

The background is an abstract composition of various colors and textures. It features thick, hand-drawn lines in white, yellow, and orange, creating a grid-like structure. There are also solid blocks of color, including a large red rectangle in the top left, a blue rectangle in the top center, a yellow rectangle in the top right, and a large green rectangle on the right side. The overall effect is a vibrant, layered, and textured visual field.

Connecting Environmental Changes and Human Mobility as a Way to Draw New Maps of Knowledge

Final Report

Connecting Environmental Changes and Human Mobility as a Way to Draw New Maps of Knowledge

Conference Final Report (Ascona, 3-6, March 2019)

This document summarizes the presentations and discussions that took place at the conference titled “Connecting Environmental Changes and Human Mobility as a Way to Draw New Maps of Knowledge”, held within the framework of the CLISEL (Climate Security with Local Authorities) and CLI_M_CO2 (Framing Environmental Degradation, Human Mobility and Human Development as a Matter of Common Concern) projects.

During the three-day conference, around thirty speakers – including numerous young researchers – presented their research on the main topics related to environmental changes and human mobility, across different disciplines and from different angles, including environmental history, human geography, visual analytics and the international legal perspective, stimulating rich and vivid discussions with the participants.

Thanks to Dr. Irene Schmidli, Prof. Fornalé and Prof. Armiero have been in contact with some journalists and the Radio della Svizzera Italiana (<https://www.rsi.ch/rete-uno/agenda/Tavola-Rotonda-lunedì-4-marzo-11489858.html>) to disseminate this academic event and the public event.

The minutes have been recorded in accordance with the order of the presentations delivered and aim to reflect upon the general themes and ideas discussed.

Monday, 4 March 2019

CSF Welcome Address and video on the history of Monte Verità

Dr. Irene Schmidli (Congressi Stefano Franscini -CSF)

Dr. Schmidli opened the conference on behalf of the CSF, and welcomed all the participants to the venue of Congress Centre Monte Verità.

The welcome address was followed by the projection of a short video on the history of Monte Verità, founded back in 1900 by a group of idealists from Northern Europe. The video showed how it was in the early decades of the 20th century that several artists, intellectuals and academics made Monte Verità their cultural centre. In 1989, a private foundation (Monte Verità Foundation) was established with the aim to encourage international cultural activities on an academic level through seminars and conventions on diverse topics and discipline, a goal that is keeping maintaining to date, hosting each year around 20 – 25 conferences organized by professors working at Swiss academic institutions.

Introduction and Welcome

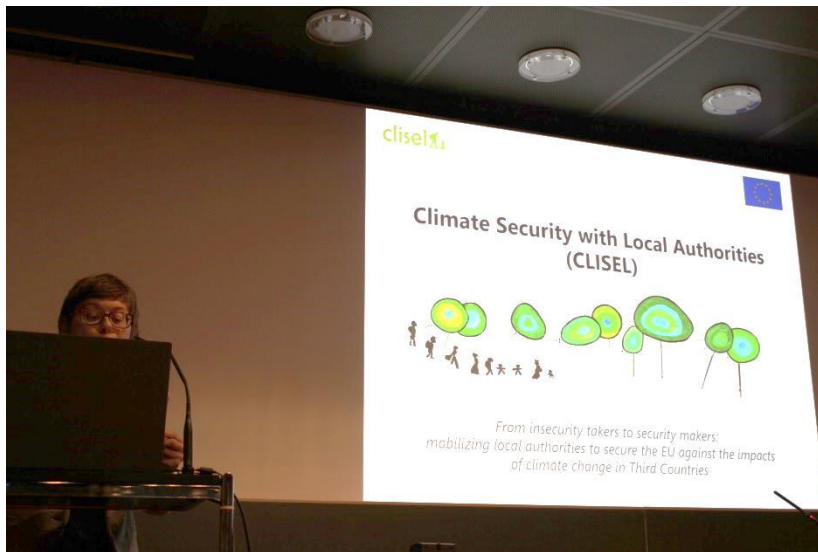
SNSF Prof. Elisa Fornalé, University of Bern

The conference is being organised at a time when there is a proliferating international debate on human mobility in the context of environmental change. The United Nations General Assembly has adopted two Global Compacts, one on refugees and one for migration, last December in Marrakesh. The United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights prepared its first report on climate change and cross-border migration. The UNFCCC Task Force on Displacement submitted its recommendations for integrated approaches to avert, minimise and address displacement related to climate change. These processes have spurred new theoretical and empirical opportunities.

Three themes were identified to navigate the discussions in this conference: How is the normative dimension of human mobility in all levels of governance currently being affected by environmental changes? In what ways can the environmental humanities contribute to reframing our understanding of the human experience of environmental changes? What kind of innovative activities are being undertaken by non-state actors, including NGOs, municipalities, and grassroots groups, to cope with environmental changes and migration issues?

This conference also offers a platform to share the results of the CLISEL project, which stands for "Climate Security with Local Authorities". This EU-funded project started three years ago with the innovative aim to broaden the debate on the climate change-security nexus in the European region by involving local institutions and authorities. The tools, such as the geoarchive and interactive map, which are prepared as a part of CLISEL will be visually demonstrated during the sessions of this conference.

Prof. Fornalè finally recalled that this year the Pantone institute announced “Living Coral” as the colour of the year, and she hopes that this vivifying colour can inspire fruitful discussions during the conference.



First Session: Expanding Knowledge

Sanjula Weerasinghe, UNHCR Consultant

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees’ (“UNHCR”) report titled “In Harm’s Way: International Protection in the Context of Nexus Dynamics between Conflict or Violence and Disaster or Climate Change” was published as a part of the Legal and Protection Policy Series in December 2018. The report is available at: <https://www.unhcr.org/5c1ba88d4.pdf>.

