

# International School ON CLIMATE MIGRATION

June - July 2023

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## END-OF-SCHOOL REPORT 2023

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**SOAS**  
University of London

# International School on **CLIMATE MIGRATION**

Problematizing and Responding to Climate  
Migration in the 21st Century



Centre for Migration and  
Diaspora Studies

**SOAS**  
University of London

Centre for Human  
Rights Law

**SOAS**  
University of London

Law, Environment and  
Development Centre

**SOAS**  
University of London

**Duke**  
UNIVERSITY

**PROGRAM on**  
**CLIMATE-RELATED MIGRATION**

**RAOUL  
WALLENBERG  
INSTITUTE**  
OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN LAW



**PLATFORM  
ON DISASTER  
DISPLACEMENT**  
FOLLOW UP TO THE NANSSEN INITIATIVE

**iDMC**

**UCL**  
**INSTITUTE FOR RISK AND  
DISASTER REDUCTION**

**CLIMATE GROUP**

**STOLEN DREAMS**  
YOUTH-LED ANTI-SLAVERY COLLECTIVE

**resama**  
Red Sudamericana para las Migraciones Ambientales  
Rede Sul-Americana para as Migrações Ambientais  
South American Network for Environmental Migrations



**Zolberg Institute on  
Migration and Mobility**



**LOYOLA  
UNIVERSITY CHICAGO**  
AD • MAIOREM • DEL • GLORIAM  
1870

*Preparing people to lead extraordinary lives*



# About the ISCM.

## *problematizing and responding to climate migration in the 21st century*

Delivering an enriching, interdisciplinary educational program, the ISCM seeks to equip curious and change-driven scholars, researchers and practitioners with the tools needed to critically analyze the complexities of climate-induced displacement as they interact with development challenges and barriers to rights-based protection. By unpacking the many nuances of problematizing climate-related mobilities across disciplines and geographies, the ISCM provides a dialogical forum for co-knowledge production across historical, political, sociological, legal and developmental perspectives in furtherance of creating durable, needs-responsive and sustainable solutions.

Uniquely, the ISCM places compounding threats to the livelihoods, wellbeing, rights, and lives of those most vulnerable to environmental change at its center. Granting particular attention to underlying conditions of marginality that render women and girls, racialized, minority, Indigenous groups and economically disenfranchised persons highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, the ISCM brings researchers, advocates and experts together to research and collaborate towards the advancement of a more environmentally just world.

The International School on Climate Migration aims to respond to the gaps in teaching and thinking on climate migration and equip future leaders with insights into varied perspectives and approaches dealing with the complexity of the climate change-migration nexus that might inform their own future research and considerations for policy and planning responses, as well as protection agendas.

### **Mission**

Established in 2022, the mission of the International School on Climate Migration is to encourage a new generation of scholars to engage in research and collaboration, and to contribute critical perspectives and knowledge to the development of timely, cross-sectoral solutions to the climate change, environment, and forced migration nexus.

### **Objectives**

- To further research around the climate-migration nexus
- To facilitate a an educational forum for critical dialogue, evidence-based learning and solutions-driven engagement
- To expand the network of educated scholars and practitioners contributing research to and advocating in the climate mobility space
- To embolden the knowledge and approaches taken by emerging scholars as they grapple with the nuances of climate-related mobilities

# 2023 ISCM Programme.

June - July 2023

## Overview

In its second year, the International School on Climate Migration brought 80 participants – students, academics and practitioners from 46 countries around the world – together with more than 30 visiting experts to engage in enriching online lectures and rigorous seminars over the course of our six-week summer school. Placing climate justice at the centre of our program, each week we unpacked and built upon topical themes related to climate migration throughout the lecture and seminar sessions. ISCM participants had the opportunity to connect with, learn from and alongside their peers and visiting experts and to engage with tough questions, contribute their insights and expertise and draw on relevant experiences from their research and work.

