

LECTURE:

DOES CLIMATE CHANGE INDUCE MIGRATION? EVIDENCE FROM A META-REGRESSION ANALYSIS

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Campus Griebnitzsee, house 1, room 2.31

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The empirical evidence recognizes that climate change substantially affects patterns of human mobility. However, an understanding of the highly contextual implications of climate change for migration is still missing. To design policies that comprehensively assess human security, it is necessary to better understand the climate change-migration nexus.

This study consists of a meta-regression analysis of a sample of 133 econometric studies that examine the link between climate – related events and human mobility. The goal is to summarize and explain the variation in outcomes across the existing empirical evidence. Following the migration literature, we differentiate between slow (e.g. droughts, rainfall and temperature variability) and fast (e.g. tornadoes, hurricanes, cyclones, typhoons) climate-related events, as these might have different implications for the migration decision. Because measurements of migration diverge substantially across studies and hence coefficients are not comparable, we estimate a probit model and examine which type of climate-related events is more likely to change migration behavior. We further analyze the implications of study quality (i.e. publication bias), design and context. The preliminary results suggest that compared to slow events, fast events are less likely to affect migration behavior. We do not find evidence of a publication bias. However, the results do suggest that study design and study context systematically affect the estimated outcomes. In particular, the geographical context, model design and type of data explain the heterogeneity in the estimated outcomes of climate change migration.