Workshop on “Adapting to Climate Change: Devising a Novel Legal Framework for Climate Migration”
November 9-10, 2012
Lubar Commons (7200 Law), UW Law School

Agenda

Day 1 – Friday, November 9, 2012

2:00-2:30 Registration and refreshments
2:30-2:40 Welcome and Introductions
   Sumudu Atapattu, UW-Madison
2:40-3:45 Documentary – Climate Refugees
3:45-4:00 Break
4:00-5:30 Panel 1 – Implications of Climate Migration

Chair/Commentator: Heinz Klug, UW-Madison

“Climate Change, Migration and Access to Healthcare”
   Keith Syrett, Cardiff University

“Understanding the Demographic Implications of Climate Change:
Estimates of Localized Population Predictions under Future Scenarios of Sea-level Rise”
   Katherine Curtis, UW-Madison

6:30 Dinner for participants and invited guests
Day 2 – Saturday, November 10, 2012

8:30
Breakfast

9:00-10:30
Panel 2 – International Legal Framework

Chair/Commentator: Keith Syrett, Cardiff University

“Climate Change Induced Cross-border Migration and the Non-refoulement Principle”
Christina Voigt, University of Oslo

“Climate Refugees” or “Environmental Migrants” - What’s in a Name?
Dina-Kristin Topphol Midflo, University of Bergen

10:30-10:45
Break

10:45-12:15
Panel 3 – Selected Case Studies

Chair/Commentator: Steph Tai, UW-Madison

"Climate Change and Migration in East Africa: Threat to Human Rights, Sustainable Human Security and Women’s Security"
Medhanit Adamu, University of Washington-Seattle

"Local Government's Liabilities in Responding to Climate Change"
Dongsheng Zang, University of Washington-Seattle

12:15-1:30
Lunch

1:30-3:00
Panel 4 – Adaptation and International Law: Devising a Legal Framework

Chair/Commentator: Alex Huneeus, UW-Madison

“Disappearing State, Migration and International Law”
Sumudu Atapattu, UW-Madison

“Protection for Persons Forced to Cross State Borders due to Climate Change: Three Proposed Alternatives”
Dina-Kristin Topphol Midflo, University of Bergen

3:00-4:00
Next Steps
Biographies of speakers

Medhanit Adamu
Medhanit Adamu was born and raised in Mettu, a small town found in south west part of Ethiopia. She earned her Bachelors of Law (LLB) from Haramaya University College of Law and served as an assistant lecturer for two years. In 2009, Medhanit was granted a scholarship by European Commission to study her Masters in Gender and Women’s studies at two universities – Central European University, Hungary and University of Oviedo, Spain. She earned double degree from both universities in July 2011. She then joined University of Washington School of law to study masters of law in Sustainable international development law. She earned her LLM in June 2012. Medhanit’s research interests focus on climate change, migration, human security, land rights and rights of rural women in Africa. She has published her Masters of Arts thesis which was on “climate change, gender inequality and migration in Ethiopia”. Besides, she has also published articles on “the human rights of rural women and climate change: introduction legal issues” and “Climate Change in East Africa – Threat to Human Rights, Sustainable Human Security and Women’s Security”. Currently, Medhanit is working as a research assistant at Landesa – Rural Development Institute, and at the same time preparing herself for her PhD.

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Sumudu Atapattu
Sumudu Atapattu is the Associate Director of the Global Legal Studies Center at the University of Wisconsin Law School. She teaches seminar courses on “International Environmental Law” and “Climate Change, Human Rights and the Environment.” She has LLM and PhD Degrees from University of Cambridge and is an Attorney-at-Law of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka. She has published widely on issues relating to sustainable development, human rights and the environment, and climate change and her book entitled Emerging Principles of International Environmental Law was published by Transnational Publishers in 2006. She is also the Lead Counsel for Human Rights at the Center for International Environmental Law, Montreal, Canada and is an Advisory Board Member of the McGill International Journal of Sustainable Development Law and Policy. Before coming to the United States, she was an Associate Professor at University of Colombo Law School and a Consultant to the Law & Society Trust in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Her research interests include human rights and environment, climate change and sustainable development.

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Katherine Curtis
Katherine Curtis is Assistant Professor of Community & Environmental Sociology at UW-Madison. Her work addresses the causes and consequences of migration and population composition, population and environment, and inequality. Her analytical approach aims to address spatial and temporal aspects underlying these demographic processes. Her work consistently engages multiple literatures across disciplines to gain greater substantive and technical insight. Professor Curtis' work has been published in the field's top journal and featured in special publications and conferences focusing on spatial demography. She received her doctorate in Sociology from University of Washington in 2003.

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Alexandra Huneeus
Alexandra Huneeus is Assistant Professor of Law and Legal Studies at UW-Madison. She studies the judicialization of politics, the politics of human rights, and legal culture in Latin America. Her Ph.D. dissertation centered on the Chilean judiciary’s changing attitude towards cases of Pinochet-era human rights violations. She teaches sociology of law, human rights, Latin American legal institutions, and international law. Before joining the UW faculty in 2007, Professor Huneeus was a fellow at Stanford University’s Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law. She received her Ph.D. from U.C. Berkeley (2006), and her J.D. from Boalt Hall, the Berkeley Law School (2001). As a human rights fellow at the International Human Rights Clinic at Boalt Hall in 2004, she supervised students bringing a case before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. The successful challenge resulted in a ruling ordering the Dominican Republic to alter its citizenship policies and practices. She also worked on the case against Augusto Pinochet in Chile and Spain, through the Center for Justice and Accountability in San Francisco. Prior to her turn to law, Professor Huneeus worked as an editor and journalist in Santiago, Chile, her native city, and in San Francisco, her home town.

