

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

MIGRATION WITH DIGNITY FROM THE PACIFIC ISLANDS COUNTRIES

**CLIMATE CHANGE, PANDEMICS,
LIVELIHOOD AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

IMIN CENTER

PACIFIC ROOM
8 SEPTEMBER 2022
9:00AM - 4:30PM
1777 EAST-WEST ROAD
HONOLULU, HI



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII
MĀNOA



PROGRAM SCHEDULE

9:00AM COFFEE & REGISTRATION

9:30AM WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS

Suzanne Vares-Lum, President, East-West Center
Peter Arnade, Dean, College of Arts, Languages & Letters, University of Hawai'i Mānoa
Alexander Mawyer, Director, Center for Pacific Islands Studies

9:45AM INTRODUCTION TO SPECIAL ISSUE

Mikiyasu Nakayama, Global Infrastructure Research Foundation Japan

10:00AM SESSION 1

10:00AM Migration with Dignity: A Legal and Policy Framework
Shanna N. McClain, National Aeronautics and Space Administration

10:30AM The Methodology and Application of a Migration with Dignity Framework
Carl Bruch, Environmental Law Institute

11:00AM Migration in the Midst of a Pandemic: A Case Study of Pacific Islanders in Oregon
Scott Drinkall, George Mason University

11:30AM LUNCH

12:30PM SESSION 2

12:30PM Highly Skilled Migrant Workers as a Vulnerability of Small Island Developing States During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Cases of Three Countries in Micronesia
Miko Maekawa, Ocean Policy Research Institute, Sasakawa Peace Foundation

1:00PM Alternatives for the Marshall Islands to Cope with the Anticipated Sea Level Rise by Climate Change, *Ryo Fujikura, Hosei University*

1:30PM Mitigating Impacts of Climate Change Induced Sea Level Rise by Infrastructure Development: Case of the Maldives
Akiko Sakamoto, Global Infrastructure Fund Research Foundation Japan

2:30PM Pivotal Factors in the Acculturation of the Second-Generation Marshallese Immigrants to the United States
Junko Toyoshima, Ocean Policy Research Institute, Sasakawa Peace Foundation

2:30PM COFFEE BREAK

2:45PM CLOSING

2:45PM Part I: Findings secured and lessons learned

3:30PM Part II: Policy recommendation and research agenda for further studies

4:30PM END OF PROGRAM



BACKGROUND & OBJECTIVES

Migration is dynamic and varies greatly across the globe due to myriad factors, including demography, economy, geography, and environment. As people move, a number of challenges exist that can leave human rights and human dignity as an afterthought to the migration process.

COVID-19 has drastically changed mobility and migration in key spheres, such as transportation, travel, construction, and hospitality. Our collaborative research was conducted between 2020 and 2021; therefore, we had the opportunity to witness a once-in-a-century global pandemic with direct impacts on migration inflows and outflows. Consequently, we have included pandemics as a key theme for consideration in this issue, believing that the research agenda should be informed by the assessment of impacts in both the atoll countries and in the United States – the most common “destination” of Pacific Islanders. This additional research revealed the vulnerabilities of migrants in the destination countries and in their home countries, vulnerabilities that would not otherwise have been apparent.

Our research was also directly impacted by the pandemic. We intended to conduct field research in countries such as the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), and the Republic of Maldives, with the RMI and FSM serving as countries of “origin” for migration to the United States. In the Maldives, there is a large domestic migration from the atolls to the newly constructed man-made islands. We experienced research and travel limitations due to COVID-19, where many countries have adopted strict isolation policies to prevent the spread of disease. Therefore, we had to conduct our surveys remotely using the Internet or by asking collaborators living in the area to conduct surveys on our behalf.