**Week One | Multiple and Complex Drivers and Agency in Climate-related (Im)Mobilities**

**Week Two | Climate-related Migration, Health, Livelihoods and (Under)Development**

**Week Three | Climate Justice: Unpacking Coloniality, Gender, Race, Class and Indigeneity and Climate Migration**

**Week Four | Protection Politics: Climate Migration, Human Rights and Refugee Law**

**Week Five | Understanding the Climate Migration, Violence and Conflict Link**

**Week Six | (Im)Mobilities and Mitigation: Sustainable Development, Disaster Risk and Resilience-Building**

*My experience with the ISCM was truly transformative and eye-opening. From the very beginning, I was captivated by the diverse lineup of speakers and experts who brought their passion and knowledge to the table [...] The seminars were a highlight for me; the intimate setting allowed for deep discussions and genuine connections with fellow participants.*

**-Valerie Quintero Borrero, France**

# 2023 ISCM Programme.

June - July 2023

## Visiting Experts

### Keynote

**Dina Ionesco**, Webster University Geneva & Climate Vulnerable Forum, Climate Migration: From Absence to Ambition

### Lecturers

**Prof. Bishawjit Mallick**, Utrecht University, Environmental Non-Migration as the Strategy of Staying at risk

**Prof. Carol Farbotko**, Griffith University, Climate, Indigeneity and (Im)Mobilities: The Case of Tuvalu

**Prof. Kerilyn Schewel**, Duke University, Climate-Related Immobility

**Dr. Achilles Kallergis**, The New School, Environmental Mobility: An Urban Perspective

**Dr. David Wrathall**, Oregon State University, Migration in the IPCC AR6

**Dr. Tasneem Siddiqui**, University of Dhaka & Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Uni, Health and Livelihoods Precarities of Climate Induced Migrants

**Dr. Celia McMichael**, University of Melbourne, Climate-Related Migration and Health: Concepts and Case Studies

**Prof. Carmen Gonzalez**, Loyola University Chicago, Climate Change, Race and Migration

**Colette Pichon Battle**, Taproot Earth, Connecting the Dots of Race, Class and Climate Justice

**Prof. Sheila Foster**, Georgetown University, Climate Justice: Understanding the Link Between Land Use, Climate Risk and Social Vulnerability

**Prof. Sumudu Atapattu**, University of Wisconsin, Climate Justice and Climate Migration: Intersections and Vulnerabilities

**Prof. Ademola Jegede**, University of Venda & Climate Mobility Africa Research Network (CMARN), Climate Change and the Protection of Indigenous Peoples under African Human Rights System

**Atle Solberg**, Platform on Disaster Displacement, Policy and Practice of Safe and Regular Migration Pathways in Times of Disaster and Climate Change

**Prof. Jane McAdam**, University of New South Wales, Climate Mobility and International law: Unpacking the Legal Issues

**Dr. Lilian Yamamoto**, South American Network for Environmental Migrations (RESAMA), Challenges, Opportunities and Pathways for Legal Protection of Environmentally Displaced Persons in the Latin and South American Regions

**Youssef Jai**, Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), Understanding the Displacement, Climate and Security Nexus

**Prof. Alexander Alvarez**, Northern Arizona University, Climate change, Conflict and Population Displacement

**Prof. Bayes Ahmed**, University College London, Debunking Myths About Climate Migration

**Prof. Lisa Schipper**, University of Bonn, Inherently Complex Intersection Between Climate Change and Development

**Prof. Nicodemus Nyandiko**, Masinde Muliro University & CMARN, Enhancing Resilience and Adaptive Capacity to Compounding Impacts of Climate Change and Forced Displacement: An Integrated Human Mobility 'Toolbox' Approach