This report addresses the knowledge gap regarding the role of refugee law-based international protection when cross-border movements occur in the context of nexus dynamics. It aims to further reflect and discuss the practical and theoretical applications of refugee law in view of the Global Compacts on refugees and for migration, the Nansen Initiative as well as the UNHCR strategies.

There are four case studies examined in the report: Kenya and Ethiopia’s responses primarily during 2011-12 to the cross-border movement of Somalis, and Brazil and Mexico’s responses primarily during 2010-12 to the cross-border movement of Haitians. These studies show that greater understanding of entitlements in different countries is needed.

Discussion

What are the effects of human behaviour in disaster response? The literature is starting to argue that the framing of disasters should take into account the human element, in accordance with the individual’s pre-existing conditions. For instance, the UNHCR Guidelines on International Protection No.12 consider the 1951 Refugee Convention in light of conflict,

violence and regional refugee definitions. Another possible consideration is conditions of public disorder. To what extent does public disorder, when combined with a disaster, shape individuals' decisions to move? How can such preliminary considerations guide our interpretation and application of international and regional protection mechanisms?



Dr. Sarah Louise Nash, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna

The climate change field is a distinct area of research, policy and knowledge production. There is a "self-perpetuating circle" which is interrogated further in Dr. Nash's article, available at: <https://movements-journal.org/issues/06.wissen/04.nash--knowing-human-mobility-in-the-context-of-climate-change-the-self-perpetuating-circle-of-research-policy-and-knowledge-production.html>.

Relying on Foucault, we can examine the climate change field through the lens of knowledge and power relations. There is an "epistemic community" which is identifying certain values, concerns and criteria. It determines which ideas are to be deemed legitimate. "The boundaries of the thinkable" are shaped through the members of the community. Accordingly, climate change and human mobility are framed as a problem that must be solved. Those that sustain this idea also take part in the formation of a solution. There is a defined setting (the UNFCCC negotiations) and language at the global policy making level and these spheres are closed to outsiders.

Discussion

How can we break this circle? Can the concept of "risk" help? Can we search for on-the-ground actions or more effective policy-making at the global level?

How does the climate change field compare with other fields in respect of knowledge and power relations, for instance, the areas of trade (the World Trade Organisation) and investment?

Is it possible to see an improvement in the “self-perpetuating circle”? With initiatives such as “the people’s seat” at COP24, has there been an increasing participation in individuals to the climate change dialogue?



Dr. Philippe Forêt, ETH Zurich/Swiss Academic Society for Environmental Research and Ecology

What can the history of “dual migration” and migration absent from official sources teach us about migration policy and the environment? Dr. Forêt examines the environment through the humanities in his publications, some of which are available at: https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Philippe_Foret.

An analysis of the “Bi Shu” model in China reveals the significance of human mobility during hot climate in the dynasty of China. The study of the seasonal movement of people in the landscapes of China and Mongolia during the 1750s reveals that the purpose of movement was not only to find retreat away from the hot climate, but also to go back in time and to rebuild the Mongolian dynasty. This movement worked as a “time machine”, and created a space to “re-enact”.

Discussion:

What can we understand from the history of documented and non-document migration? How can the current conceptualisations of territoriality and irregular migration be understood in line with historical instances of human mobility? For instance, the concept of private property does not work the same way for nomadic societies compared to Western traditions. The use of space must be understood according to culture and social norms.

Documentation of the past, such as maps, paintings and other sources, must be analysed in accordance with the political context. Politically, there might be a motivation to glorify certain types of mobility and dismiss the documentation of some.

What can this historical study tell us about internal human mobility in China today? There are policies of forced migration and relocations of minorities taking place, however research on these topics is being restricted.



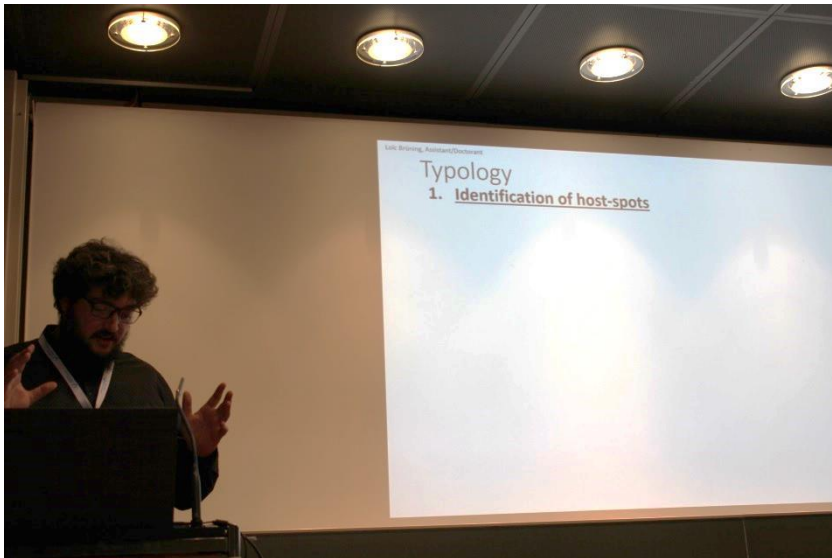
Workshop 1 - Exploring the Past, Imagining New Futures

Löic Brüning, University of Neuchâtel

In order to demonstrate the complexity of the environment-mobility nexus, literature review consisting of forty three case studies from Western Africa was undertaken by Löic Brüning and Etienne Piguet, which is available in the French language at: https://www.unine.ch/files/live/sites/inst_geographie/files/shared/Accueil/Actualit%C3%A9s%20Publications/belgeo-28836.pdf.

