

Call for papers: the discursive construction of 'climate refugees'

Angela.Oels@wiso.uni-hamburg.de

Call for Papers

Dear all,

I am soliciting papers for a panel entitled “The discursive construction of ‘climate refugees’ in North-South perspective”. This panel has been accepted by the Program Chairs for the IPSA-ECPR joint conference “Whatever Happened to North-South?”, hosted by the Brazilian Political Science Association at the U. of Sao Paulo. The conference will be held from February 16 to 19, 2011. As Panel Chair, I will be able to accept a total of five papers for this Panel. The Call for Papers has already opened on Monday, June 28 and will close on Friday, August 6. I hereby encourage anyone working on the panel topic to submit a proposal. Please also forward this call to any of your colleagues who might be interested. Please note: All abstracts must be submitted online, using the submission form. No proposals will be accepted by email. Read the Conference Guidelines <<http://saopaulo2011.ipsa.org/guidelines>>before submitting a paper proposal. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards, Angela Oels

Here is the panel abstract:

The discursive construction of “climate refugees” in North-South perspective

The apocalyptic vision of millions of “climate refugees” storming the borders of the industrialized countries has gained wide-spread public attention over the last decade. This panel explores from a poststructuralist perspective what we can learn about North-South relations from the discursive construction of “climate refugees” in science, politics and the media. The panel brings together scholars of development, migration, security, environment and international law. The discourse about “climate refugees” goes back to Neo-Malthusian environmental conflict discourse that constructs a link between demographic pressure, resource scarcity, resulting mass migration and violent conflict. The violence in Darfur has been explained by the UN Environment Program and by the UN Secretary-General as the first climate wars producing the first climate refugees. However, there is hardly any science to validate such causal linkages. Some have claimed that the

discourse about “climate refugees” serves to naturalize climate change as inevitable and to depoliticize the underlying conflicts of interest, including overconsumption in the North. Is the label “climate refugees” in the interest of the potentially affected populations and will it channel new resources to them? Or could it facilitate international military interventions in affected regions? Which changes in climate policy, development assistance, national defense strategy and migration policy is the threat of “millions of climate refugees” triggering?

More information is available on the conference website:

<http://saopaulo2011.ipsa.org>.

Dr. Angela Oels

Postdoctoral Research Fellow

KlimaCampus

Institute of Geography, room 709

University of Hamburg

Bundesstrasse 55

D-20146 Hamburg

Germany

Phone +49-40-42838-6385

Fax +49-40-42838-4967