### Seminar Convenors

**Lauren Grant**, International School on Climate Migration & Earth Refuge

**Dr. Nick P. Simpson**, Global Centre for Climate Mobility & Africa Climate Mobility Initiative & IPCC

**Prof. Shana Tabak**, Georgetown University & Emerson Collective

**Prof. Matthew Scott**, Raoul Wallenberg Institute & Lund University

**Dr. Leif Brottem**, University of Wisconsin

**Manuel Marques Pereira**, IOM

### Frontline Speakers

**Alicia Wallace**, Equality Bahamas

**Raki Ap**, Free West Papua Campaign

**Marienal Ubaldo**, Youth Leaders for Environmental Action Federation & Duke University

**Ishaan Shah**, Stolen Dreams & Youth for Freedom Collective

**Anakwa Dwamena**, Independent journalist & climate activist

# 2023 ISCM Programme.

June - July 2023

## **Lecture & Seminar sessions**

Each week, we covered topical themes with a lecture session on Mondays. We were joined by a Frontline Expert with lived experiences of the impacts of climate change before commencing the panel presentations from leading visiting experts. All lecture sessions concluded with a Q&A, where participants had the opportunity to ask questions and share their ideas and reflections. Corresponding and rigorous seminar sessions followed lectures on Wednesdays. Each week, we were joined by a renowned visiting seminar convenor who guided us to unpack the weekly theme by curating a dialogical forum for scholastic engagement. Through large and small group discussions and brainstorming activities, participants engaged in co-producing new knowledge, drawing on examples from their work and presented case studies and to drive inquisitive and explorative conversations.

## **Discussion Forums**

Between lecture and seminar sessions, each week, participants were required to respond to the discussion prompt provided in order to reflect on key questions corresponding to the weekly topic.

## **Optional Capstone Project**

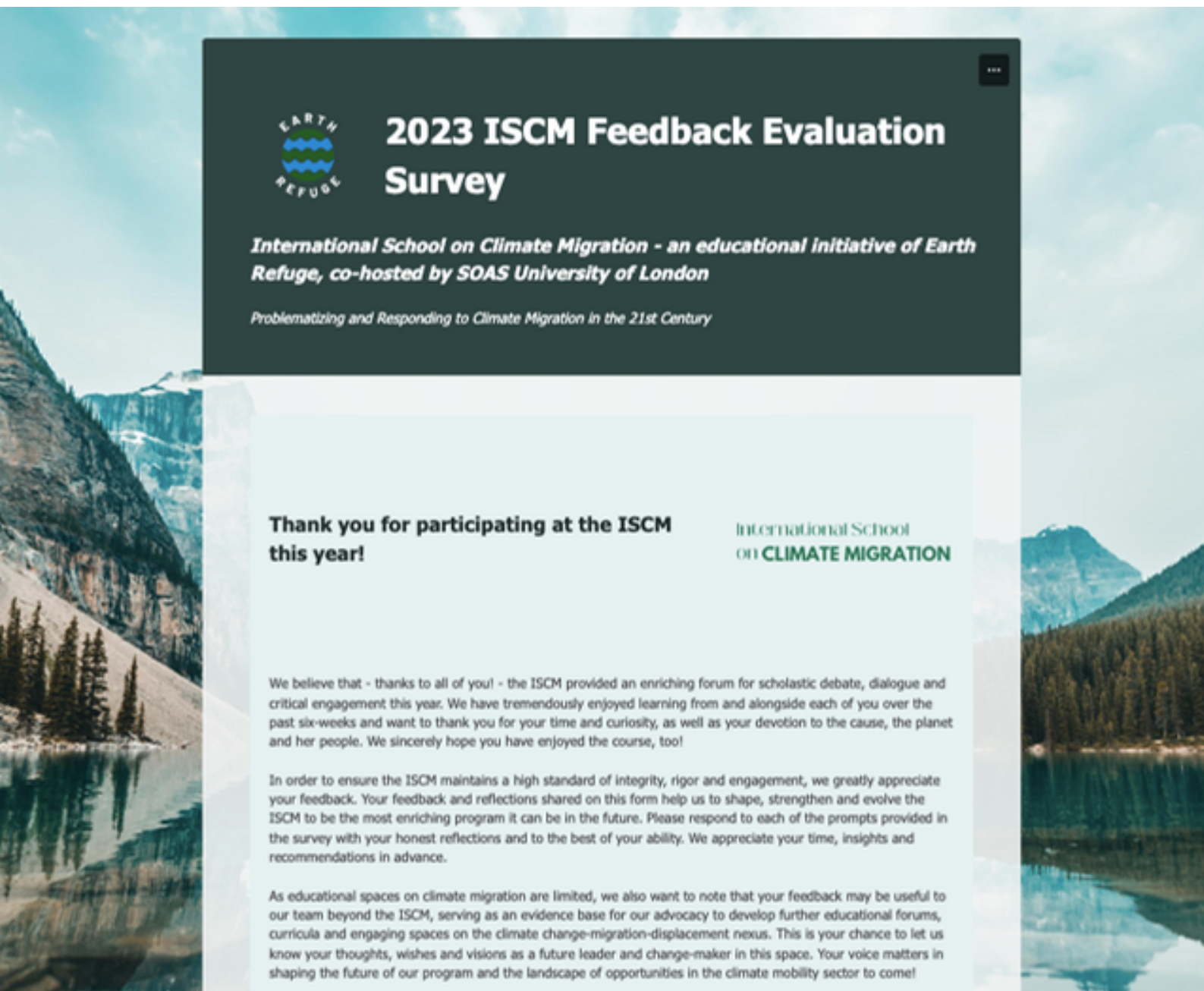
Moving beyond the classroom, ISCM participants had the opportunity to engage in an optional capstone project with one of the following organizations: Earth Refuge, Equality Bahamas and Shabaka Social Enterprise. The capstone project provided ISCM participants with a unique, collaborative learning opportunity to bridge the gap between theory and practice by developing their practical skills for research, (legal) advocacy, policy-making and other streams of collaborative work to develop evidence-based, people-centred and nature-positive solutions to climate change and related forced migration and displacement. Participants engaged in the capstone project worked independently to support the work of partnering institutions over the course of six weeks, resulting in policy briefs, toolkits and case summaries, respectively.

