

Climate-Induced Displacement

LEGAL OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES



OCTOBER 12-13, 2018

The Whitney and Betty MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies at Yale
Henry R. Luce Hall
34 Hillhouse Avenue • New Haven, Connecticut





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The purpose of this event is to draw attention to the scope and complexity of climate migration and displacement issues as the fall UNFCCC discussions and conclusion of the Global Compact on Migration approaches, and to produce useful outcomes that may accelerate global action on climate induced migration and displacement. Experts will address a number of perspectives including the economic, social and legal impacts of climate migration and displacement.

Conference Sponsors

- The Edward J. and Dorothy Clark Kempf Fund
- Yale Program on Refugees, Forced Displacement, and Humanitarian Responses
- The Asian American Cultural Center at Yale
- Yale Law and Psychiatry Program
- Woodward Lectureship, Office of the Secretary and Vice President for Student Life
- Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
- The Whitney and Betty MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies at Yale

Program Schedule

Friday, October 12 • Luce Auditorium

- 8:30 AM** **Registration (light breakfast & coffee available)**
- 9:00 AM** **Opening Remarks**
Maya Prabhu, *Yale Department of Psychiatry*
Dane Ratliff, *Center for International Sustainable Development Law*
- 9:15 AM** **Introductory Remarks**
“A Moment of Hope – How States Can Lead in the Absence of Federal Leadership”
Rob Klee, *Commissioner of Connecticut’s Department of Energy and Environmental Protection*
- 9:30 AM** **Session 1: Case Studies in Climate Displacement**
“Unpacking Myths around Climate Change and Human Mobility: Beyond ‘Climate Refugees’”
Erica Bower, *formerly UNHCR Climate Specialist*
“The Rohingya Crisis and Climate Amplification”
Mayesha Alam, *Yale Department of Political Science*
“Drought and Displacement in the Middle East”
Alyssa Parpia, *Yale School of Public Health*
Moderator: Ann Kurth, Dean and Linda Koch Lorimer Professor, Yale School of Nursing
- 10:30 AM** **Coffee Break (Luce Room 203)**
- 10:45 AM** **Session 2: Keynote Address**
“Migration with Dignity”
His Excellency Anote Tong, *Former President of Kiribati*
Followed by Q & A with audience
- 12:00 PM** **Break**
- 1:00 PM** **Session 3: Planning for Climate Displacement**
“Climate Projections: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly”
Michael Kruk, *ERT, INC at NOAA’s National Centers for Environmental Information*
“Climate Displacement in Development Financing: The Groundswell Project”
Kanta Kumari Rigaud, *World Bank*
“Climate Refugees? Causes of Emigration from Eastern Senegal”
Jesse Ribot, *University of Illinois*
Moderator: Mushfiq Mobarak, Chair, South Asian Studies Council; Professor of Economics
- 2:30 PM** **Coffee Break**
- 2:45 PM** **Session 4: Brief Remarks**
“How does Climate Migration Fit into the Paris Accord Process?”
Ayman Cherkaoui, *Executive Director of UNGC Morocco, Coordinator at the Mohammed VI Foundation for Environmental Protection, and Special Advisor of the Presidency for COP22/23*
- 3:15 PM** **Coffee Break**

Program Schedule

- 3:30 PM** **Session 5: Local Responses to Displacement**
“Responding to the Puerto Rican Diaspora after Hurricane Maria”
Meredith Niess *and others from the Fair Haven Community Clinic Project*
Marietta Vazquez, *Yale School of Medicine*
“Recovery and Resilience after Hurricane Katrina”
Elizabeth Fussell, *Brown University*
Moderator: Dane Ratliff, Center for International Sustainable Development Law

