

Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future TOPICAL LUNCH

Title: Environmentally-Induced Migration: Drivers, Vulnerabilities, and Possible Solutions

Host: Lindy Williams

Date: Thursday April 28, 2016 – 12:00 – 1:00pm 300 Rice Hall

A recent AAAS Climate Science Panel has argued that because of climate change, “there is a small, but real chance of abrupt, unpredictable and potentially irreversible changes with highly damaging impacts on people in the United States and around the world.” Widespread displacement is likely to be one outcome of such changes. Although abrupt events pose a considerable risk, slower changes to environmental systems are also expected to spur widespread migration in the years ahead. The topic for discussion on the 28th will be how to understand and plan for significant future internal and international migration that could have at its roots significant environmental drivers.

The objective of this topical lunch will be for faculty from across the university who are interested in this topic to join an interdisciplinary conversation. I would like to invite participants to consider a few questions. First, what are the most consequential environmental causes of substantial human displacement going to be in the coming decades, and where are these likely to occur? How are environmental drivers magnified by institutional ones and vice versa? What are some effective and humane policy responses to environmentally-induced displacement? What are some innovative ways to study this process? What synergies might we develop at Cornell to better understand this issue and contribute to potential solutions?