## **Side-Events**

Two optional side-events were hosted during the 2023 programme. These included a networking happy hour where participants had the opportunity to get to know one another and share more about their work and motivations for attending the ISCM and an event that was open to the public on Career Pathways in the Climate Mobility Sector, co-hosted together with the Program on Climate-Related Migration at Duke University. The latter aimed to inform and inspire attendees on various streams of opportunity to contribute timely work on the issue of climate mobility through a panel discussion and a virtual open house-style Q&A where participants could engage with invited experts.

# 2023 Feedback Evaluation

## Collection of Results



**Thank you for participating at the ISCM this year!**

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL  
ON CLIMATE MIGRATION

We believe that - thanks to all of you! - the ISCM provided an enriching forum for scholastic debate, dialogue and critical engagement this year. We have tremendously enjoyed learning from and alongside each of you over the past six-weeks and want to thank you for your time and curiosity, as well as your devotion to the cause, the planet and her people. We sincerely hope you have enjoyed the course, too!

In order to ensure the ISCM maintains a high standard of integrity, rigor and engagement, we greatly appreciate your feedback. Your feedback and reflections shared on this form help us to shape, strengthen and evolve the ISCM to be the most enriching program it can be in the future. Please respond to each of the prompts provided in the survey with your honest reflections and to the best of your ability. We appreciate your time, insights and recommendations in advance.

As educational spaces on climate migration are limited, we also want to note that your feedback may be useful to our team beyond the ISCM, serving as an evidence base for our advocacy to develop further educational forums, curricula and engaging spaces on the climate change-migration-displacement nexus. This is your chance to let us know your thoughts, wishes and visions as a future leader and change-maker in this space. Your voice matters in shaping the future of our program and the landscape of opportunities in the climate mobility sector to come!