4:30 PM **Wrap-Up, Reception**

Saturday, October 13 • Luce Auditorium

- 8:30 AM** **Registration (light breakfast & coffee available)**
- 9:00 AM** **Session 1: Opening Remarks**
“Taking Stock of Research on Climate Change, Migration, and the Law: Achievements and Remaining Issues”
Benoit Mayer, Professor, *The Chinese University of Hong Kong*
- 9:30 AM** **Session 2: Knowledge Gaps in Law and Policy Frameworks that Climate Science Can Fill**
“The Climate Resilience Toolkit”
Edward Gardiner, *NOAA Affiliate*
“Climate Science Informing Displaced Communities”
Marjorie McGuirk, *CASE Consultants*
“Addressing Climate-Induced Displacements: Systems Thinking”
Robert Brammer, *American Bar Association*
Moderator: Kaveh Khoshnood, Associate
- 10:30 AM** **Coffee Break**
- 10:45 AM** **Session 3: Legal Challenges and Creative Solutions**
“Whither Statehood? The Legal Status of Submerged States”
Christina Hioureas, *Counsel and Chair of the United Nations Practice Group at Foley Hoag LLP*
“International Law Governance of Internally Displaced Persons”
Alexandra Harrington, *Fulbright Canada Research Chair in Global Governance*
“When “Internal Displacement” is not so Internal: Examining the Legal Rights of Remote Sub-National Communities”
Miriam Cullen, *Copenhagen University*
Moderator: Benoit Mayer, Professor, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
- 12:00 PM** **Break**
- 1:00 PM** **Workshop Sessions**
 - A gap analysis of climate science needed to support Climate-Induced Displacement law and policy
 - Synthesizing the legal issues from previous panels and Q & A sessions
 - Roundtable on the *Practical Aspects of Relocation with a special focus on Aboriginal, Indigenous and First Nations communities*
- 2:00–3:00 PM** **Reports from Workshops, Plenary Discussion, Next Steps**

Speaker Biographies

His Excellency Anote Tong

His Excellency Anote Tong is the former President of the Republic of Kiribati (2003 to 2016) and a world-renowned advocate for addressing climate change. Anote Tong was born in 1952 on Fanning Island (also known as Tabuaeran) in the Line Islands and was a member of the Kiribati House of Parliament from the constituency of Maiana Island in the central Kiribati group.

Since the beginning of his presidency, President Anote Tong has built worldwide awareness of the potentially devastating impacts of climate change. He has stated on many occasions that Kiribati may cease to exist altogether and that its entire population may need to be resettled not as climate change refugees but as citizens who migrate on merit and with dignity.

President Tong will discuss the dramatic impact of climate change on Kiribati, a “frontline country” with one of the lowest carbon-emission footprints in the world. As a measure to set an example for the rest of the world, President Tong created the Phoenix Islands Protected Area, one of the largest marine protected areas in the world with a size of 408,250 square kilometers which was inscribed as a United Nations World Heritage site in 2008.

President Tong has won a number of awards and recognition that acknowledges his contribution and leadership on climate change and ocean conservation. He has been nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize for his work and advocacy.

Mayesha Alam

Mayesha Alam’s research interests intersect comparative politics, international relations and international law specifically related to the causes and consequences of armed conflict. Mayesha’s first book, *Women and Transitional Justice: Progress and Persistent Challenges in Retributive and Restorative Processes*, was published by Palgrave Macmillan in 2014 and she is co-editor of a forthcoming book on Women and Gender Perspectives in the Military to be published by Georgetown University Press. Prior to pursuing her doctoral studies in political science at Yale, Mayesha served as the deputy director of the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security in Washington, D.C. She has also worked on policy design, implementation, and evaluation with the United Nations, World Bank, and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. Ms. Alam will analyze the socioeconomic and environmental implications of the

Rohingya refugee crisis on Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh – a region prone to climate change-related natural disasters.

Erica Bower

Erica Bower is a specialist on governance of climate change and human mobility, from rights based approaches. She is an Independent Consultant, currently working on gender dimensions of these themes for UN Women and the Sierra Club. She formerly worked to advance policy, legal and practical solutions for the disaster displaced as a thematic specialist at the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR). She has previous experience as a researcher for Oxfam United Kingdom, the Mary Robinson Foundation for Climate Justice, the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre and for the South Asia consultations of the Nansen Initiative. She holds a Masters Degree in Forced Migration Studies from Oxford University, and a Bachelors Degree in Sustainable Development and Human Rights from Columbia University. Ms Bower will present on key debates in the discourse around displacement, migration as adaptation, and planned relocation in a changing climate. Her presentation will cover diverse aspects of this climate-mobility nexus, including gender dimensions.

Robert F. Brammer

Dr. Robert F. Brammer is the President and CEO of Brammer Technology, LLC, a consultancy focusing on information technology, cybersecurity, and the environment. He retired as VP for advanced technology and chief technology officer (CTO) for Northrop Grumman’s Information Systems sector. He has served on advisory boards for the Department of Defense, the National Academy of Sciences, the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research, and NASA. He is currently Co-Chair of the Cleantech and Climate Change Committee for the American Bar Association and a member of the Financial Weather Risk Management Committee of the American Meteorological Society.

