

"Extreme Events - Building Climate Resilient Societies"
Herrenhausen Conference on October 9-11, 2019, Hannover

Session 3 "Climate Extremes and Security"

Session Co-chairs: CHRISTOPH MAINBERGER – Federal Foreign Office | PROF. DR. JÜRGEN Scheffran – Institute of Geography, Hamburg University | DR. JUDITH NORA HARDT – Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy (Hamburg) und Centre Marc Bloch (Humboldt University)

Day 1 - Wednesday, October 9, 2019:

11:15 a.m. PARALLEL SESSION 3 **Climate Extremes and Security"**
Room 1 **General Research Question I – Expected Impacts**

Session Part 1: Which impacts are expected to be caused by extreme climate events (incl. security risks, human migration, violent conflict, social instabilities and tipping points) across ecosystems, infrastructures and society?

Moderation: JÜRGEN SCHEFFRAN

Session Part 1a (90 min)

1. **Conceptual framing** on climate extremes and security: JÜRGEN SCHEFFRAN (10 min)
2. **Introduction round:** participant's expectation (30 min)
3. **Impulse talks** on science-based empirical linkages and cases (15 min each plus 5 min questions):

Quantitative studies

MICHAEL BRZOSKA (IFSH, Hamburg, Germany)

Quantitative research has primarily focused on whether there is a correlation between extreme events and violent conflict. Recent work, mostly done as panel studies but also using innovative approaches, has predominantly confirmed a significant but small causal effect of extreme events on violence. Furthermore, research has identified a number of conditions and mechanisms, which tend to either enhance or weaken the effects of extreme events.

Probing mechanisms (and qualitative case studies)

MALIN MOBJÖRK (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute SIPRI, Sweden)

In recent years researchers have increasingly started to explore the mechanisms through which climate change affects violent conflict. This research, which often are qualitative or grounded in mixed-method approaches, aims to provide theoretical explanations about when, where and how climate change affects extreme outcomes. The spatial, temporal and political dimensions are essential in explaining the mechanisms identified.

Probing the mechanisms also reveal an important distinction between causes of conflicts and conflict dynamics, which is essential in adopting adequate policy measures.

3:00 p.m.

PARALLEL SESSION 3

Room 1

Research Question I – Expected Impacts (continued)

Session Part 1b (60 min)

1. Impulse talks on science-based empirical linkages and cases (15 min each plus 5 min questions):

Challenges in reducing the humanitarian impact of extreme events

STEFANIE LUX (German Red Cross, International Cooperation Department, Berlin)

Extreme weather events are increasing in frequency and intensity; poor, vulnerable communities suffer the greatest consequences. The increased needs caused by disasters are a challenge for the humanitarian system. At the same time, extreme events can be predicted with increased accuracy days, weeks sometimes months in advance. Weather forecasts coupled with vulnerability and exposure information can be used to anticipate disasters. Early actions taken in the window between forecast and extreme event can help the population at risk to protect their lives and livelihoods. With Forecast-based Financing, the Red Cross Movement is institutionalizing this approach, which comes with many challenges.

2. Guided discussion with the whole group with the help of pre-prepared guiding questions and exchange results of group discussion (addressing climate extremes and security issues) and collect main points on flipchart to wrap up and report back to plenary (40 min)

Day 2 - Thursday, October 10, 2019:

9:15 a.m.

Room 1

PARALLEL SESSIONS

General Research Question II – Key Obstacles

Session Part 2: What are key obstacles (e.g. knowledge, vulnerability, complex crises, compound effects, financing, governance) towards societal resilience across sectors and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?

Moderation: JUDITH NORA HARDT

Session Part 2a (90 min)

1. Impulse talks (15 minutes each plus 5 minutes questions)

Complex obstacles, challenges and compound effects

JANANI VIVEKANANDA (Adelphi, Berlin, Germany)

What are the key challenges arising from the convergence of climate change and fragility? To what extent are these risks being acknowledged in interventions on the ground? What is the value of a climate-fragility risk assessment to sustainable development? Taking Lake Chad as a case study, the input will explore the value, challenges and opportunities of assessing and addressing linked climate and fragility issues in order to promote stability and sustainable development in fragile contexts.