This research aims to update the CliMig bibliographic database, which is the first comprehensive collection of resources that specifically concentrates on migration, the environment and climate change. More information is available at: https://www.unine.ch/geographie/climig_database.

The study adopts four families of keywords: area, type, environmental hazard and focus. This open access library identifies host-spots and triggers of migration. It studies migration as a historical phenomenon and investigates the socio-cultural characteristics of the individuals involved.



Giovanna Gini, Queen Mary University

Cultural narratives on climate change examine cultural identities in view of mobility in the context of climate change. For instance, see T. Ingold, *Being Alive: Essays on Movement, Knowledge and Description*, 2011.

The idea that migration can transform cultures is studied, for instance, in K. O'Brien and L. Sygna, "Responding to Climate Change: The Three Spheres of Transformation", 2013.

In this nexus, the role of identity as a process, with a living and ascriptive component, can be discussed. For instance, see A. Gutmann, *Identity in Democracy*, 2003.



Emiliano Guaraldo, University of North Carolina

Eni S.p.A. is an Italian multinational oil and gas company headquartered in Rome. It sponsored the making of industrial cinema as a transformative force of modernisation. *Planet*

Steel (pianeta acciaio), an industrial documentary, and *Aduro*, a short movie as a part of a trilogy, are two exemplary productions which politicise oil and steel industries.

Through such productions, the contrast between traditional societies and modern industrial and capitalist societies are explored. Today, although we are growingly more aware of the destruction of the environment through the extraction of natural resources and mining carried out by big companies, these documentaries from the 1960s had were able to attract sympathy especially in emerging nations.



John Marazita, University of Zurich

Investigating the effects of the policy of “migration with dignity” adopted during the presidency of Anote Tong in Kiribati, John carried out fieldwork research in the form of interviews. Thirty five i-Kiribati, who have participated in labour mobility schemes in Australia and New Zealand were interviewed during the period of July-September 2018. Transcribed texts have been coded and analysed. Multilocality (Thieme, 2017) is adopted in this research to discuss the employment conditions of i-Kiribati labour migrants.

The results will be published as a part of John’s master’s thesis. This research shows that we need to understand the agency, dreams and goals of i-Kiribati better before engaging in a “victimisation” narrative.



Workshop Discussion: Moderated by Prof. Federico Luisetti, University of St. Gallen

Migration/Mobility: How are we using these terms? Considering the negative connotations attached to the term "migrant", former UN Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants adopted the term "mobility". UNHCR, on the other hand, sees mobility as a construction which allows us to move, but in fact those who engage in it are "migrants". We must be wary of conceptual nuances in our own research.

How can we approach human mobility from a historical perspective to revive past instances of migration? For instance, can the lessons learned from the mobility in the Aegean islands during the collapse of the Ottoman Empire help us to solve our current problems in relation to the effects of climate change in islands such as Kiribati?



Workshop 2 - Climate Change and Migration – visual analytics

Prof. Florian Evéquo, University of Fribourg/University of Applied Science Western Switzerland

Using data visualisation, *Constitutions Time Machine* project brings together various constitutions of Valais (Switzerland) and the archives of parliamentary debates to explore the links between constitutional and legislative articles. This study can help the preparation of a new constitution for the canton of Valais. The prototype of the project is available at: <https://www.constitutions.ch/>.

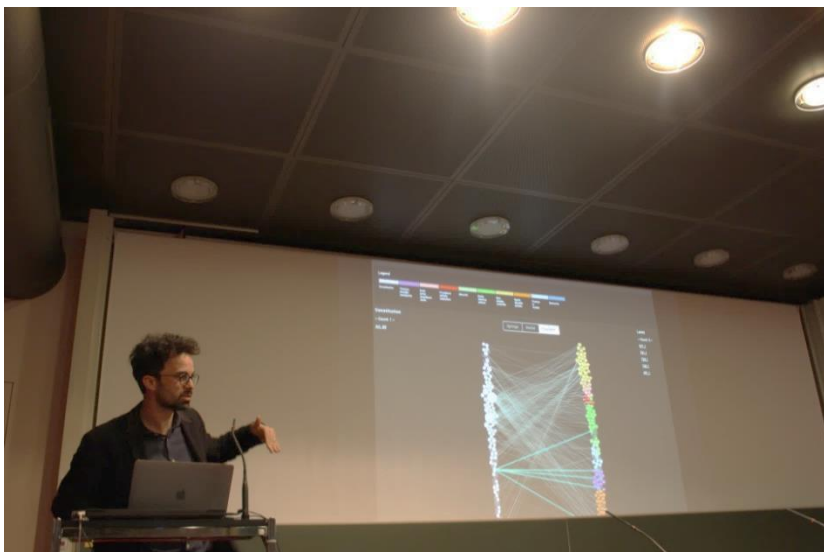
There is no one way to visualise data, however some recommendations to carry out effective data visualisation include: preparing tables for the data starting from the source, then engaging in the process of visual abstraction and finally, collecting views on the product.

Discussion:

To what extent is the cultural background of the addressee affecting data visualisation? Whilst some professions have certain visual representations they use among peers, media outlets have been popularising new forms of data visualisation for the general public. A wider range of representations can now be understood by the public.

How can we deal with concerns of misrepresentation of data through visualisation? Data visualisation can be used to emphasise certain messages, or it can completely misrepresent the truth (e.g. the use of pie charts with data that does not even proportionally make a whole).

How far are we “abstracting” from the data when we visualise it? Are we stripping the political from the understanding and interpretation of data? For instance, visual representations of the “hits” of constitutional articles may end up presenting procedural articles as the most important merely because they are cited in more legal decisions.