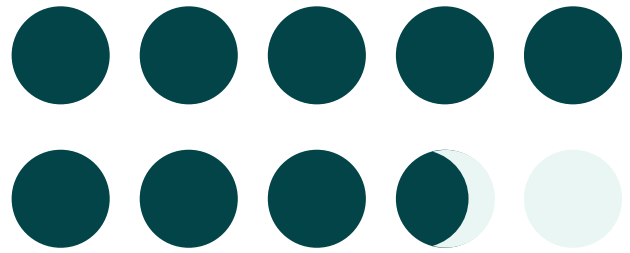
A Microsoft Form was shared with all participants of the 2023 ISCM program. Participants were encouraged to share their feedback as a condition for receiving a Certificate of Completion for the course. The survey collected feedback regarding each participants' overall experience, learning and engaging throughout the summer school, and demographic data and visions for future iterations of the ISCM.

**71 responses** were collected.

# Feedback Results

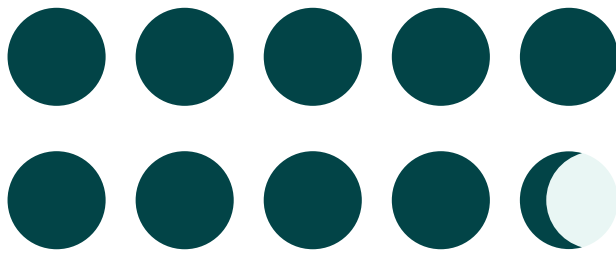
8.89

Average rating of overall ISCM experience



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93% of ISCM participants rated their overall experience between 8 - 10

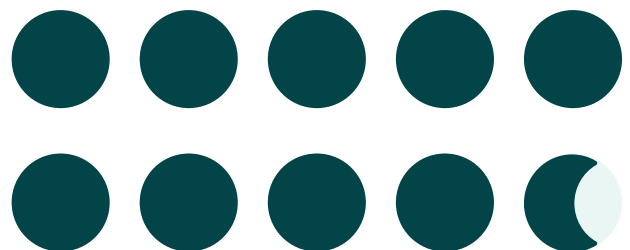


9.09

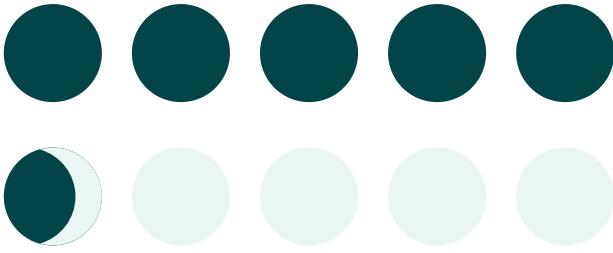
Average rating of overall accessibility of the ISCM

9.61

Average rating of likeliness to recommend the ISCM to others







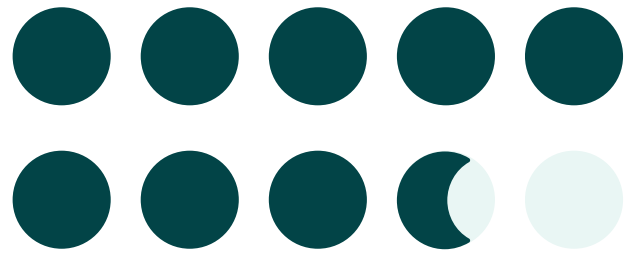
5.8

Average rating of prior understanding of Climate Migration

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8.68

Average rating of understanding of Climate Migration after completing the ISCM



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**87%** of ISCM participants rated their understanding between 8 and 10

*My experience with the International School on Climate Migration (ISCM) has been nothing short of transformative. Attending the summer school served as a significant springboard for my career, particularly in relation to my passion for studying climate migration.*

**-Kolade Victor Otokiti, Nigeria**

*Before the course, I barely knew about the climate migration issue. I was not fully aware of how critical the situation is in many parts of the world and how near it is to affect the entire world. The experts that presented during the lectures and those who moderated the seminars were very open to questions and felt like they were learning along the way with the participants.*

