

*COST Action IS1101 Climate Change and Migration:
Knowledge, Law and Policy, and Theory*

**“Combining quantitative and qualitative methods for a better understanding of
the climate change-migration nexus”**
Seville, 28-29 September 2015

Organizers:

Center for Ethnic and Migration Studies (CEDEM) - University of Liège, Belgium
University of Neuchâtel (UniNe), Switzerland
Joint Research Center - Institute for Prospective Technological Studies (JRC-IPTS) Seville

Location: Seville, Spain

Workshop date: September 28-29, 2015

Despite the obvious complex and multi-causal nature of these phenomena, most current research offers a disciplinary-centred approach based essentially on quantitative OR qualitative methodologies. In this manner, empirical research on the link between environmental change and migration has risen significantly in order to meet a growing demand for evidence-based policy interventions (EACH-FOR 2009, Foresight 2011, etc.). Scholars are beginning to confront increasingly complex issues while developing new approaches and methods.

In the broader field of migration studies, scholars like Findley (1982), Massey (1990) and Castles (2010) have pointed out the fragmentation between disciplines (sociology, political science, anthropology, geography, economics, etc.), with the somewhat corollary division between methodological approaches (quantitative vs. qualitative). In environmental migration studies, this gap has been explicitly analysed by Piguet (2010). In fact, the prevailing disciplinary and methodological division remains an important hindrance to the understanding of the complex link between environmental degradation and human mobility, leading to a partial empirical knowledge of the nexus. On one hand, qualitative studies provide in-depth, comprehensive analyses, but are often difficult to generalize; on the other hand, quantitative studies may lead to more generalizable results but often fail to reveal the complexity of the socio-economic and political contexts that ultimately determine people's livelihoods and movements at the local and micro levels.

In order to fill this methodological gap, this workshop aims to investigate the extent to which certain quantitative and qualitative methods could be complementary. It intends to identify the methodological challenges, including conceptualising and measuring

causality in the climate change-migration nexus as well as understanding and measuring related outcomes, improving the combination of qualitative and quantitative methods, and designing mixed-method approaches that would address the different ways various disciplines frame the nexus.

We expect papers based on methodologies that used qualitative and quantitative methods simultaneously during data collection. We are also interested by contributions highlighting limitations and caveats identified during a previous or current research project that was based on quantitative or qualitative methods. Submissions from practitioners that grapple with these challenges, for example from non-governmental organizations (NGOs), research organizations and agencies, are encouraged. Quantitative and qualitative specialists will be encouraged to collaborate with their counterparts on research proposals and publications after the workshop's conclusion.