



CLIMATE REFUGEES

Why we need different policies on Climate and on Refugees

WEDNESDAY 26 FEBRUARY 6:30PM
COPLAND LECTURE THEATRE, ANU

SPEAKERS:

Emeritus Professor Will Steffen
Dr George Carter
Dr Fanny Thornton



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In 2018, The World Bank predicted that 140 million people will have been displaced as a result of climate change. Now many experts believe that this was an understatement. Already, climate catastrophes have worsened or helped to begin humanitarian crises in South Sudan, Central America, Syria and elsewhere.

Currently there is no international framework to assist those who are forced to move for climate reasons. If these climate refugees are treated in the same ways that Australia currently treats refugees it will be a humanitarian disaster. PM Scott Morrison even refused to allow any action on climate change to be included in the final statement of the recent Pacific Islands Forum – countries in great danger from climate change.

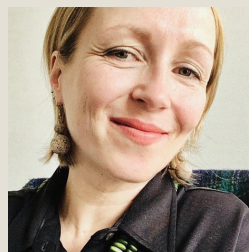
This public meeting looks at the issue and at the need for solutions.



Emeritus Professor Will Steffen is an Earth System scientist. He is a Councillor on the publicly-funded Climate Council of Australia that delivers independent expert information about climate change. He is also an Emeritus Professor at the Australian National University (ANU); Canberra, a Senior Fellow at the Stockholm Resilience Centre, Sweden; and a member of the Anthropocene Working Group. From 1998 to mid-2004, Steffen was Executive Director of the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme, based in Stockholm. His research interests span a broad range within Earth System science, with an emphasis on sustainability and climate change.



Dr George Carter is a Research Fellow in Geopolitics and Regionalism at the Department of Pacific Affairs at the Australian National University. His research interests explore Pacific island states influence and decision-making processes: from multilateral climate change negotiations, foreign policy making, geopolitical security interests in the region around climate change, to environment and human security. He lectures courses in international relations, diplomacy, security, environment and climate change, policy and Pacific studies. His research and teaching interests are a product of his education and work experience, especially his Samoan upbringing with a rich Tuvaluan, i-Kiribati, Chinese, British ancestry.



Dr Fanny Thornton gained a PhD in Public International Law from the College of Law at the Australian National University (ANU) in 2014. She is Assistant Professor of Law at the University of Canberra. Her research concerns legal and policy perspectives in the area of human migration and displacement resulting from anthropogenic climate change. With her research collaborators, she has been awarded funding by the Australian Research Council and the National Geographic Society to work on issues connected to this. Dr Thornton published a book on the topic of climate change, human migration/displacement and international law with Oxford University Press in 2018. She works with international organisations including the International Organisation for Migration and the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. Dr Thornton teaches in the areas of Public International Law, Human Rights Law, Legal Theory, Legal Systems, and Law Foundations.