**-Radwa Adel Hassan Adawy, Egypt**

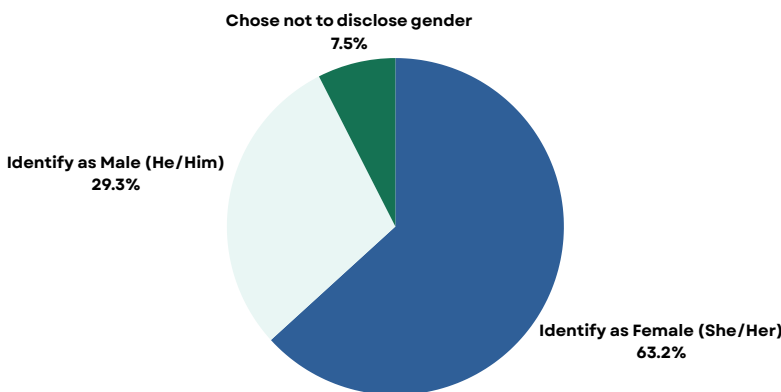
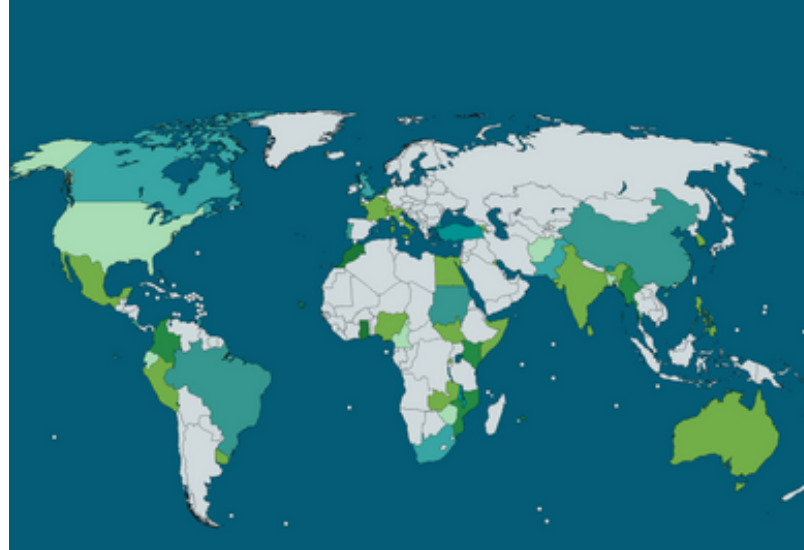
# Our Participants.

In 2023, our participants came from **46 countries**.

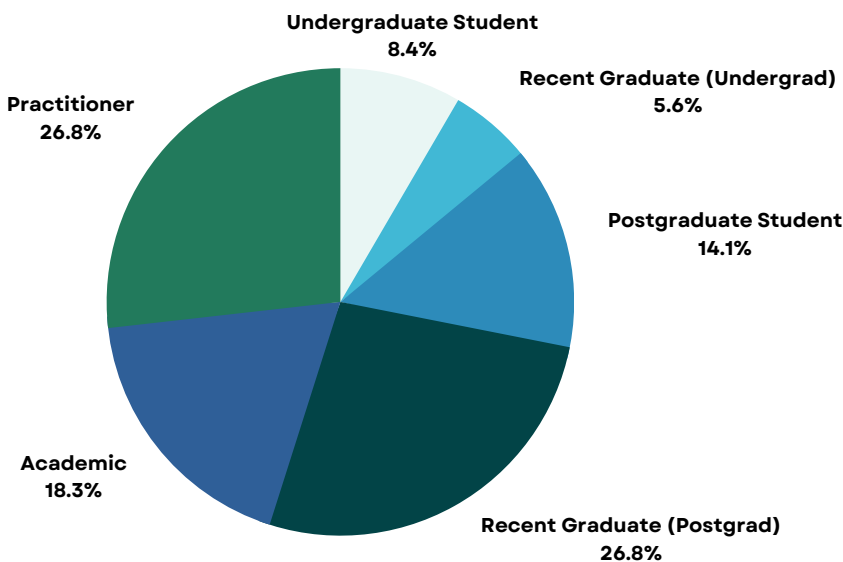
While ISCM Participants joined lecture and seminar session from around the world, Individuals located in **Africa, Asia and Latin America** comprised the majority.