Ayman Cherkaoui

Ayman Cherkaoui is the Executive Director of UN Global Compact Morocco, Project Coordinator at the Mohammed VI Foundation for Environmental Protection and Lead Counsel for Climate Change at the Center for International

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Sustainable Development Law. He is part of the inaugural cohort of the Obama Foundation Africa leaders, an Emerging Leader per OCP Policy Center one of the 50 that will make the Morocco of tomorrow according to TelQuel. Ayman Cherkaoui was Special Advisor to the Presidency for COP22 and COP23.

Miriam Cullen

Miriam serves as Assistant Professor of Climate and Migration Law at Copenhagen University. Supported by a grant from the Independent Research Fund Denmark, Miriam currently researches legal responses to climate-induced migration with a particular focus on human rights and remote communities. Originally from New Zealand, Miriam represented the Australian Government on the Third Committee (Human Rights) of the UN General Assembly, and has held positions in the International Legal and International Security Divisions of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and the Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Section of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. She has led a number of parliamentary inquiries in Australia; trained parliamentary secretariats from across the Pacific; and was a Visiting Professional in the Immediate Office of the Prosecutor at the International Criminal Court.

Elizabeth Fussell

Elizabeth Fussell is a demographer and sociologist who studies population change in New Orleans since Hurricane Katrina as well as environmental causes of migration throughout the United States. She is Associate Professor of Population Studies and Environment and Society (Research) at Brown University and Editor-in-Chief of *Population and Environment*. Fussell examines social, economic, and environmental drivers of migration, particularly in the case of New Orleans and Hurricane Katrina. She has also examined the arrival and reception of Latino immigrants in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina and the experiences of low-income African American mothers affected by the disaster. Her research is funded by the National Institutes of Health, the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the Russell Sage Foundation, and has been published in leading journals in demography and sociology.

Ned Gardiner

Ned Gardiner, Ph.D., is an ecologist applying systems theory and practice to help Americans face and respond to a Global Change. As an architect of the U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit, Ned serves as a liaison for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Climate Program Office (serving as a contractor) to individuals, businesses, and communities as they adapt to climate variability and change. While at New York's American Museum of Natural History, he pioneered the use of digital map data and satellite imagery to help people understand biodiversity and Earth systems through video production.

Alexandra R. Harrington

Dr. Alexandra R. Harrington, J.D., LL.M., D.C.L. (McGill) is the 2018 – 2019 Fulbright Canada Research Chair in Global Governance, Lead Counsel for Peace, Justice & Governance, CISDL, and an adjunct professor at Albany Law School. She has extensive experience in issues of sovereignty, international organizations, environmental law, and sustainable development law, and is the author of the recently published *International Organizations and the Law* (Routledge). Dr. Harrington has worked as a consultant to various international environmental organizations, including UN Environment, and routinely publishes on issues related to environment and governance.

Christina Hioureas

Christina Hioureas is Counsel at Foley Hoag LLP in the firm's International Litigation & Arbitration practice and Chair of the United Nations practice group, a group that she co-founded. Based in New York, Christina represents States, State-owned and private entities, and individuals on international commercial and investments arbitration disputes and public international law matters. Hioureas also advises States on matters before the United Nations and its bodies. She serves as arbitrator in international commercial disputes. Hioureas' practice includes: international investment treaty claims (ICSID, UNCITRAL); international commercial arbitration (ICC, ICDR/AAA, LCIA, Swiss Rules) and litigation; State-to-State disputes

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and advisory opinion proceedings before the International Court of Justice (ICJ); treaty drafting and interpretation; climate change and rising sea levels; international human rights claims; capacity building trainings for State Sovereigns; and energy law and pricing disputes. Her academic experience includes serving as an Adjunct Professor of Law at Fordham University School of Law and Graduate Student Instructor at the University of California, Berkeley – in the Peace & Conflict Studies Department. She is also on the Teaching Staff of the University of Piraeus in the Energy Strategy, Law & Economics Program.