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Heinz Klug
Heinz Klug is Associate Dean for Faculty Development and Research; Evjue-Bascom Professor in Law; and Director, Global Legal Studies Center, at UW Law School. He is an Honorary Senior Research Associate in the School of Law at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa. Growing up in South Africa, he participated in the anti-apartheid struggle, spent 11 years in exile and returned to South Africa in 1990 as a member of the ANC Land Commission and researcher for Zola Skweyiya, chairperson of the ANC Constitutional Committee. He was also a team member on the World Bank mission to South Africa on Land Reform and Rural Restructuring. He has taught at UW Law School since 1996. Professor Klug taught law at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg from 1991-1996, offering courses on Public International Law, Human Rights Law, Property Law, Post-Apartheid Law and Introduction to South African Law, among others. He also worked as a legal advisor after 1994 with the South African Ministry of Water Affairs and Forestry as well as the Ministry of Land Affairs on water law and land tenure issues.

Professor Klug has presented lectures and papers on the South African constitution, land reform, and water law, among other topics, in Australia, Canada, Colombia, Ethiopia, Germany, South Africa, the Netherlands, and at several U.S. law schools. His research interests include: constitutional transitions, constitution-building, human rights, international legal regimes and natural resources. His current teaching areas include Comparative Constitutional Law, Constitutional Law, Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, Property, and Natural Resources Law.

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Dina-Kristin Topphol Midtflo
Dina-Kristin Topphol Midtflo was awarded her Masters degree in Comparative Politics from the University of Bergen, Norway in 2012, where she explored the question of How can states and the world community adapt to “climate refugees”? She is currently affiliated with the research project Climate Crossroads, which is a collaboration between the Media scholars and political scientists at
the University of Bergen and Oslo University College, and funded by the Research Council of Norway.

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Keith Syrett
Keith Syrett is Professor of Public Health Law at Cardiff University, Wales, UK. He is the author of LAW, LEGITIMACY AND RATIONING: A CONTEXTUAL AND COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE (Cambridge University Press, 2007) and has written extensively on the relationship between law and the rationing of healthcare. He also has an interest in the role for legal intervention in population health, especially in the context of climate change, and was the founder of the Worldwide Universities Network ‘Global Health Justice Network’ research grouping. He is a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of England and Wales, Secretary of the British Association for Canadian Studies, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine, and a member of the editorial board of Medical Law International.

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Stephanie Tai
Stephanie Tai is an Assistant Professor at UW Law School. She focuses her scholarly research on the interactions between environmental and health sciences and administrative law. She has written on the consideration of scientific studies and environmental justice concerns by administrative agencies, and is currently studying the role of scientific dialogues before the judicial system. She was an adjunct professor of law at Georgetown from 2002-2005 and a visiting professor at Washington and Lee University School of Law during the 2005-06 academic year. Her teaching interests include administrative law, environmental law, property, environmental justice, risk regulation, and comparative Asian environmental law.

After graduating from Georgetown, Professor Tai worked as the editor-in-chief of the International Review for Environmental Strategies, a publication by the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies in Japan. She also served as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Ronald Lee Gilman on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. She then worked as an appellate attorney in the Environment and Natural Resources Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, where she briefed and argued cases involving a range of issues, from the protection of endangered cave species in Texas to the issuance of dredge and fill permits under the Clean Water Act.

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Christina Voight
Christina Voight is an Associate Professor at the Department of Public and International Law at University of Oslo, Norway. She studied law at the Universität Passau in Germany and has obtained the First (1996) and Second (1999) Legal State Examination. She has a Master of Laws in Environmental Law (LL.M. – Envir) from the University of Auckland, New Zealand, and received her doctorate in law from the University of Oslo in 2007. Her dissertation was titled “Sustainable Development as a Principle of Integration in International Law – Resolving Potential Conflicts between WTO Law and Climate Change Mitigation Measures.”

Christina Voigt works primarily with international and national environmental law, in particular with climate change law, and with public international law. She is a member of the research groups on
‘Natural Resources Law’ and ‘International Relations’. Her current position is funded by the Research Council of Norway and is linked to the research project ‘Sustainable Energy Markets’ administered by the research group on ‘Natural Resources Law’.

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Dongzheng Zang
Professor Zang joined the University of Washington-Seattle faculty full-time in 2006, after serving as a visiting professor in 2005-06. His academic interests include international trade law, and comparative study of Chinese law, with a focus on the role of law and state in response to social crises in the social transformation in China. He holds an S.J.D. and LL.M. from Harvard Law School, in addition to his LL.M. from Renmin University (Beijing) and LL.B. from Beijing College of Economics. His doctoral dissertation, One-way Transparency: The Establishment of the Rule-based International Trade Order and the Predicament of Its Jurisprudence, was awarded the 2004 Yong K. Kim ’95 prize. He was a research fellow at the East Asia Legal Studies at Harvard Law School during the 2004-05 academic year.

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