Climate Justice, Race, and Migration

Thursday, Nov. 14
UC San Diego
The Great Hall
2:00-4:00 PM

Climate change, caused primarily by the greenhouse gas emissions of the world’s most affluent populations, is having a disproportionate impact on socially and economically subordinated populations all over the world. Although climate change is anticipated to displace between 200 million and 1 billion people by 2050, the racialized hostility of the US, the European Union, and Australia to persons fleeing poverty, conflict, and environmental degradation does not bode well for climate refugees. This discussion will examine the relationship between climate change and racial subordination, evaluating the evolving legal and policy responses to climate change-induced displacement.

Carmen G. Gonzalez

Carmen G. Gonzalez is a Professor of Law at Seattle University School of Law. She has published widely in the areas of international environmental law, human rights and the environment, environmental justice, and food security. Professor Gonzalez has served as a Fulbright Scholar, a US Supreme Court Fellow, and visiting professor at various institutions around the world. She currently serves on the Board of Trustees of EarthJustice, the largest public interest environmental law firm in the United States. Professor Gonzalez is the co-editor of two critically acclaimed books, Presumed Incompetent: The Intersections of Race and Class for Women in Academia and International Environmental Law and the Global South. Her latest book, Energy Justice: US and International Perspectives, was published by Edward Elgar in November 2016. Professor Gonzalez holds a B.A. from Yale University and a J.D. from Harvard Law School.