Dr. Ilya Boyandin, Teralytics

To visualise movements of people or goods between pairs of geographic locations, the free app called flowmap.blue can be used, which is available at: <https://flowmap.blue/>.

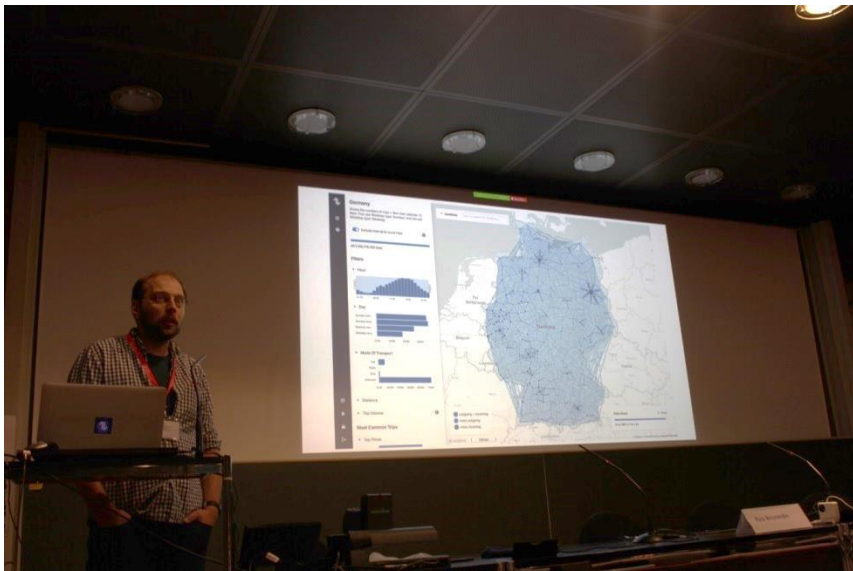
Data in connection to big events, such as hurricane Irma, can be visualised with this tool. Refugee flows or asylum applications can be represented on a bigger scale to understand the full picture.

It is arguable more difficult for people to relate to numbers compared to emotions. So data visualisation in this manner can invoke feelings. For instance, Federica Fragapone presented the data she collected from six interviews with asylum seekers by showing the route they travelled. Her flowmap.blue chart is available at: <http://www.storiesbehindaline.com/>.

Discussion:

When visualising migrants' data, what should we do if the opposite of the message we wanted to deliver is the result of data visualisation? Should we adopt a political agenda and reconsider the visualisation, and find a different way to present the data? Would the answer change if our political agenda is for the "better"?

Is it possible to represent the marginal and excluded groups, which may not be in the documented data, by using these visualisation tools? Entering error margins can be one way of indicating that there is certain undocumented data which cannot be presented.



Pierre Vanhulst, University of Fribourg

As the CLISEL (Climate Security with Local Authorities) project is coming to an end, the interactive map it has built in order to present over 200 law instruments in 25 countries through 3 data visualisation tools was shared with the audience for a test. More information on the CLISEL interactive map is available at: http://www.clisel.eu/Interactive_maps.

“Computer supported collaborative works” are cooperative activities which can be coordinated with the help of computer systems. This ensures that technology can be used to support people at their work.

CLISEL interactive map categorises five types of instruments: migration, emergency (so-called humanitarian measures), climate change/disaster, international cooperation and constitutions.



Public Event – Round Table : Climate Change, Migration and Security

Prof. Marco Armiero (Environmental Humanities Laboratory, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm), Dr. Giovanni Bettini (Lancaster University), Mr. Paolo Cugini (Mayor of Gæssino Torinese, IT), Ms Cinzia Tartarotti (Vicemayor of Calceranica al Lago, IT), Mr Cristian Uez (Mayor of Calceranica al Lago, IT)

Moderator: *Dr Giovanni Pellegri (Università della Svizzera italiana)*

The Public Roundtable took place at the end of the first of the three-days Conference on "Connecting environmental changes and human mobility as a way to draw new maps of knowledge" at the conference centre Monte Verità in Ascona. Prof. Armiero and Dr. Bettini, partners from the CLISEL project, discussed with three representatives of Italian local authorities – Mr. Cugini, Ms. Tartarotti and Mr. Uez – about the topics of migration, climate change and security from the local authorities' perspective during a vivid and highly participated conversation with the public, which was moderated by Dr. Pellegri.

What follows is the report of this conversation.

Prof. Elisa Fornalè introduced the Public Roundtable, highlighting the importance of having at the RoundTable not only academics but also representatives of local authorities, which are an essential component in building up a fruitful dialogue on the topics at hand. She briefly introduced the CLISEL project and one of its objectives: understanding the relationship between migration and climate change in third countries from the perspective of local authorities, starting from the Sardinian region – pilot case study of the project – and other regions in Italy.

Dr. Pellegri took the role of moderator and remarked the importance of doing research and working on the territory with local representatives, especially when it comes to complex phenomena like migration and climate change. He stressed how the society should be 'educated to complexity'. Migration is indeed a complex phenomenon, which needs dedicated instruments in order to be understood; migration is not only a political issue, but firstly a *human* issue.

Dr. Bettini was the first one at the round table to take the floor and to introduce the topics of the roundtable, offering at the same time some food for thought for the following debate. In particular, he stressed out three main ideas:

(1) climate change is actually happening, even though its human impacts are not equally distributed around the world. This lies at the heart of the concept of climate justice - those who are least responsible for climate change suffer its gravest consequences. This, in turn, leads to the problem of identifying the right 'voices' when it comes to deal with the issue of

climate change: today, there is a general dominance of the North of the world to face climate change and to decide which policies to adopt.

