

*Weathers of the Future: Climate Change and Displacement*

This project titled *Weathers of the Future: Climate Change and Displacement* aims to examine literary and cultural representations of human and non-human forms of displacement triggered by environmental crises in the Global South. In particular, it will focus on political and aesthetic meanings attached to climate-induced displacement as it figures in postcolonial cultures (literature, film and art), both Anglophone and Francophone. Seeking to nuance the critical repertoire of displacement and its aftermath, the project aspires to problematize the figure of the *climate refugee* as insufficient to the task of addressing the various forms of mobility increasingly imagined as an emergency response to devastated environments. Suggesting a less troubled and more capacious concept of displacement, this project aims to open up a space where more *directions, scales* and *actors* can be seen as emerging from the sites of ecological crises.

Indebted to migration studies, *Weathers of the Future* will primarily borrow, theoretically and conceptually, from a body of critical work emerging from the field of environmental humanities which *provincializes* (Elizabeth DeLoughrey) the Anthropocene and related concerns. This project purposefully adopts *displacement* as a methodological orientation and a hermeneutic tool enabling the provincializing reading practice undertaken here. Recognizing its *descriptive* and *analytical* potential, the project deploys displacement as a critical lens through which to read postcolonial cultures and to bring into visibility not only the *subjects* but also the *sites* of displacement. This project's turn to the Global South is thus not merely a bid for inclusion into the repertoire of the universalizing lexicons characterizing the Anthropocene discourses but is, much more importantly, an attempt to examine how these cultures re-define the terms of the ongoing discussion, pushing its critical parametres onto novel terrains.

In order to implement and probe the hermeneutic potential of the concept of displacement, this project asks a set of questions: a) how do cultural productions from the Global South envisage climate change and displacement beyond the aesthetics of the apocalypse and survival? b) what identities and realities do they bring into being as they thrust displacement and climate change into narrative and imaginary proximities? c) what relationships do they forge between climate vulnerability and movement? d) what relationships do they imagine between climate change and stasis recognizing that for some, being forced to stay may be the only available and viable option? e) how do they redefine displacement beyond the parameters of emergency and humanitarian protocols?

The answers provided to these questions are expected to constitute the intended outcomes of the research undertaken in this project. They will also expand the parametres of the scholarly debate by a) bringing climate change and displacement into critical proximities to specifically examine how postcolonial literature, film and art inscribe movement, forced and desired, into crisis and post-crisis scenarios; b) broadening the thematic perspective to include non-human actors as subjects of displacement and casualties of climate change; c) opening this field of inquiry to Francophone writers and artists who have so far been largely excluded from these scholarly endeavours; d) specifically focusing on the Global South as the *mise-en-scène* of the environmental and migratory phenomena under discussion, with special attention given to Africa and African authors and artists.