



**12TH IMISCOE CONFERENCE
RIGHTS, DEMOCRACY AND MIGRATION**

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Call for Abstracts:

Placing Environmental Mobility in Migration Studies: Cross-cutting Concepts and Theory

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Summary: Migration from areas affected by environmental changes, whether tied to natural disasters or slow-onset environmental degradation, demonstrates that human mobility is intimately connected to the physical environments in which people live, leave, and arrive. In a world facing extreme climate change alongside natural and manmade disasters, increasingly scholars, policymakers and the public acknowledge their human impacts in terms of population displacement and migration. Yet while the empirical literature grows on said ‘environmental migration’, its placement within mainstream migration studies remains relatively weak, hampered by a lack of theoretical and conceptual cross-dialogue. However, the distinction between ‘environmental’ migration and ‘labor’ migration, for example, is far from clear-cut in empirical case studies. Black and colleagues (2011) acknowledged that the environment is just one of five assemblages of migration drivers, the others being demographic, political, social, and economic, none of which can be taken in isolation. In fact, many traditional countries of labor emigration, such as the Philippines, Senegal and Bangladesh, are simultaneously experiencing environmental degradation that has altered historical population movements’ volume and trajectories. Furthermore, migrants often leave regions of origin where natural and land resources are depleting in order to diversify their livelihood strategies, and they frequently engage in many of the very same transnational practices that are found among migrant groups unaffected by environmental issues, e.g. remittances.

The objectives of the proposed panel are thus two-fold: 1) to embed and promote environmental migration within broader migration studies and the IMISCOE research network; and 2) to develop theoretical and conceptual frameworks that bridge traditional studies of migration with those on environmental migration by explicitly recognizing their overlapping features. This panel, therefore, invites abstracts that apply and/or adapt existing migration literature within an environmental context, e.g. migration-development debates, transnationalism, integration, social or other forms of capital, etc.

Please send abstracts of maximum **400** words to Caroline.Zickgraf@ulg.ac.be by **January 14th, 2015**.

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