(2) Is it *possible* to talk about climate migrants/refugees? In the last 10-15 years, it has become more and more common to talk about how climate change has impacted migration. In 2015, Prince Charles talked about the Syrian situation linking it to the drought that hit the region and remarked how Syria can be an example of what can easily happen in the future as a consequence of climate change. However, Dr. Bettini highlighted that it is important to consider how climate change is interlinked with other phenomena (economic, cultural and environmental processes) when it comes to migratory movements. The concept of climate refugee is indeed quite problematic from an academic perspective: migration is rather a multi-causal human phenomenon, where different factors come into play in the personal decision to move (e.g. economic, social as well as environmental factors) which are difficult to isolate from each other. Furthermore, contrary to the general media narrative of migration movements happening mostly from the south to the north of the world, very often migration takes place at the local level (this is also due to the fact that the decision to migrate far away from its own home place involves higher costs).

(3) Why do we keep talking about climate *refugees*? The choice of this term is linked to the process of securitisation of migration that has been taken place at the national as well as at the international level. Dr. Bettini stressed how the CLISEL project has taken a distance from a securitisation approach to migration and has rather preferred to enquire how the European Union should deal with these phenomena in a positive way.

Lastly, Dr. Bettini proposed a provocative thought for the debate: he recalled that one of the most recurrent phrases during the economic crisis in 2007-2008 was 'it is easier to imagine the end of the world than the end of capitalism', and wondered whether this could be also true for migration. Indeed, while we forecast a catastrophic future for the world (full of wars and famine), we are still assuming that the way we conceive human mobility will remain untouched. Would it be possible to talk about 'climate nomadism' instead?

Before turning to the second speaker of the rountable, **Dott. Pellegri** highlighted also the risk of being either too much moralists or extremists when talking about climate change and migration, as an additional issue for the conversation.

Prof. Armiero brought the historical narrative in the migration-climate change debate, introducing a most famous historical case of migration related to climate change, the *Dust Bowl*.

In the 1930s, sand storms greatly damaged the ecology of the central states of the USA. Especially from Oklahoma, 300,000 – 400,000 people moved away towards California. They were often called 'Okies', in a disparaging tone. We could read their movement as a consequence of climate change – they were running away from sand storms.

However, the Dust Bowl is also an economic-social phenomenon. Indeed, as also illustrated by Donald Worster in its 1979 'Dust Bowl' book, the phenomenon was caused by the capitalistic agriculture that changed the landscape, also leading many farmers to economic losses, which turned in huge debts with local banks. So the 'Okies' were escaping not only from the Dust Bowl, but also from the banks. Prof. Armiero highlighted how the Dust Bowl is a perfect example of how migration can be considered as a multi-causal phenomenon, where the environmental factor is interlinked with other factors and it is quite difficult to isolate each one of them.

Prof. Armiero stressed that the Dust Bowl is also an interesting example of the pivotal role of politics in tackling these phenomena. At the beginning of 1930s, the then president of USA, Herbert Hoover, thought it would have been just a temporary event and took almost no measures to deal with the relevant problems. On the other hand, when Franklin D. Roosevelt became president, he put forward not only political but also cultural responses. Indeed, he believed that investing in culture could have contributed to making the local population in California more accepting the so-called "Okies". To this end, he funded an ambitious photographic campaign to tell (and show) the refugees' stories. The campaign involved talented photographers such as Dorothea Lange. Moreover, Roosevelt funded the so-called Federal Writers Project, whose writers interviewed the 'Okies' and wrote about them (see, e.g., the book 'The Grapes of Wrath' by John Steinbeck, from which a movie of the same name was directed by John Ford, also starring Henry Fonda).

Actually, political responses have a huge role in facilitating the integration process of migrants.

Dr. Pellegri asked then the Italian representatives of local authorities to bring their own local experiences to the conversation.

Mr Cugini brought the experience of his local community, Gassino Torinese, a municipality with 9 505 habitants and 664 immigrants. He recalled that he had already the opportunity to discuss these topics with Prof. Fornalè during a CLISEL workshop that was held in Turin on 28 September 2018, as part of the CLISEL activities with local authorities.

During the conversation, he brought in particular the experience of international cooperation projects supported and managed by the Autorità d'ambito Torinese A.T.O. 3 of the municipality of Turin (an association of 307 municipalities – including Gassino Torinese - within the territory of the Metropolitan City of Turin, which is in charge of integrated water services within the territory) and the Società Metropolitana Acque Torino S.p.A. (SMAT Turin – the metropolitan corporation for the management of water services in Turin). For a number of years, they had funded international cooperation projects (e.g. to contribute to water services in Africa) financed from the municipalities' local taxes on water services. Furthermore, part of the water bill was allocated to investment in mountain regions, so that to limit human migration from mountain to cities.

By bringing this example, Mr. Cugini stressed that it is indeed possible to implement real policies on the territory that can impact climate change, without completely change citizens' daily lifestyle. He also stressed the role of media in affecting the reaction of people to particular issues, including migration. He reported how on his local territory, since years now, an established NGO - operating in Haiti and in the Sahel region – has been taken care of integrating immigrant families from Somalia and Senegal in the local communities and how this fact has raised sudden concern only recently among local citizens because of its media relevance – combined with other concomitant news about immigrants.

Also **Mr Uez**, Mayor of Calceranica al Lago, a municipality of 1361 habitants and 67 immigrants in Italy, brought his experience and in particular he reported a good experience of integration of a Syrian family in the local community. He recalled that the autonomous province of Trento concluded an agreement with the Italian government for putting in place on the territory a system of so-called 'accoglienza diffusa' (*widespread reception*), according to which reception of migrants is made by integrating families in the local communities in different territorial areas.