Our research also touches on the issue of the intergenerationality of immigrants in terms of how migrants adapt or assimilate into the receiving society, and how the mass media plays a role in the perceptions of migrants and the perceived problems associated with immigration by host countries. The results of our research were published in a series of papers in the Journal of Disaster Research Vol.17 (2022) No.3 (Apr), Special issue on Migration, Dignity, Fragility, and Pandemics. The authors will present highlights from this special issue. This international conference will serve as an arena to disseminate what we have found through our research and engage a wide range of stakeholders in relevant discussions.

PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES



Carl Bruch

Environmental Law Institute

Brief Career:

2017- Senior Adjunct Professor, American University School of International Service

2018- Founding President, Environmental Peacebuilding Association

2006- Senior Attorney and Director of International Programs, Environmental Law Institute

Selected Publications:

- “Migration with Dignity: A Case Study on the Livelihood Transition of Marshallese to Springdale, Arkansas,” *J. of Int. Migration and Integration*, Vol.21, pp. 847-859, 2019.
- “Environmental Rule of Law: First Global Report,” UN Environment Programme, 2019.
- “Climate Change Adaptation and Int. Development,” Earthscan, 2010.

Academic Societies & Scientific Organizations:

- Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide (E-LAW)



Scott Drinkall

George Mason University

Brief Career:

2018- Environmental Law Institute 2019- Nexight Group, LLC

2015- Research Analyst, University Research Co., LLC

2012- Legislative Analyst, Hawaii State House of Representatives

Selected Publications:

- S. Drinkall, J. Leung, C. Bruch, K. Micky, and S. Wells, “Migration with dignity: A case study on the livelihood transition of Micronesians to Portland and Salem, Oregon,” *J. Disaster Res.*, Vol.15, No.9, pp. 1267-1276, doi: 10.20965/jdr.2019.p1267, 2019.

Academic Societies & Scientific Organizations:

- Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM)
- American Association of Geographers (AAG)

PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES



Ryo Fujikura

Professor, Faculty of Sustainability Studies, Hosei University

Brief Career:

1999–2003 Professor, Faculty of Economics, Ritsumeikan University

1995–1999 Associate Professor, Institute of Environmental Systems, Kyushu University

1984–1995 Officer, formerly Environment Agency of Japanese Government

Selected Publications:

- “Resettlement Policy in Large Development Projects,” Routledge, 2015.
- “Climate Change Mitigation and Development Cooperation,” Earthscan, 2012.
- “Climate Change Adaptation and Int. Development,” Earthscan, 2010.

Academic Societies & Scientific Organizations:

- Society of Environmental Science, Japan (SES)
- Society for Environmental Economics and Policy Studies (SEEPS)
- Japan Society for International Development (JASID)



Shanna N. McClain

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Brief Career:

2017– Program Manager, National Aeronautics and Space Administration

2011– Consultant, Joint OCHA/UNEP Environmental Emergency Unit

2009– Visiting Scientist, Environmental Law Institute

Selected Publications:

- Migration with Dignity: a Case Study on the Livelihood Transition of Marshallese to Springdale, Arkansas,” J. of Int. Migration and Integration, Vol.21, No.3, pp. 547–589, 2019.
- “Migration, Transition, and Livelihoods: A Comparative Analysis of Marshallese Pre- and Post-Migration to the United States,” J. Disaster Res., Vol.14, No.9, pp. 1262–1266, 2019.

Academic Societies & Scientific Organizations:

- American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)
- American Geophysical Union (AGU)
- American Meteorological Society (AMS)

PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES



Miko Maekawa

Senior Research Fellow, Ocean Policy Research Institute, Sasakawa Peace Foundation

Brief Career:

2014- Joined Sasakawa Peace Foundation

2013- Lecturer, Graduate School of Human Sciences, Osaka University

2012- Assistant Professor with “Wisdom of Water” (Suntory) Corporate Sponsored Research Program, The University of Tokyo

2000-2007 Joined the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Selected Publications:

- M. Maekawa, P. Singh, D. Charan, N. Yoshioka, and T. Uakeia, “Livelihood Re-Establishment of Emigrants from Kiribati in Fiji,” *J. Disaster Res.*, Vol.14, No.9, pp. 1277-1286, 2019.

