

WiC Internal Seminar

Vienna Institute of Demography
Welthandelsplatz 2 / Level 2
Nathan Keyfitz Library
1020 Vienna

Roman Hoffmann and Anna Dimitrova

joint work with Raya Muttarak, Jesus Crespo Cuaresma, Jonas Peisker

Friday, 15 February 2019

12:00-13:00 (please feel free to bring your lunch)

“Quantifying the Evidence on Environmental Migration: A Meta-Analysis on Country-Level Studies”

That climate change may trigger large-scale (involuntary) human migration has been predicted by many scholars and international organizations since the 1980s and there has been growing interest in the subject by researchers, policy makers, and the wider public, leading to a substantial increase in statistical studies in the past years. However, to date, there is no scientific consensus how and under what conditions climatic changes and variability influence population movements. To this end, this study aims to quantitatively synthesize the growing evidence on the relationship using a meta-analysis approach. For reasons of comparability, we focus on 32 macro-level studies (~1800 distinct environmental effects on migration) using country-level data, which were identified in a systematic literature search. Employing an innovative standardization approach, we harmonize migration estimates across studies. Besides average effects, we investigate the heterogeneity in effects across study lines considering in particular the role of non-environmental contextual factors and different theoretical mechanisms in influencing human mobility. This allows us to not only determine the scale and scope of the relationship, but to also study under which conditions environmental migration most likely occurs and why.