel, where those coming from out of town will be staying.

**June 1: 8:15am** Depart Hotel (Shuttle Service Provided)

Leaving from the Kimpton Glover Park Hotel  
2505 Wisconsin Ave NW, Washington, DC 20007  
(meet in hotel lobby)

**8:30am-9:00am** Coffee and Refreshments

Workshop location: American University's main campus, Mary Graydon Center, Room 245 (2<sup>nd</sup> floor). Consult map as need be (below).

**9:00am-9:15am** Welcomes and Introductions

Eric Hershberg

**9:15am-10:45am** Session 1: How We Got Here: From Religion and Climate Change to Climate-Induced Displacement and Migration

*Topic: Do we understand climate-induced displacement and migration to be a major global issue? To what extent does this pertain to Latin America and the Caribbean, and what is religion's role in response? These questions will be considered in light of what we already know about the relation of religion to climate change, in part through previous work on this topic undertaken by the Center with Luce Foundation support. We will also invite each workshop participant to offer a brief two-minutes on what makes this a major global issue at present and for the near future.*

Moderator: Eric Hershberg

**10:45am-11:00am** Break

**11:00am-12:15pm** Session 2: What are the Governance Challenges and Responses to Environmental Migration?

*Topic: What have been the national, regional, and international responses to governance challenges posed by environmental displacement and migration, and to what extent are they adequate to likely needs during the coming decades? This includes consideration of the forms of coordination around forced or voluntary displacement and migration, security concerns, legal formulations and rights-based frameworks for environmental migrants.*

Moderator: Ken Conca

**12:15pm-1:15pm** Catered Lunch

To be served in our meeting room.

**1:15pm-2:30pm** Session 3: The Humanitarian Response to Environmental Change Resulting in Displacements and Movements of People

*Topic: What are the types and organization of humanitarian response to the range of slow-onset, and rapid-onset environmental changes, and resulting voluntary, planned or forced displacement and migration of people? Who are the key actors, governmental and non-governmental? How do faith-based organizations participate in this process, what are their priorities and what services do they provide?*

Moderator: Erin Wilson

**2:30pm-3:45pm** Session 4: Religious Engagement with Environmental Change and Migration at the National and International Levels

*Topic: How are religions framing questions of environmental change and migration (and their coincidence) and what key concepts are they mobilizing to do so? How might religious ideas and frameworks be inhibiting or helping to advance national/international efforts to respond to environmental change and resulting migration? Is there a role for religious diplomacy in these arenas (e.g. with governments, donors and other key stakeholders)?*

Moderator: Evan Berry

**3:45pm-4:00pm** Break

**4:00pm-5:15pm** Session 5: Religion as a Resource for Displaced Peoples and People on the Move

*Topic: Shifting attention from national and international scales to the relationship of people to their communities, what role might religion play in the lives of displaced peoples, internal or international migrants? Discussion encompasses the role of religion for: coping with dislocation and loss, contributing to collective identity, and aiding the social integration of migrants, among other issues.*

Moderator: Rob Albro

**5:15pm-5:45pm** Session 6: Putting it All Together: What is the Work to be Done?

*Topic: Given the day's discussion, what key topics merit sustained attention, and how might these be connected as part of a framework for the study of religion's role with respect to climate-induced displacement and migration in Latin America?*

Moderator: Eric Hershberg