He reported that the first question he had to tackle as mayor regarding the integration of the new Syrian family, with two little children, was how to introduce them to the local community; the local administration chose to manage the integration process respecting the personal dignity of the family. Accordingly, a social network was created in order to promote social moments of aggregation (e.g. by inviting the children to birthday parties, summer kindergartens...). This approach helped in overcoming the possible fear of 'the other' and in understanding that behind each migration story there is a human story that deserves respect and human dignity.

Ms Tartarotti, Deputy Mayor of Calceranica al Lago, further highlighted that the local dimension is very important and it may be easier to find alternative and 'human' solutions for integration within smaller local realities and communities.

Answering a **question** from the public, whether it would be possible to share good practices at the local level between local municipalities, **Mr Cugini** and **Mr Uez** agreed that the sharing of good practices may work better among neighbor municipalities, while it could be more complicated among municipalities from different countries.

During the **public debate**, a question also arose whether the CLISEL project has already some results that could be shared on these complex topics. **Prof. Armiero** introduced the novelty of the CLISEL Travel App, as an instrument that has been finalizing as part of the outcomes of the project that could allow, among others, the network among local authorities. **Dr Bettini**, on the other hand, highlighted two main objectives of the project: (1) raise the voice of local authorities in a positive participated process; and (2) contribute to a thoughtful debate on the interactions of these phenomena at the local level.

Ms Tartarotti also recalled the very positive experience of the CLISEL workshop that was held in Calceranica al Lago on 31 July 2018 with the collaboration of 'Comunità Alta Valsugana e Bersntol'- which gathers several municipalities of the territory. The workshop was indeed a positive moment for mayors to gather and have the opportunity to talk about local problems related to migration.

Dr Pellegri remarked the innovative perspective of CLISEL to tackle global issues by starting from the local level. To the **question** whether it is possible to forecast how migration movements will be impacted by climate change in the future, **Prof. Armiero** reported that even though there are some data on how migration could evolve in the future because of climate change, these are not reliable. He also stressed that what is worrying today is the rise of xenophobia and racism and how it is up to politicians to decide and put in place the correct policies to tackle these issues.

Other **questions** raised the importance of the communication and media system in order to correct inform people.

At the end of the roundtable, **Dr Pellegri** expressed the wish that the debate have contributed to 'read' these global phenomena under new lights of knowledge.

Tuesday, 5 March 2019

Prof. Marco Armiero, KTH Royal Institute of Technology

Environmental History of Modern Migrations, edited by Marco Armiero and Richard Tucker, offers a worldwide perspective on the history of migrations through the 19th and 20th centuries.

Occupy Climate Change is a project researching the issue of loss and damage and the impact of climate change on five cities, namely Istanbul, Naples, Stockholm, New York City and Rio de Janeiro. More information about the project is available at: <https://www.kth.se/en/abe/inst/philhist/historia/ehl/projects/occ/occupy-climate-change-occ-1.783230>.

There are three approaches to environmental history of migration: the assertive style, the constructivist style and the embodied style. In his study of the "dust bowl refugees" from Oklahoma, Donald Worster examines the ecological crisis from the perspective of the economic crisis of 1929. Such historical accounts are examples of connecting environmental mobility to the political, economic and social factors.

Discussion:

Historical accounts of migrants might end up adopting two extremes: either victimising the migrants or emphasising their agency. A more refined understanding can show the instances where the migrants are a victim to a crisis as well as showing their agency. However, where does victimisation end and agency begin? In cases of new identity politics, which focuses on factors such as gender and class, how can we find the right balance between victimisation-agency in our narratives?

Resilience as a term can also carry the connotation of being resilient to change for the better. How can we treat this terminology in our historical evaluations of migrations?



Second Session: Expanding Claims

Dr. Giovanni Bettini, University of Lancaster

In order to understand the role of fear in migration and climate change, Giovanni Bettini, Nicholas Beuret and Ethemcan Turhan undertook a study in Sardinia. Ulrich Beck's conceptualisation of risk society is adopted to describe the conditions of being afraid and being alert to "looming threats". Other publications of Dr. Giovanni are available at: <https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/lec/about-us/people/giovanni-bettini>.

Whilst both climate change and migration cause fear, only the fear related to migration escalate into political action. Elections (mostly local) can be won and lost based on migration, whereas climate change does not seem to have a strong political impact. One tentative hypothesis is that translating the fear for climate change into action would require questioning the dominant socio-economic foundations of society. Putting the fear for migrants into politics, on the other hand, can be in tune with dominant norms.

Sardinia is adopted as the object of the case study because it is a rather "mundane" case, one which is not under imminent threat from climate change or migration. Interviews, workshops, focus groups and questionnaires were undertaken with 58 participants.

Discussion:

How can we make sense of collective fear in comparison with individual fear? Societal discourse can co-determine and modulate a collective fear. However, local authorities have different ways of engaging in security and contributing to the societal discourse. This is sometimes determined by what the local governance structure incorporates – the acuteness of climate change impacts might render it insignificant for local political affairs. However, in the case of Sardinia, a recent study shows that even though extreme effects of climate change can be felt, still the fear towards it does not channel into political action. There might be an "illusion" that mayors can do something about migration but not about climate change.



Prof. Miriam Cullen, University of Copenhagen

Remote subnational communities being impacted by climate change might have the right to apply for the United Nations Human Rights Committee ("HRC"), as explored further by Miriam Cullen in her recent article, available at: <https://www.elgaronline.com/view/journals/jhre/9-2/jhre.2018.02.03.xml>.

