

CENTER FOR
LATIN
AMERICAN
& LATINO
STUDIES

Religion and
Environmentally
-Induced
Displacement



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY
WASHINGTON, DC

RELIGION AND ENVIRONMENTALLY-INDUCED DISPLACEMENT

Rapidly altering environments, often as a consequence of climate change, are an increasingly important driver of human mobility across international borders. Building upon earlier CLALS work on forms of religious engagement with environmental conflict and with climate change, both in Latin America and elsewhere, this project seeks to advance understanding of the religious response to environmental displacement throughout Latin America and the Caribbean, including religion's role at each phase of environmental migration, from departure or displacement, during transit, to arrival and adaptation. In the process, this project examines how different religious traditions inform individual and community responses to environmental dislocations, including Christian, but also Afro-Latino and Indigenous religious beliefs and practice.

CLALS pursues this agenda with attention to several dimensions of religious engagement with environmental displacement: 1. the potential contributions of faith-based actors and religious concepts to national and international deliberations and to emerging normative frameworks addressing new governance and security challenges posed by environmental migration; 2. the participation of transnational faith-based non-governmental organizations in humanitarian interventions on behalf of migrants; 3. the role in receiving communities



of religion and churches for addressing the needs of migrants, especially in contexts of resettlement and societal integration; and 4. the ways religious engagement is well-positioned to ameliorate intangible and collective dimensions of environmental dislocations beyond just the material needs of migrants. Outcomes of this project include

international workshops, documentary films, and multiple publications through our Working Papers series and other outlets.

With generous support from the Henry Luce Foundation's Initiative on Religion in International Affairs, this project is led by CLALS Director Eric Hershberg and Research Associate Professor Robert Albro.