



## **M3: Adaptation through Migration - Limits, Conflicts and Policy Solutions**

Host: **Nicole Glanemann** (*PIK & WHU - Otto Beisheim School of Management, Germany*)

Co-host: Anders Levermann (*PIK, Germany*)

Rapporteur: Eva Leptien (*BTU Cottbus-Senftenberg, Germany*)

---

### **Summary of themes covered in workshop**

#### **1. Presentation:**

The first presentation provided an analysis of policy making with respect to human migration. The research was motivated by the question: How can we influence policy-making and how can we engage in policy relevant research? Climate migration has been part of the political agendas at least since 2007, with Cancun, Doha, the Paris decision, and a newly created task force on displacement. Now, migration as a result of climate change is primary part of the Loss and Damage discussion under the Warsaw International Mechanism. However, there is only limited attention paid to climate migration in (inter)national politics.

Categories of human mobility in politics:

- Displacement
- Migration
- With a grey zone in between those two zones.

How is human mobility being conceptualized?

- Displacement, people are forced to leave
- Migration, movement is predominantly voluntary

- Planned relocation, organized relocation

This conceptualization was followed by the term “Potentiality”, which is the possibility for a person to become mobile. Indicating that there are different stages of mobility: Actualized mobility, potential mobility and immobility. Immobility needs to also be considered even though it is not part of the migrations/displacement discourse.

A quest for policy relevance: relevance relies on established categories at the various institutions.

Conclusions: will policy move beyond these categories? No it probably won't. Academia however can break free from these categories. We can/should make our policy irrelevant because when research is founded on being policy relevant you are stuck within set concepts which may not fit your research and limit your results. As academia we can push the boundaries a little bit.

Research should break free from categories set by organizations.

## **2. Presentation**

The second presentation discusses “Environmental migrants in India” with a focus on rural-out migration. The central question of the research is: Who are the environmental migrants? Especially in India, the environment has been perceived as a direct driver for migration. But the environment actually has direct and indirect effects on migration at three levels:

1. The macro level reasons for decisions to migrate: as environmental, political, economic, social and demographic factors,
2. The meso level for the decision to migrate: obstacles and facilitators,
3. And the mirco level: personal reasons

The presented research focused on the micro level with a geographical focus on India, the research is gender specific. There results presented are for males between 15-65.

For decades there has been a gap in rural and urban wages in India. But, nonetheless, migration rates were low, this is due to a strong reliance on informal insurance by caste, if people migrate they have lose their insurance because they are no longer in their usual social setting.

Climate Change and India: Indian communities are highly dependent on agriculture, the agriculture is dependent on rain water. As whether patterns change due to climate change, permanent migration patterns will change

Conclusion: male migration is the main strategy to cope with environmental stress and pressures at origin. Droughts appear to decrease migration and may trap vulnerable segments of society at origin.

So, who are the migrants? They tend to be male, have sufficient financial resources with unspecific household structures.

Questions from the audience:

- What was the exact level of analysis? Households with environmental data on district level
  - Were time lags in analysis included?
  - Do you know where the people (males in this case) migrate to? The migration corridors would be interesting. Is there places they migrate to/from specifically?
  - What kind of migration do you consider? Because the rainy season/monsoon is different every year and see that people migrate to wherever conditions are good, so with changes in migration patterns depending on the specific monsoon season?
- 

### **Most controversial question that came up in this workshop?**

Two controversial questions were raised during the workshop, one conceptual/ theoretical and the other hoping for a more practical answer:

1. Should we use the term climate migration or climate refugees?
  2. How can we institutionalize migration/refugee solutions?
- 

### **Results of the discussion**

The results of the discussion can be summarized as follows:

- In the audience/academia are different perceptions on the question of the terminology “migrant or refugee”: most commonly used is the term “migrants” as also most small island states do not like using the term refugee. Some however argue that the term climate refugee should be used instead as it would entail more urgency which will eventually provide legal certainty for people and communities affected and contribute the institutionalization of a solution.

- There are various reasons for the movement of people, it is hard to pin down their reason for moving to either climate change or any other driver, it can very well be a combination.
  - Migration/seeking refuge can be seen as a form of adaptation; however, at the same time it exceeds adaptation as adaptation should ideally prevent that people /communities lose their home. Therefore, Loss and Damage must pick up migration/refugees and ensure assistance.
  - Policy-makers must take the problem seriously and they should organize the problem in order to find a solution. One part of this would be finding a scheme for allocating the people, organizing financial assistance, etc.
- 

### **Research gaps identified**

- Institutionalize migration as a result of climate change,
  - Where should policy start?
  - What do “climate refugees” want? There is a need to speak to the people directly
- 

### **Next steps**

Next steps would include finding a place for climate migrants/refugees in international/national policies and law-making, ideally within the Paris Agreement framework. The Loss and Damage Mechanism is still in development and has great potential for providing a prominent place for climate migrants/refugees. The discussion during (and after) the workshop indicated that Loss and Damage would be the appropriate framework.

---

### **Other**

NA

---

### **3-5 keywords that characterize the session**

Migrants, Refugees, Institutionalization, Adaptation, Loss and Damage