Rob Klee

Rob Klee is the Commissioner of Connecticut's Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). Commissioner Klee was appointed by Governor Dannel P. Malloy in January 2014. Commissioner Klee joined DEEP in April 2011 as Chief of Staff. In that role he oversaw the work of the agency, supported the efforts of the Commissioner, and advised the Commissioner and senior staff on a wide range of environmental and energy policy issues. Prior to joining state service, Commissioner Klee was an attorney with Wiggin and Dana LLP, in New Haven, where he specialized in appellate work and energy and environmental law. From 2004 to 2005 Commissioner Klee worked as a Law Clerk for the U.S. District Court in Connecticut and from 2005 to 2006 as a Law Clerk for the U.S. Second Circuit Court of Appeals. He served as a Research Affiliate in the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies from 2006 to 2008. Commissioner Klee serves on the governing bodies of several organizations focused on critical environmental and energy issues. His involvement included the Governor's Council on Climate Change, the Connecticut Institute for Resilience & Climate Adaptation (CIRCA), Connecticut Green Bank, Connecticut Blue Plan Advisory Committee, RecycleCT Foundation. Commissioner Klee holds a Ph.D. from Yale's School of Forestry & Environmental Studies in industrial ecology, a law degree from Yale, and an undergraduate degree from Princeton in geology and environmental science.

Michael Kruk

Michael Kruk is a Supervisory Climate Scientist with Earth Resources Technology Inc., at NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information in Asheville, NC. He leads an interdisciplinary science team in the development of climate

and environmental derived products to address complex natural resource management issues. He also works in the area of coastal hazards in Hawaii and the U.S. Affiliated Pacific Islands and the impact of climate change on island shorelines, including effects from long-term sea-level rise, heavy precipitation events, saltwater inundation, and hurricanes. Michael received a commendation award from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) for his work in addressing climate issues critical to Pacific Small Island Developing States – including preserving freshwater resources and minimizing the impacts of drought – by encouraging dialog and leading discussions with water resource managers and other decision-makers. Michael received a Master's Degree in Atmospheric Sciences from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

Benoit Mayer

Benoit Mayer is an Assistant Professor at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. He wrote his PhD dissertation on the relation between climate change and international law. He is the author of *The Concept of Climate Migration: Advocacy and its Prospects* (Edward Elgar, 2016) and the joint editor, with François Crépeau, of the *Research Handbook on Climate Change, Migration and the Law* (Edward Elgar, 2017). He has also published a series of journal articles questioning the need for a recognition of climate migrants as a special category of concern (as opposed to a broader protection of all migrants). Benoit has also developed a broader expertise on climate law, in particular with the publication of *The International Law on Climate Change* (Cambridge University Press, 2018).

Marjorie McGuirk

Marjorie McGuirk is a professional meteorologist and a climate services specialist. Marjorie currently consults with CASE Consultants International, where she is Founder and President. Prior to retiring from federal service with NOAA's National Climatic Data Center, Marjorie served as the Special Advisor to the Director, as Chief of Staff, and as National Partnership Liaison with Regional Climate Centers and the American Association of State Climatologists. As an Expert Consultant for the World Meteorological Organization's Global Framework for Climate Services, her work underpins international technical collaboration in climate and health, disaster risk reduction, water resources, and agriculture and food security. She was key in developing

Speaker Biographies

the User Interface Platform and was on the writing team for the WMO report of the High-Level Taskforce for the GFCS, *Climate Knowledge for Action: Empowering the Most Vulnerable*. As a lead U.S. Government Reviewer for the Fifth Assessment Report by the IPCC, she concentrates particularly on Impacts, Adaptation & Vulnerability. She received a B.S. in Atmospheric Science from Old Dominion University, Graduate Studies in Aerosol Science and Air Pollution at the University of Washington, and holds a MLA in Climate Change and Society from the University of North Carolina Asheville

Meredith Niess

Dr. Meredith Niess is an internal medicine primary care physician at Fair Haven Community Health Care (FHCHC) and an Assistant Clinical Professor in the Yale School of Medicine Internal Medicine Department. She graduated medical and public health school from the University of North Carolina and did her residency training at the University of Colorado Internal Medicine Primary Care Residency Program where she also completed a primary care research fellowship. Her clinical interests include primary care for vulnerable populations, with specific work in primary care for individuals with severe mental illness. Along with a multidisciplinary team, she helped lead the FHCHC response to an influx of refugees from Hurricane Maria.

Alyssa Parpia

Alyssa Parpia is an epidemiologist with research interests at the interface of health, climate, and population displacement. Most recently, she has conducted research on perceptions of climate change held by migrant and displaced workers in Lebanon, and is studying the impact of climate on dengue in Costa Rica. Prior to pursuing doctoral studies in Epidemiology of Microbial Diseases at Yale, Alyssa conducted research on health externalities of the Ebola outbreak in West Africa and the health and economic burden of Zika virus infection in Latin America. She holds a Master's of Public Health in Epidemiology from the University of Toronto and a Bachelor's Degree in Global Development and Biochemistry from Queen's University, Canada.