A specific study of the impacts of climate change on the Australian Torres Strait Islanders, and the applicability of the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights ("ICCPR") shows that the islanders are entitled to apply to the HRC.

In times of political inaction to protect the rights of communities in the context of climate change, and when there is limited room for admissible domestic claims, HRC can provide an avenue for upholding the human rights of the communities.

Among the youth in particular, it is argued that there is no desire to return to Torres Strait Islands. The older people have a greater sense of attachment. This aspect might complicate the debate in favour of legal action.

Discussion:

What are the advantages and disadvantages of the possibility of planned relocations for Torres Strait Islanders? It might be a good solution to respond to climate change related effects, however there is little political willingness to start this process.

Can a more expensive view of the extraterritorial application of the ICCPR, in line with the recent general comments of the HRC, encourage Torres Strait Islanders to make a complaint to the HRC? Are there any applications made to the HRC by asylum seekers who are outside of Australia, for the violation of their human rights? What can such applications teach us about the human rights-climate change nexus?



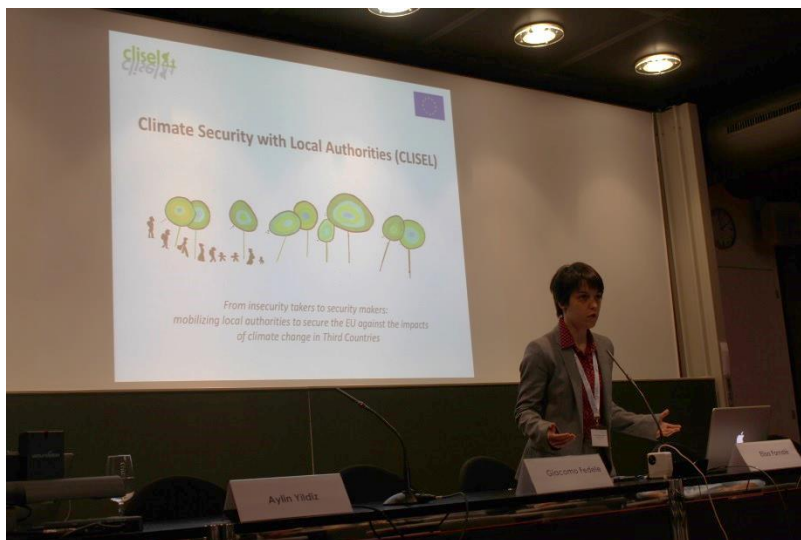
Workshop 3 – Implementation in the Field

Dr. Olimpia Loddo, University of Cagliari

The disaster management acts of the Philippines, Bangladesh and Nepal endorse a new conception of managing disasters, which is not only reactive to events but also proactive.

Although these acts do not deal with disaster displacement, bilateral and regional agreements regarding movement of workers and people would be applicable for external protection.

Despite considerable and recent improvements with regards to legislation on disaster management, there are still significant shortcomings, such as unclear responsibilities for effective implementation and lack of resources.



Suzy Blondin, University of Neuchâtel

During her fieldwork in Tajikistan, Suzy adopted the ethnographic qualitative method to undertake interviews, and to make observations and videos about the environmental changes in Central Asia.

Motility, which refers to mobility potential, raises the issue of who can appropriate mobility. If migration is seen as an adaptation strategy, then the mobility justice discussion as to who has the means or the choice to migrate must be considered.

The adaptive capacity of those who choose to stay must be explored further. In such instances, the everyday movement of people may still be hampered by environmental disasters and hazards.



Aylin Yildiz, University of Bern

"Sinking islands" and "space settlement" are two scenarios in which human mobility in the context of environmental degradation might occur. In relation to "sinking islands", or more accurately the disappearing states, legal developments have been non-binding and fragmented. In relation to space settlement, although there is a binding international governance structure under the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, there has been no international policy or law making to address human mobility to outer space.

Considering the multitude of actors in the policy and law making spheres of human mobility in relation to the disappearing islands (such as NGOs) and settlement in space (such as private companies), these movements might be operated by the non-binding principles emerging as a result of fragmented practices. They might also be "wild", as such operations might be "off" their intended course.



Dr. Giacomo Fedele, Conservation International

Nature can contribute to the reduction of forced migration in the context of climate change. The stories of coffee farmers in Mexico and rice farmers in Madagascar show that restoring and diversifying livelihoods can help people adapt to climate change locally.

Nature based adaptation approaches to climate change focus on regulating services (such as soil fertility, pests regulations), cultural services (such as outdoor activities and recreation) and supporting services (such as biodiversity and habitat).

Workshop Discussion: Moderated by Prof. Elisa Fornalé, University of Bern

Resilience has not been mentioned by any of the presenters. What are the connotations attached to resilience, how did the term come to emerge? For a critical writing on resilience, please see: Maria Kaika, "Don't call me resilient again!: the New Urban Agenda as immunology or what happens when communities refuse to be vaccinated with smart cities and indicators", 2017.

How is irregular mobility portrayed in the possibilities to be mobile?

How are non-human mobilities in the context of climate change affecting our research and the movement of people?



Third Session: Expanding Governance and Cooperative Mechanisms – Global Compact for Migration and for Refugees

Dr. Ama Francis, Columbia Law School

In order to understand the impact of free movement agreements on disaster displacement, Ama Francis undertook a case study of the Caribbeans. CARICOM Free Movement Framework was agreed upon by fifteen island nations in 2001. When hurricane Maria hit Dominica,

35,000 new internal displacements were triggered. With half of the population displaced, this incident has created the highest number of internal displacement in the world.

