Anthropocene Mobilities – The Politics of Movement in an Age of Change

International Workshop at the University of Hamburg, 1-2 June 2017

Conveners:
Dr. Christiane Fröhlich (christiane.froehlich@uni-hamburg.de)
Dr. Delf Rothe (rothe@ifsh.de)

Workshop Venue:
Universität Hamburg
Senatssitzungssaal
Main Building
Edmund-Siemers-Alle 1
20146 Hamburg
Workshop abstract:

Geologists and Earth System scientists have argued that the planet has entered a new epoch: the Anthropocene. The Anthropocene names the age in which humanity took control over the planet and pushed the Earth System into a new stage of disequilibrium, with significant effects on global human - and non-human - mobility. The proposed workshop draws on this new perspective on planetary change provided by the Anthropocene debate to further the debate on environmental or climate-induced migration and its policy implications.

The Anthropocene’s implications for the study of environmental migration as well as for international security have so far seldom been considered in academic literature, even though it forces us to re-evaluate and re-think our fundamental ontological and epistemological concepts (Gemenne 2015). As argued by Bruno Latour and others, the advent of the Anthropocene implies the end of “the bifurcation of nature’ or the final rejection of the separation between Nature and Humanity that has paralyzed science and politics since the dawn of modernism” (Latour 2015).

The described “bifurcation of nature” also characterizes the existing literature on environmentally or climate-induced migration. In the earlier literature on environmental migration, often accused of a naïve environmental determinism, nature appeared in the form of disasters and extreme events, which tipped societies into chaos and pushed people out of their homes (Myers, 1991, 1998, 2005; Myers et al. 1995; Brown 2008; Waever, Buzan, Kelstrup, & Lemaitre, 1993). But even though the literature on environmental migration has become much more sophisticated and the environmental determinism of the old days has been replaced by sensitivity for the multi-causality of migratory decisions (Castles 2002, Morrissey 2009), the social and the natural are still artificially divided into a set of variables, just to be recombined and layered in computer models or regression analyses (Selby 2014).
The workshop seeks to fundamentally rethink the prevailing ontological categories of environmental migration research and to work towards an analytical framework which studies processes of human mobility within their specific, hybrid socio-natural contexts. It seeks to initiate a fruitful dialogue between scholars working on climate change and human mobility, on the one hand, and scholars engaging with the Anthropocene concept and its theoretical and normative implications on the other.
Workshop Program

*Thursday, 1 June 2017, 9:00– 10:00*
Introduction and workshop rationale

Christiane Fröhlich and Delf Rothe (University of Hamburg/Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy, Hamburg)

*Thursday, 1 June 2017, 10:00– 11:30*
Critical perspectives on the Anthropocene

On the dangers of an anthropocene era: periodisation, epochalisation and the geological subject
Madeleine Fagan
University of Warwick

Care and Carelessness in the Anthropocene
Cameron Harrington
University of Cape Town

Anthroporaciality: on the geologics of white supremacy
Andrew Baldwin
Durham University

*Discussant*
Delf Rothe

*** Coffee Break ***

*Thursday, 1 June 2017, 12:00 – 13:30*
Security and geopolitics in the Anthropocene

Anthropocene geopolitics: the end of liberal environmentalism?
Eva Lövbrand
Linköping University

Machinic Mobilities: The Ontopolitics of the Anthropocene
David Chandler
University of Westminster

Epistemic mobilities in the Anthropocene: Concepts of international justice in the discourse on geoengineering
Silke Beck
UFZ Leipzig
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Institution</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, 1 June 2016, 14:30 – 16:00</td>
<td>Governing human mobility in the Anthropocene</td>
<td>Jürgen Scheffran</td>
<td>University of Hamburg</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Security and Environmental Migration in the Anthropocene</td>
<td>Matt McDonald</td>
<td>University of Queensland, Brisbane</td>
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<td>Eppur si muove – Climate Migration as symptom in the Anthropocene</td>
<td>Giovanni Bettini</td>
<td>Lancaster University</td>
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<td>Governing environmental mobilities</td>
<td>Ingrid Boas</td>
<td>Wageningen University</td>
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<td>Thursday, 1 June 2016, 16:30 – 18:00</td>
<td>Indigenous movements, resistance and justice in the Anthropocene</td>
<td>Andrea Balbo</td>
<td>University of Hamburg</td>
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<td>Indigenous Climate Justice and the Anthropocene</td>
<td>Kyle Whyte</td>
<td>Michigan State University</td>
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<td>Indigenizing Climate Migration</td>
<td>Julian Reid</td>
<td>University of Lapland</td>
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<td>Articulating transnational activism for post-humanist legal frameworks</td>
<td>Cristina Espinoza</td>
<td>University of Freiburg</td>
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Discussant: Christiane Fröhlich
### Thursday, 1 June 2017, 18:15 – 19:45
Public Panel: Anthropocene Mobilities

<table>
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<th>Panel chair:</th>
<th>Anita Engels</th>
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<td>Speakers:</td>
<td>Andrew Baldwin, Jairus Grove, Silja Klepp, Eva Lövbrand</td>
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### Friday, 2 June 2017, 10:00 – 11:30
The Mediterranean: Region of the Anthropocene?

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<tr>
<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>Here Be Moderns!: Terraforming the Arab Gulf as Requiem for A Martian Post-Apocalypse</td>
<td>Jairus Grove</td>
<td>University of Hawaii, Manoa</td>
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<td>Climate Change and Migration in the Middle East from an Anthropocene Perspective</td>
<td>Özlem Tür</td>
<td>Middle East Technical University, Ankara</td>
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<td>Settler colonialism through the lens of the Anthropocene</td>
<td>Olaf Corry, Ruba Salih</td>
<td>University of Copenhagen, SOAS London</td>
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<td>Discussant</td>
<td>Ethemcan Turhan</td>
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*** Coffee Break ***

### Friday, 2 June 2017, 12:00 – 13:30
Anthropocene mobilities: local experiences

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<tr>
<td>Rethinking mobility in the Anthropocene: Insights from the Marshall Islands</td>
<td>Jon Barnett</td>
<td>University of Melbourne</td>
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<td>Climate Change Migration from a Pacific Island Perspective – The Anthropology of Emerging Legal Orders</td>
<td>Silja Klepp</td>
<td>University of Kiel</td>
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Can the real rebel city please stand up? An inquiry on progressive municipal responses to climate change and migration

Ethemcan Turhan
KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm

Discussant
Matt McDonald

*** Lunch Break ***

Friday, 2 June 2017, 14:30 – 16:00
Wrap up and conclusion

Thematic summaries by: Michael Brzoska, David Chandler and Silke Beck
Workshop participants

Jon Barnett
University of Melbourne