

CENTER FOR
LATIN
AMERICAN
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STUDIES

Religion and
Climate Change
in Cross-Regional
Perspective



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY
WASHINGTON, DC

Climate change is dramatically altering the planet and affecting human livelihoods in ways that elicit religious responses. Building upon earlier CLALS work focused on forms of religious engagement with environmental conflict in Latin America, this project deepens understandings of the relationship between religion and the effects of climate change across multiple regions of the world. In the process, it addresses three interrelated questions: the role of religion in ongoing public discourse on climate change, religious sources of environmental knowledge that inform community responses to climate change, and the ways that climate change also drives religious change.

A collaboration between Latin Americanists and Caribbeanist researchers along with scholars and practitioners focused on South Asia and the South Pacific, this project transcends the geographic barriers which too often constrain conventional area studies initiatives.

Dialogues across regions and religions have given special attention to three features of climate change, with a focus on water: the effects of glacial melt in the Andes and Himalayas, climate-related stress upon urban water systems in South America and South Asia, and the vulnerabilities of small island archipelagos in the Caribbean and the South Pacific.

Outcomes of this project include three international



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workshops, two edited volumes with university presses, an additional Spanish-language edited volume, three short documentary films, two climate diplomacy public forums, presentations at multiple academic conferences, and print and media journalism, in formats and forums designed to inform policy decision makers and stakeholders in Latin America, the Caribbean,

South Asia, and Oceania.

With generous support from the Henry Luce Foundation's Initiative on Religion in International Affairs, this project is led by Evan Berry, former Faculty Affiliate and Assistant Professor in Arizona State University's School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies, together with CLALS Director Eric Hershberg and Research Associate Professor Robert Albro.