Cross border disaster displacements happen regionally. For the Caribbean context, CARICOM free movement agreement provided legal pathways and increased community resilience.



Dr. Daniela Vitiello, University Tuscia

The asymmetry between rights and powers in international migration law can be explained through the metaphors of "honeymoon" (the universal right of free movement of people) and "divorce" (the Hobbesian concept of state sovereignty).

A legal consequence of this asymmetry is that free movement is an incomplete right, which gives rise to complementary protection.

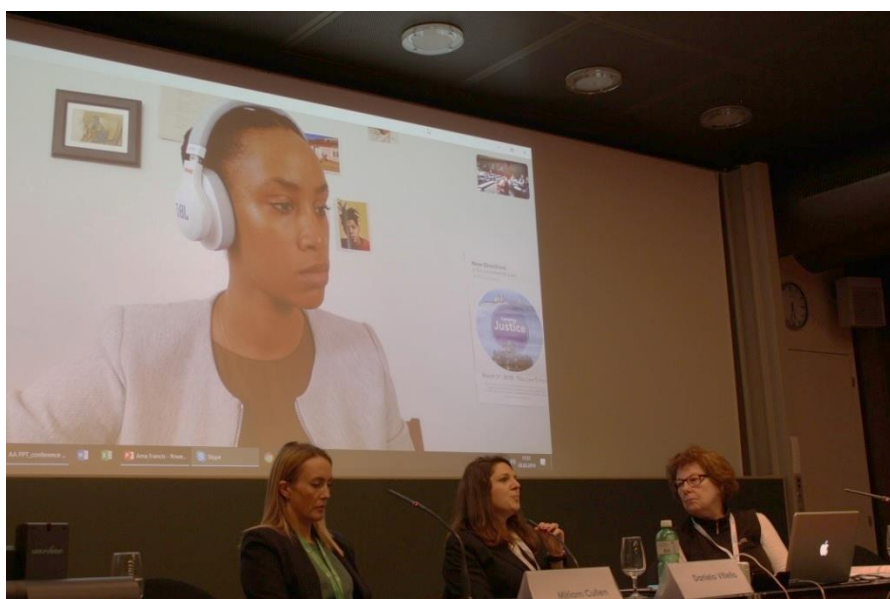
The number of people on the move has increased. This is an indicator that the revival of Hobbesian frontiers as physical barriers delimitating sovereignty, is not strategy that "works".



Session Discussion: Moderated by Prof. Elspeth Guild, Queen Mary University/Radboud University Nijmegen and Prof. Miriam Cullen, University of Copenhagen

Free movement agreements are growingly adopted as a recommended policy to combat disaster displacement. To what extent can we suggest that the increasing number of regional and/or bilateral free movement agreements are a sign of an emerging customary international law?

What are the ramifications of the state of exception, which works as a "pop up bar", on the implementation of the right to free movement? Perhaps international policy-making processes, such the Global Compact for Migration, show the willingness of the international community to initiate processes and can be presumed as the new normal.



Dr. Nicholas Kramar, Director of the Museum of Nature of Valais

More information on the Museum of Nature of Valais is available at : <https://www.musees-valais.ch/musee-de-la-nature/presentation.html>.

The Anthropocene encompasses environmental changes from a broader perspective, and proposes a new geological epoch. There are many lithostratigraphic signals of the Anthropocene, which can be seen from the rocks with plastic, or chicken bones which can be found everywhere on earth.

The Anthropocene is not a crisis ; because for a crisis we need to have a position to go back to, and we cannot go back to the way our environment was.

Our world has seen five main extinction events, and we are currently on the path to the sixth. The speed of this extinction is faster than a volcanic event and climate change is only a small fraction of biodiversity loss.

Ursula Biemann's short movie titled "Deep Water" depicts the narratives of water and oil in the planetary ecology. The video is available at : <http://www.vdb.org/titles/deep-weather>



Wednesday, 6 March 2019

Prof. Elspeth Guild, Queen Mary University/Radboud University Nijmegen

Human mobility is a purely political discussion. Those who argue in favour of mobility use the term in order to get away from the negative implications which have been attached to the term "migration". In order to reclaim the word, we need to attack xenophobia and insist that all of us migrate all the time.

Article 13(1) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is our starting point to frame the freedom of movement.

What is invested state sovereignty and how is it realised into an area of public policy? Investing in migration control as a part of state sovereignty is a recent phenomenon.

Hoti v. Croatia is a recent decision of the European Court of Human Rights, which can guide research analysing statelessness in the context of climate change.

“The magic performed by the border”: the border transforms an individual from a citizen to a foreigner.

Transnationalism and mobility: Looking beyond the bureaucratic theory of Max Weber, policies of open borders, such as the Schengen area and the Caribbean Community, reflects the positive pressure for the abolishment of border controls.

Discussion:

The free movement regime between the Ukraine and the EU can be analysed as an instance which dropped off asylum applications and gave the option to people to be labour migrants instead of refugees.

The magic of the border can also be extended to inside the border. For instance, history shows us that the Italian migrants who moved to the USA from Sicily were “reminded” that they were Italians, but in fact they considered themselves as having a separate identity before crossing the US border.



Award Ceremony for the Best Presentation by a Young Researcher

In 2009, to mark the 20th anniversary of the activity of the Congressi Stefano Franscini, ETH Zurich's conference platform at Monte Verità (Ascona, Ticino), the Director and the Scientific Board of the Congressi Stefano Franscini established a CSF Award for young scientists, for the best presentation at each CSF- subsidised conference.

Suzy Blondin, a PhD candidate at the Institute of Geography, University of Neuchâtel was awarded the award consisting of CHF 500, together with a certificate and a small CSF memento.