Kanta Kumari Rigaud

Kanta Kumari Rigaud is a Lead Environmental Specialist, and Regional Climate Change Coordinator in the Africa Region of the World Bank Group. She works on climate policy, knowledge management, and development of tools and learning platforms to manage climate risks. She led a multidisciplinary team on the Bank's pioneering flagship report on *Groundswell – Preparing for Internal Climate Migration* and on the *Turn Down the Heat* report series. She has worked with multiple client countries as the Bank's Focal point for the Pilot Program for Climate Resilience working to mainstream climate resilience into core development planning and for transformation at scale. She has a doctorate from the University of East Anglia in the UK. She serves as co-chair of the Technical Working Group on Environmental Change and Migration in KNOMAD.

Marietta Vazquez

She is currently an Associate Professor of Pediatrics at the Yale University School of Medicine, Associate Residency Program Director in Pediatrics, Director of the Yale Pediatrics Global Health Track and Director of the Yale-Children's Hospital Hispanic Clinic. Dr. Vázquez graduated Cum Laude from Yale University in 1990. She attended the University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine from and returned to Yale to complete Pediatric Internship and Residency at the Yale New Haven Children's Hospital and a Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Pediatric Infectious Diseases. Dr. Vázquez obtained a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Minority Medical Faculty Development Award. Dr. Vázquez studies the clinical epidemiology of infectious diseases in children. In September 2017, Dr. Vazquez organized a grass roots movement of post-disaster humanitarian medical relief for Puerto Rico. Since then she and her team (PR Rising CT) have been working on assisting medical centers and universities in over 17 states across the US to follow Yale New Haven Hospital's lead.

“Collapse the Distance,” a multimedia storytelling project about climate change on the Pacific front lines. Fusing photojournalism, audio storytelling, and video, “Collapse the Distance” transports its audience to the low-lying Pacific island nations of Tuvalu and Kiribati, sibling nations that face hungry tides, storm surges, and a freshwater crisis.

For the past year, Collapse the Distance has been touring around the United States. Previous exhibits include Telluride Mountain Film Festival (May 2017), Harvard University (April/May 2017), and ClimateCon (March 2018). Later this year, the exhibit will feature at the Global Climate Action Summit (September 2018) and GirlSchool NYC (October 2018).

Collapse the Distance is co-produced by Mattea Mrkusic, a New Zealand climate displacement researcher and journalist whose audio stories have aired on PRI: The World and NPR stations across the country, and Canyon Woodward, whose writings have been featured in National Geographic Adventure. The photographs were taken by Forest Woodward, an internationally published and awarded photographer whose credits include National Geographic, The Atlantic, VICE, and The Alpinist.



“Approaching” (Forest Woodward, 2016)

The first Polynesian outriggers are thought to have brought early inhabitants to the archipelago that is now Tuvalu some 3,000 years ago. Sustained by an intimate knowledge of the sea, and by the harvest of fish and coconut, Tuvaluans have lived a life of relative abundance on these atolls of thousands of years.

But all that’s changing. A low-lying island nation, Tuvalu sits on average just two meters above sea level. Because of Tuvalu’s small land mass and vulnerability to rising sea levels, it has been identified by the United Nations as the country most at risk of losing sovereignty due to climate change. Now, a younger generation of Tuvaluans will be forced to consider the possibility of another migration. A migration that is not of their own choosing, but rather, is made necessary due to changes in our climate that are rendering their lands increasingly dangerous and difficult to inhabit.



“Onboarding” (Forest Woodward, 2016)

Labor migration already exists within the Pacific Region, with many Tuvaluans moving to Australia and New Zealand to temporarily or permanently seek better economic opportunities or reunite with family members. But in recent years, the terms ‘climate refugee’ and ‘forced migration’ have begun to infiltrate the vernacular of low-lying island nations like Tuvalu.

On the capital island, Funafuti, many Tuvaluans expressed a desire to permanently stay in Tuvalu in the face of climate change. “None of us really know what will happen in the next ten, twenty, thirty years,” sighs Lulu, who works for the Tuvaluan Government in environmental affairs. “But I hope that if [our children] choose to stay in this land, that will be a choice they can make themselves.” Lulu’s words seem to echo the sentiments of many elders in the community as they wonder what the future will hold for their children.



