

# The Stockholm Seminars

- focusing on the dynamics and stewardship of social-ecological systems

## Should They Stay or Should They Go? Environmental Migration in a Warmer World

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Linné Hall, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences,  
Lilla Frescativägen 4, Stockholm

Massive population displacements are regularly forecasted as one of the most dramatic possible consequences of climate change. Empirical studies, however, reveal a different picture: migration becomes an adaptation strategy for those who are affected by the impacts of climate change, yet mobility often remains a luxury, unavailable for those who cannot afford to migrate. Hence the most vulnerable are often stuck in places heavily impacted by climate change, unable to seek higher grounds and a better life.

This presentation will challenge the commonly-held views of ‘climate refugees’ and show how policy responses to environmental changes affect people’s ability to migrate, and why these policy responses often matter more than the very impacts of climate change in their migration decision.

*François Gemenne is a research fellow at the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI). He also teaches international politics of climate change and the governance of migration at Sciences Po Paris, the University of Paris 13 and the Free University of Brussels. His research deals with populations displaced by environmental changes and the policies of adaptation to climate change. He holds a joint doctorate in political science from Sciences Po Paris and the University of Liege (Belgium). He also holds a Master in Development, Environment and Societies from the University of Louvain, and a Master of Research in Political Science from the London School of Economics, where he also taught some courses. He has authored three books: ‘Anticiper pour s’adapter’ (with L. Tubiana and A. Magnan, in French, Pearson 2010), ‘Géopolitique du changement climatique’ (in French, Armand Colin 2009), and ‘Nations and their Histories : Constructions and Representations’ (edited with Susana Carvalho, Palgrave Macmillan 2009).*