



## Future Directions for the Concept of 'Climate Refugees'

Guest Editor:

### Dr. Gregory White

Mary Huggins Gamble Professor  
of Government and  
Environmental Science and  
Policy, Smith College,  
Northampton, MA 01063, USA

Deadline for manuscript  
submissions:

**closed (31 May 2021)**

### Message from the Guest Editor

The concept of “climate refugees” has been salient since the 1980s, but it has taken on special urgency in recent decades. With this attention the concept has become the subject of contentious debates focusing on definitions, demographic estimates, time horizons, and the complex interplay between environmental change and human migration. The considerations are further complicated by legal and historical questions about refugee protection and migration regimes. Some scholars are keen to explore accountability and justice questions—e.g., advanced-industrialized countries are responsible for the greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to the climate change that displaces people in the Global South. Others are focusing on the implications for national and international security—i.e., climate change is a “threat multiplier” that will destabilize countries and regions with people on the move.





an Open Access Journal by MDPI

## Editor-in-Chief

**Emeritus Prof. Nigel Parton**  
School of Human and Health  
Sciences, University of  
Huddersfield, Huddersfield HD1  
3DH, UK

## Message from the Editor-in-Chief

*Social Sciences* is an international open access peer-reviewed journal publishing the latest research across all disciplines of the social sciences including anthropology, criminology, economics, education, geography, history, law, linguistics, political science, psychology, social policy, social work, sociology and related areas. The journal is especially interested in interdisciplinary research, and aims to facilitate the interaction and communication between different social scientific disciplines. The journal welcomes conventional length articles as well as shorter Research Notes or short articles, as long as they meet the journal's standards of quality and originality.

## Author Benefits

**Open Access:** free for readers, with article processing charges (APC) paid by authors or their institutions.

**High visibility:** indexed within Scopus, ESCI (Web of Science), RePEc, and other databases.

**Journal Rank:** JCR - Q2 (*Social Sciences, Interdisciplinary*) / CiteScore - Q2 (*General Social Sciences*)

## Contact Us

---

*Social Sciences* Editorial Office  
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5  
4052 Basel, Switzerland

Tel: +41 61 683 77 34  
[www.mdpi.com](http://www.mdpi.com)

[mdpi.com/journal/socsci](http://mdpi.com/journal/socsci)  
[socsci@mdpi.com](mailto:socsci@mdpi.com)  
[X@SocSci\\_MDPI](https://twitter.com/SocSci_MDPI)