“Sand Deposits” (Forest Woodward, 2016)

Tuvaluan youngsters investigate new terrain as the high tide encroaches on the beach reclamation site on the capital island of Funafuti. The highest point on the capital island of Funafuti varies by whom you ask—and when you ask them. When we first arrived on the island, it was a newly deposited pile of sand on the beach. Later in our visit, after the pile of sand had been shortened in stature by the trampling feet of many children and occasional bulldozers, we found the new high point to be a pile of rusted machinery that the US brought to the island during WWII. At any given time, you are never likely to be more than a couple meters above sea level in Tuvalu.



“King Tide” (Forest Woodward, 2016)

As the highest tide of the month reaches its peak, young Tuvaluans revel in the unexpected novelty of the flooded dredging pits as they fill with foam. One kid entertains himself by slathering on a giant white foam Santa beard and serenading surrounding children with a rendition of “We Wish You A Merry Christmas,” before diving gleefully back into the warm flooded waters. Further inland, the king tide is greeted with less excitement. Elders sit on their porches watching as water slowly seeps up through the porous coral heart of the island, surrounding their homes with ankle deep pools of stagnant salt water and inundating low lying pulaka crops.



“Three Boys”
(Forest Woodward, 2016)

The beauty of this particular pack of children lies in their wild movement. At once erratic and choreographed, there is an ease with which they flow in and out of the sea. Mischief glints in eyes and high rollicking bursts of laughter roll out over the lagoon. The precariousness of the children’s carefree existence is less clear, but hangs over the beach, omnipresent like the slow drifting cumulus.



“Elsie” (Forest Woodward, 2016)

An unusual shape cuts through the water towards me in the fading sunset. It’s a child, maybe eight years old, her right arm held high, straining under the weight of a fish over half her size. A tremendous grin spreads across her face as she deposits the fish on a burlap sack and proudly proclaims, “My father is going to teach us how to scale it!” She melts back into the water towards the shadowy silhouettes of her father and sister.



“Bernard” (Forest Woodward, 2016)

“If given the option to emigrate, will you?” Bernard’s face cracks into a wide smile, “No.”

Bernard is a member of the Pacific Climate Warriors, a growing movement of young leaders from fifteen Pacific Island nations fighting for the survival of their countries through international non-violent direct actions, negotiations and domestic adaptation efforts. But to my “Why?” his reply is simple, uncluttered by politics or ambition.

“Because I want my children to grow up like this.” His arm traces a sweeping motion across the lagoon, his cousins, and the fish waiting on a line to be prepared for dinner. Laughing, he looks through the camera, through me, willing his message beyond our simple encounter,

“I want them to be able to grow up like me. Tuvaluan! Free!”

Biographies

Mattea Mrkusic is a New Zealand-American radio producer, photojournalist, and climate migration researcher. Following her field research in the Pacific Island nation of the Republic of Kiribati, she started a podcast that would become the first audio iteration of the climate change storytelling project, *Collapse the Distance*. Currently, she works as the Associate Producer for Okapi Productions, producing a film about the Louisiana criminal justice system, and she is a recent recipient of a National Geographic Early Explorers Grant to study climate migration in Nepal. Her work has been published in *The Washington Post*, *PRI: The World*, *PBS NOVA Next*, and *Harvard Political Review*. She is a graduate of Harvard College.

Forest Woodward is an internationally published and awarded photographer and filmmaker based out of Asheville, North Carolina. With an eye towards issues of social and environmental justice, Forest’s work seeks to transcend politics and prejudice and offers the viewer an opportunity to engage in relevant contemporary issues through a humanistic lens. Forest’s photographs have been widely published, with notable appearances in *The Alpinist*, *National Geographic Adventure*, *VICE* and *The Atlantic*. His films *Food Chains* and *The Important Places* have screened in dozens of countries, with festivals including Tribeca and Berlinale, receiving critical acclaim and an array of awards including “Best Short Film” from Banff Mountain Film Festival and the James Beard Award.

Canyon Woodward is an internationally recognized writer, activist, and producer from Western North Carolina. Canyon earned his A.B. from Harvard College, where he co-coordinated the Divest Harvard campaign and wrote his senior thesis on the climate movement in the United States. Canyon’s writing has been published in *The Nation Magazine*, *National Geographic Adventure*, and *The Harvard Crimson*. Canyon has also appeared in TV, radio, and newspaper interviews on *HuffPost Live*, *NPR*, *Newsweek* and *The Boston Globe*.

Faculty Organizers

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Please continue to visit our website for outcomes from the conference: <https://cid2018.yale.edu>

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and Humanitarian Responses*