



**12<sup>TH</sup>**  
**EUROPEAN CONGRESS ON**  
**TROPICAL MEDICINE AND**  
**INTERNATIONAL HEALTH**  
VIRTUAL FROM BERGEN, NORWAY.  
28 SEPT - 1 OCT 2021



**Lancet Migration**  
Global collaboration to advance migration health



GENEVA CENTRE OF  
HUMANITARIAN STUDIES  
CENTRE D'ÉTUDES  
HUMANITAIRES GENÈVE

## *Programme*

# **Lancet Migration European Regional Hub: accelerating research for climate change-related migration health**

Tuesday, 28th September, 2021

11:00-11:50 CEST

[12th European Congress on Tropical Medicine and International Health \(ECTMIH\)](#)

Via OnAIR virtual platform

<https://migrationhealth.org/regional-hubs/europe/european-events-listing/>



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Welcome to this public session on climate-related migration to and within the European Region. Lancet Migration is a global collaboration between *The Lancet* and researchers, implementers, and others in the field of migration and health that aims to address evidence gaps and drive policy change, building on the recommendations of the UCL- *Lancet* Commission on Migration and Health published in December 2018 (<https://www.thelancet.com/commissions/migration-health>). Launched in June 2021 and co-hosted by the Geneva Centre of Humanitarian Studies, the Lancet Migration European Regional Hub aims to bring together researchers, civil society, non-governmental bodies, multilateral organisations, policy makers, and migrants themselves across the region to encourage the development of regional research projects and link academia with policy and practice to translate evidence into action. One of the core research priorities for Lancet Migration ([www.migrationandhealth.org](http://www.migrationandhealth.org)) is the climate change, migration, and health nexus. In 2019, the International Organization for Migration defined the term climate migration as, “the movement of a person or groups of persons who, predominantly for reasons of sudden or progressive change in the environment due to climate change, are obliged to leave their habitual place of residence, or choose to do so, either temporarily or permanently, within a State or across an international border”. It is well recognized that climate change is detrimental to planetary health, and disproportionately affects those most vulnerable. Faced with natural disasters, conflict, changing temperatures and affected agriculture practices, people are being increasingly displaced from their homes. Food security, the spread of vector-borne diseases, access to water, sanitation and hygiene, and mental health are some of the many health issues encountered as a result of climate change-related migration. Since 2013, the European Union has identified climate change-related migration as a health policy issue. However, few focused research initiatives have evolved. It is not well understood to what extent health is impacted and how access to health services can be improved in the European Region in response to climate-driven migration. This interactive panel discussion will explore research gaps and opportunities surrounding the health challenges and effects relating to climate change-related migration.



## Agenda

Time	Item	Speakers
10:55-11:00	Audience polls	Via Mentimeter
11:00-11:03	Opening	Professor Karl Blanchet, Co-Lead, Lancet Migration European Regional Hub
11:03-11:35	Expert panel discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr Rita Issa, Lancet Migration Research Fellow, Climate Change Migration &amp; Health</li> <li>• Professor Ilan Kelman, Disasters and Health at University College London</li> <li>• Dr Patricia Nayna Schwerdtle, Heidelberg Institute of Global Health</li> <li>• Dr Soumyadeep Banerjee, Regional Migration, Environment and Climate Change Specialist, International Organization for Migration (IOM) Regional Office for South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia</li> </ul>
11:35-11:45	Audience Q&A	Taking live audience questions, facilitated by Professor Karl Blanchet
11:45-11:50	Closing remarks	Professor Karl Blanchet and Dr Rita Issa



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## Speaker Biographies



**Karl Blanchet** is the Director of the Geneva Centre of Humanitarian Studies, and Professor in Humanitarian Public Health at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Geneva. Before joining University of Geneva, Professor Blanchet worked in health systems research at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine since 2010 and was the co-founder and co-Director of the [Health in Humanitarian Crises Centre](#). Professor Blanchet's research focuses on system resilience and health systems issues in global health, specifically in post-conflict and conflict-affected countries. He has developed

innovative research approaches based on complexity science and system thinking, and is currently focusing on Women, adolescent and Child Health in humanitarian settings. Karl is also developing a priority package of essential health services for countries such as Afghanistan and more generally for humanitarian crises. Karl Blanchet was one of the coPI of the [Lancet Series on Women's and Children's Health in Conflict Settings](#). Professor Blanchet is also the Academic Director of [InZone](#), a University of Geneva academic project offering university courses for refugee populations.

Twitter @BlanchetKarl | Website [www.humanitarianstudies.ch/](http://www.humanitarianstudies.ch/)



**Rita Issa** is a UK family medicine doctor and Lancet Migration research fellow in climate change, migration and health. She has previously worked with these themes through the UCL-Lancet Commission on Migration and Health, Greenpeace, LSHTM, WHO, and MSF. She is a climate and migration justice advocate with Doctors for Extinction Rebellion and Docs Not Cops among others, a media spokesperson, and columnist for the Independent.

Twitter @DrRitaIssa | Website [www.drritaissa.com/](http://www.drritaissa.com/)



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**Ilan Kelman** is Professor of Disasters and Health at University College London, England and a Professor II at the University of Agder, Kristiansand, Norway. His overall research interest is linking disasters and health, including the integration of climate change into disaster research and health research. That covers three main areas: (i) disaster diplomacy and health diplomacy <http://www.disasterdiplomacy.org> ; (ii) island sustainability involving safe and healthy communities in isolated locations <http://www.islandvulnerability.org> ; and (iii) risk education for health and disasters <http://www.riskred.org>.

Twitter/Instagram @ilankelman | <http://www.ilankelman.org>



**Patricia Nayna Schwerdtle (Trish)** is a Global Public Health academic completing her Ph.D. on climate-related migration and health. She has consulted for Governments, WHO, UNEP, and NGOs on climate change and health and climate-resilient health systems. Trish is originally a clinician, with 15 years of experience as an RN working with patients in a range of countries and health care settings, including humanitarian settings. Trish has experience in humanitarian governance and is co-opted to the international board on MSF to advise on climate issues.

Twitter @trishnayna



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**Dr Soumyadeep Banerjee** is Regional Migration, Environment and Climate Change Specialist at the International Organization for Migration's Regional Office for South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia. He has previously worked in South Asia and East Asia. He has widely published on migration, environment and climate change nexus, including recently co-authoring a chapter on Human Mobility and Adaptation to Environmental Change in the World Migration Report 2020 and was a Contributing Author to the High Mountain Chapter of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate.

Twitter @souv\_banerjee