

The Challenge of Involuntary Climate Migration

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Venue: Online (This talk will be held via Zoom.)

Speaker:

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David Miller

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Abstract

Humanly-caused climate change will force many millions of people to leave their homes. When people are forced to move away from their places of residence, either individually or collectively, we think that they have been seriously wronged. But the exact nature of this wrong needs explaining, since those who condemn involuntary displacement of ten celebrate freedom of movement, including movement across national borders. I identify six distinct types of loss that may be suffered by those displaced, which can be brought together as 'loss of homeland'. I claim that there is a human need to belong to a homeland, and defend this against the objection that such a need is experienced only by certain groups and individuals, while others favour mobility. Moreover the harm suffered by the displaced cannot be fully compensated by offering goods of other kinds, which makes displacement wrongful. When caused by global warming, this imposes remedial obligations on the states that have contributed to it including the obligation to surrender territory to allow displaced peoples to exercise self-determination and create a new homeland.

Short Biography

David Miller is Professor of Political Theory and Senior Research Fellow at Nuffield College, Oxford. He was elected as a Fellow of the British Academy in 2002, and in 2020 the European Consortium for Political Research gave him its biennial Lifetime Achievement Award. He has written or edited over twenty books, including *Market, State, and Community: theoretical foundations of market socialism* (Clarendon Press, 1989), *On Nationality* (Clarendon Press, 1995), *Principles of Social Justice* (Harvard University Press, 1999), *National Responsibility and Global Justice* (Oxford University Press, 2007), *Strangers in Our Midst: the political philosophy of immigration* (Harvard University Press, 2016), and *Is Self-Determination a Dangerous Illusion?* (Polity Press, 2020). He continues to work on social justice, nationality, territory and immigration, and (together with Professor Christine Straehle) hopes to develop a new project on climate-induced migration.

Registration is required. Please email: jooglee@cityu.edu.hk