

# Department of Philosophy Colloquium Series

Thursday,  
October 6  
4-6 p.m.

Watson Hall  
Room 517



## Migration, Climate Change and Voluntariness



**Christine Straehle**  
(University of Hamburg)

The displacement of historical communities is one of the morally most challenging issues that climate change brings. I discuss the argument that the situation of climate induced migrants should be considered equivalent to that of political refugees, and argue that the needs of climate induced migrants can't be met with the tools of asylum, i.e. membership in a new state. I then turn to another remedy discussed in the literature, namely relocation. I explain the harm that relocation of climate induced migrants brings. I base my assessment on the requirement of choices being made voluntarily in order to provide conditions for personal autonomy. I identify three harms that are tied to relocation from territory: the severing of ties between self and territory; the severing of ties between community and territory; and the severing of historical belonging.

**Everyone Welcome!**

For accessibility requirements, please contact [philosophy@queensu.ca](mailto:philosophy@queensu.ca)

Please note that all in-person attendees must conform to the Queen's vaccine policy:

<https://www.queensu.ca/secretariat/policies/administration-and-operations/covid-19-vaccination-requirements>