Challenges of climate change adaptation

SILJA KLEPP (University of Kiel, Germany)

Most of the discussions concerning 'adaptation' are framed in an apolitical manner. This means that the political implications behind climate change adaptation are not explicitly addressed, and so remain invisible. What do we learn if we focus our analysis on the political aspects, on changing power relations, growing vulnerabilities, and different kinds of injustices linked to climate change adaptation?

How to govern extreme events? Securitisation versus communal care.

FRANZISKA MÜLLER (Kassel University, Germany)

The definition of the Anthropocene (as a new geological era) comes as a rupture to well-known modes of governance. Entering permanent crisis mode in dealing with 'wicked problems' (Ostrom) means that the 'business as usual' ways of dealing with catastrophe might not produce the expected results, but may bear unintended consequences. Currently, several scenarios seem possible: (1) an exhaustion of public capacities, resulting in further privatization and securitisation of emergency services, as it has been visible for instance with regard to US hurricane governance; (2) a rediscovery of communitarianism and volunteering, with the "summer of migration" and unforeseen volunteering activities in Germany, communal dyke protection in the Netherlands or the trans-urban C40 city network as examples; (3) transition governance as a public/civic long-term strategy that calls for a 'deep transformation'. In that regard, governance in the Anthropocene has important repercussions both for the democratic polity and for the fundamental understanding of nature as either a fearful space or a socio-ecological system.

2. **Guided discussion** with the help of pre-prepared guiding questions (addressing obstacles and challenges to security and resilience) (30 min)

11:15 a.m.

Room 1

PARALLEL SESSION 3

Research Question II – Key Obstacles (continued)

Session Part 2b (60min)

1. **World cafe discussions:** identify elements of future knowledge needs and visions of resilient security (30 min)
2. **Preparation** for plenary reporting (30 min)

2:30 p.m.

Rooms 1

PARALLEL SESSION 3

General Research Question III – Knowledge Needed

Session 3: Which research and teaching, knowledge needs and policy options can help to overcome obstacles to support the transformation towards security and SDGs while facing climate extremes?

Moderation: CHRISTOPH MAINBERGER

Session Part 3a (90 min)

1. **Conceptual framing** on policy-oriented contributions to soft security, resilience and sustainability (partic. SDG 16): Christoph Mainberger (10min)
2. **Impulse talks** (15 minutes each plus 5 minutes questions)

Examples of good practice?

ADRIANA ABDENOUR (Instituto Igarapé, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)

In Latin America and the Caribbean, socioeconomic inequality is an important factor in how extreme events shape security, with vulnerable groups such as the poor, women and indigenous and Afro-descendant populations being disproportionately affected by disasters and other extreme weather events. How can public policy be designed so as to minimize these relations? I will draw on examples from Brazil to illustrate pitfalls and possibilities.

Input on research project “Climate change in security perceptions, conceptions and practice of UNSC member states”

JUDITH NORA HARDT (IFSH, CMB, BERLIN, GERMANY)

Since 2007, the effects and perceived threats of climate change has been the subject of controversial discussion in the UNSC. Does climate change influence the perception, conception and practice of national and international security? This question is examined on the basis of 15 country case studies at the UNSC. The research approach is based on a broad understanding of security policy and constructive approaches to security of Peace, Conflict and Security Studies. A special feature of the project, which is carried out

in cooperation between the IFSH and the Climate Change and Security Research Group (CLISEC), is the inclusion of local expertise and a wide scientific network.

Future challenges at the science-policy interface

HELENA DE JONG (United Nations Climate Security Mechanism, Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, New York)

In 2018, the UN's Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, UN Environment and UNDP jointly established the Climate Security Mechanism. The Mechanism seeks to strengthen the capacity of the UN system to address climate-related security risks through (i) better assessments, (ii) evidence-based prevention and management strategies, and (iii) targeted advocacy and partnership building.

- 3. Guided discussion** with the help of pre-prepared guiding questions (addressing good practices and possible projects at the science-policy interface) (30 min)

Day 3 - Friday, October 11, 2019

9:15 a.m.

Rooms 1

PARALLEL SESSION 3

General Research Question III – Knowledge Needed (continued)
Research & Action Agenda

Session Part 3b (60 min)

World cafe discussions and brainstorming: good practices and possible projects on resilient and resilient security at the science-policy interface (35 min)

Preparation for plenary reporting (30 min)

Concluding discussions and outlook (10 min)