The top six countries by number of participants were:

- Italy
- United States
- India
- Bangladesh
- United Kingdom
- Zimbabwe



Participants by gender (& pronouns)



Participants by profile

# Participants Institutions

## **Academic Institutions:**

University of Hong Kong  
Duke University  
University of Ghana  
Institute of Development Studies, Sussex  
Columbia University Climate School  
Tata Institute of Social Sciences  
University of the West Indies  
Sciences Po  
University of Juba  
Loyala University Chicago  
LSE  
Oxford University  
University of Cambridge  
RESAMA  
SOAS  
Stanford Law School  
'University of Nairobi's Centre for Advanced Studies in Environmental Law and Policy  
Uppsala University  
McGill University  
University of Pretoria

## **Non-Governmental Organizations and Practitioner Institutions:**

IOM  
NORCAP  
ICRC  
Global Centre on Adaptation  
Global Sustainability Institute  
Chatham House  
'Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services (RAICES)  
Fenix Humanitarian Legal Aid  
POP (Protect Our Planet) Movement  
Mixed Migration Centre

***Everybody should take this course.** So many people are not aware of the consequences of climate change on the most impoverished people. I am glad to have been part of this experience. Thank you so much to all the people that contributed to offering this summer school*

**-anonymous participant**

# Motivations for participating.

*I see my participation in the ISCM as a critical step in my journey towards creating positive change in the world.*  
-Prashant Jibhakate, India

All of the 80 participants who attended the ISCM in 2023 demonstrated a profound understanding of and deep curiosity towards the crucial role that knowledge - the need for its co-production, exchange and evolution - plays in shaping how we problematize and respond to climate mobility in the 21st century.

The most common motivations for participation were:



## **Knowledge exchange for the planet & her people**

Desire to advance, co-produce and exchange knowledge through diverse, intersectional, cross-sectoral and multidisciplinary approaches to the nuances of (im)mobility in the context of climate change; keen to understand research gaps and pathways for shaping effective policy, advocacy and solutions-oriented measures in furtherance of mitigating risks, protection, sustainable development and environmental justice



## **Lived-experiences of climate-related loss**

Desire to embolden knowledge and become equipped with skills to understand and respond to environmental and related crises as they are impacting and altering the social, cultural, economic and political fabrics of participants' homes, families, communities and countries



## **Professional development for current & future work**

Keeness to participate in order to advance current or intended research activities, practical streams of work, advocacy and activism on related topics; desire to develop knowledge and skills that align with career trajectories; aims to incorporate climate mobility within curriculum, research projects and the workplans and programmes of participant affiliations; interest to locate new pathways to become involved in or delve deeper into work on climate mobility; eagerness to advance contributions to research publications on climate mobility and to influence policy developments on the topic



## **Network-building for collaboration**

Eagerness to build relationships with other scholars, advocates and practitioners working on the issue of climate mobility in order to engage in collaborative work, forge partnerships and inspire dynamic, creative solutions; desire to feel connected with like-minded change-makers



## **Transformational change for large-scale impact**

Concerns about the dire and burgeoning challenges that climate change is posing around the world, and particularly, their uneven effects; frustrations around the shortcomings of law and policy frameworks across scales and geographies to adequately address the challenges and opportunities of climate mobility through the lenses of justice; desire to transform research and praxis to better serve humanity and the planet



## **Visions for a more just & sustainable future for all**

Energized and change-charged passion to contribute to making the world a more just, equitable and sustainable place for all; the future of all life on earth, in dignity

# Impact.

Through written responses on the Feedback Evaluation Form and verbal reflections shared during an optional end-of-school round-table event where participants had the opportunity to provide feedback, many expressed how participation at the ISCM has impacted them.

