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WINS Seminar

Date of presentation:  
02.06.2016, IRI THESys, Friedrichstraße 191, 10117 Berlin, Room 4088

**Title of presentation: Displacement, Development, and Climate Change, International organizations moving beyond their mandates\***

\*Note I will be presenting my recently released book:  
<https://www.routledge.com/products/9781138190542>

**Abstract**

This book focuses on one critical challenge: climate change. Climate change is predicted to lead to an increased intensity and frequency of natural disasters. An increase in extreme weather events, global temperatures and higher sea levels may lead to displacement and migration, and will affect many dimensions of the economy and society. Although scholars are examining the complexity and fragmentation of the climate change regime, they have not examined how our existing international development, migration and humanitarian organizations are dealing with climate change.

Focusing on three institutions: the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration and the United Nations Development Programme, the book asks: how have these inter-governmental organizations responded to climate change? And are they moving beyond their original mandates, given none were established with a mandate for climate change? It traces their responses to climate change in their rhetoric, policy, structure, operations and overall mandate change. Hall argues that international bureaucrats can play an important role in mandate expansion, often deciding whether and how to expand into a new issue-area and then lobbying states to endorse this expansion. They make changes in rhetoric, policy, structure and operations on the ground, and therefore forge, frame and internalize new issue-linkages. This book helps us to understand how institutions established in the 20th century are adapting to a 21st century world.

**Short bio**

Nina Hall is a post-doctoral fellow at the Hertie School of Governance. Her research explores how international organizations, many of which were created in the post WWII era, are evolving in the 21st century. Her forthcoming book (Routledge 2016) is *Displacement, Development and Climate Change: International Organizations Moving Beyond Their Mandates*. She also has written on climate financing, and the intersection of climate change and humanitarianism, and is currently collaborating with Åsa Persson at the Stockholm Environment Institute on climate adaptation governance.

In addition, Nina has researched effectiveness and leadership in international organizations. She co-authored a World Economic Forum report on effective leadership in multilateral institutions. She is collaborating with Ngaire Woods, Dean of the Blavatnik School of Government, on the impact of leaders in international organizations. Her work has been published in *Global Governance*, *Global Environmental Politics*, and the *Australian Journal of Political Science*.

Nina completed a doctorate in International Relations at the University of Oxford and was an editor of the St Antony's International Review. She previously worked for the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and with UNICEF Nepal and the UN Department of Political Affairs in New York.