Academic Societies & Scientific Organizations:

- Japan Society of Ocean Policy (JSOP)
- Society for Environmental Economics and Policy Studies (SEEPS)
- Japan Society of Evaluation (JES)



Alexander Mawyer

Associate Professor & Director, Center for Pacific Islands Studies

Brief Career:

2021 - Director, Center for Pacific Islands Studies

2016- Associate Professor, Tenured, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

2014- Assistant Professor, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

2007 - Assistant Professor Lake Forest College

Selected Publications:

- L. Pappas and A. Mawyer. 2022 "The Place of Space in Oceanic Linguistics." *Oceanic Linguistics* 61(1).
- A. Mawyer. 2021 "Floating Islands, Frontiers and Other Boundary Objects on the Edge of Oceania’s Futurity." *Pacific Affairs* 94 (1): 123–144.

Academic Societies & Scientific Organizations:

- Association of Social Anthropologists of Oceania (ASAO)
- European Society for Oceanists (ESFO)
- Scientific Council of the Maison des Sciences de l’Homme du Pacifique

PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES



Mikiyasu Nakayama

Global Infrastructure Fund Research Foundation Japan

Brief Career:

2020- Managing Director, Global Infrastructure Fund Research Foundation Japan

2004- Professor, Graduate School of Frontier Sciences, University of Tokyo

1999- Professor, United Graduate School of Agricultural Science, Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology

1989- Associate Professor, Faculty of Agriculture, Utsunomiya University

Selected Publications:

- M. Nakayama, I. Taafaki, T. Uakeia, J. Seru, Y. McKay, and H. Lajar, "Influence of Religion, Culture and Education on Perception of Climate Change, and its Implications," *J. Disaster Res.*, Vol.14, No.9, pp. 1297-1302, 2019. •
- S. N. McClain, C. Bruch, M. Nakayama, and M. Laelan, "Migration with dignity: a case study on the livelihood transition of Marshallese to Springdale, Arkansas," *J. of Int. Migration and Integration*, Vol.21, pp. 847-859, 2020.

Academic Societies & Scientific Organizations:

- Japan Society of Hydrology and Water Resources
- Environmental Peacebuilding Association



Akiko Sakamoto

Global Infrastructure Fund Research Foundation Japan

Brief Career:

2020- Secretary General, Global Infrastructure Fund Research Foundation Japan

2008- Joined Global Infrastructure Fund Research Foundation Japan

1991- Joined Mitsubishi Research Institute Inc.

1991- Bachelor of Psychology, Faculty of Arts, Keio University

PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES



Junko Toyoshima

Research Fellow, Ocean Policy Research Institute, Sasakawa Peace Foundation

Brief Career:

2016 Received her Doctorate degree from Tokyo Institute of Technology

2003 Received her Master's degree from University of Hawaii

Selected Publications:

- J. Toyoshima and K. Nadaoka, "Case studies of conflict resolution processes between fisheries and marine tourism in coral reef areas of Japan and possible application of payment for ecosystems services (PES)," *J. of the Japanese Coral Reef Society* Vol.18, pp. 11-24, 2015 (in Japanese).
- J. Toyoshima and K. Nadaoka, "Importance of environmental briefing and buoyancy control on reducing negative impacts of SCUBA diving on coral reefs," *Ocean & Coastal Management*, Vol.116, pp. 20-26, 2015.
- S. R. Santos, J. Toyoshima, and R. A. Kinzie III, "Spatial and temporal dynamics of symbiotic dinoflagellates (Symbiodinium: Dinophyta) in the perforate coral *Montipora capitata*," *Galaxea: J. of Coral Reef Studies*, Vol.11, No.2, pp. 139-147, 2009.