The most common impacts mentioned were:



## **Expanding diverse networks & growing the climate mobility community**

Gratitude for the rich, diverse, multidisciplinary and cross-sectoral network of students, recent graduates, academics, practitioners and advocates that was formed through programme participation



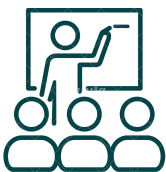
## **Inspiring career development & pathways on climate mobility**

Inspirations for new and developing career trajectories which place particular focus on climate mobility and introduce the topic within existing streams of work



## **Advancing climate mobility research**

Intentions to incorporate knowledge exchanged, perspectives and approaches shared at the ISCM within current and future research projects, including postgraduate dissertations and doctoral research



## **Developing new curriculum and educational opportunities on climate mobility**

Aims to introduce climate mobility into respective teaching engagements, including new courses on the topic within participant universities and institutions



## **Forging collaborations in the climate mobility sector**

Plans to collaborate with fellow participants, visiting experts and their affiliations on research projects, joint-publications and advocacy work on climate mobility

*As a young environmental activist, attending the International School on Climate Migration (ISCM) was a **transformative experience**. Surrounded by passionate individuals from diverse backgrounds, I gained a deeper understanding of the interconnectedness between climate change and human migration. [...] **Inspired and empowered**, I came to my workplace ready to amplify my voice and make a meaningful impact in the fight against climate-induced migration*

**-Hasibul Hasan, Bangladesh**

# More Testimonials.

*This was a wonderful project. I was extremely grateful to be provided a fee waiver deduction. I would not have been able to participate without it. Thinking about immobility was something novel for me. Not only thinking about it, but the frame and language used around it. The importance placed on this aspect was incredibly insightful. I had a wonderful time and am so happy to be **connected with this body of practitioners and scholars***

**Elisa D'Amico, USA**

*"My experience was **enriching, informative, eye-opening** and raised awareness on the phenomenon of climate change and migration across the entire globe. When I first started my knowledge was limited but now I have a broader understanding of this subject matter not only from an academic level but also at policy, research and programming levels. The lectures and presentations delivered were of high standards and the presenters are great researchers and experts in their fields*

**Wayne Malinga, Zimbabwe**

*"Attending ISCM was a valuable and enjoyable experience that provided me with the best education on climate migration. As Khalil Gibran said, "It is when you give of yourself that you truly give". **ISCM gave all.***

**Fabian Nyamboki Oriri, Kenya**

*The ISCM was an **eye-opening experience for me, a first-generation learner and internal climate migrant**, as we delved into the complex world of climate change, mobility, refuge, and migration. Connecting with experts and peers, I learned about the global impact of climate-induced displacement, inspiring me to contribute towards a sustainable future and igniting a passion for environmental advocacy*

**Prashant Jibhakate, India**

*"To begin with, my entire preliminary understanding of climate migration was **completely shaken and rebuilt** with the introductory week [...] Similarly, the other weeks that followed, each broke a nascent understanding of mine on a particular issue and alternatively **built a highly dense foundational understanding.***

**Philo Magdalene A, India**

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## TEAM

The ISCM is made possible by the hard work and devotion of several members of the Earth Refuge team, as well as student-led coordinating team, recruited each year from a passionate pool of postgraduate students at SOAS University of London. The programme is managed by [Lauren Grant](#), Founding Director of the ISCM and Director of Field Research at Earth Refuge and Programme Managers, [Caitlin Burrows](#), and [Daniella Otte](#).

## GET IN TOUCH

Want to learn more about the ISCM or discuss opportunities to get involved? Kindly get in touch.

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Centre for Human  
Rights Law  
**SOAS**  
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Centre for Migration  
and Diaspora Studies  
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University of London

 [Read more testimonials here.](#)

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