

Climate Diaries: a visual participatory methodology to reflect on Climate Crisis and Mobility

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Before to start: some reflections about methodology

<https://thesociologicalreview.org/magazine/july-2021/climate-justice/challenging-eurocentric-perceptions-of-mobility-justice-through-climate-diaries/>

- Live sociology as a new and challenging research subject.
- Which glasses do we want to wear? The research was informed by feminist, postcolonialist and intersectional approach.
- Be aware about the privilege you have!

4 Case Studies: Senegal, Guatemala, Cambodia, Kenya

<https://climateofchange.info/diaries/>

What we need to **pay attention** when we do research:

- To understand our aim;
- To find an **inclusive, accessible, and intersectional** methodology;
- To put together **quantitative and qualitative data** in order to have a more complex picture of what we are studying;
- To study about some **previous research** in the same field (research is better when has a cooperative approach); everything already studied could be the basis for a new research;

Which challenges we had during the research:

- Covid-19;
- Engaging locals from different backgrounds;
- To find the right questions to do in order not to manipulate the answers;



Climate diaries: a visual means

- WhatsApp group of 30 participants (Mixed gender, 18-35 years old, resident in urban and rural areas);
- 1 facilitator to manage the process;
- For 1 month every 5 days, facilitator post a question in the group asking participants to answer in a visual way + captions;
- Every response was collected in a digital folder;
- Summarize the results and analysis underline research findings;

Why do we choose Climate Diaries as research methodology?

- To **visualise the impact** on the lives and livelihoods of those on the frontline of the climate crisis;
- To test an **inclusive and accessible methodology** to give time and space to participants to give their personal perspective in a creative way;
- To understand the **real perception** of climate crisis;
- To bring out the **connections** between the climate crisis and the mobility of people;
- To understand how the economic, social, political and cultural background affects the perception of the climate crisis;
- To test a **digital tool** as a research medium.

Climate diaries: Questions

- INTRODUCTION: **who are you?** Visually introduce yourself (via a selfie or whatever you think represents you (e.g. shoes for a dancer)).
 - What is **climate crisis** for you? How is it affecting your life?
 - Picture places in your city/village that changed in the last 10 years due to climate change? Participants could share, for example, if they have any, old pictures that show the differences between **past and present in the environment**.
 - How **do you cope** with changes in the environment?
 - MOBILITY: What is **mobility** for you? How is your mobility/mobility of your relative affecting your life/that of your family?
-
- Photos should have a short explanation of why the participant took these pictures, **writing a few sentences in the 'diary'** each time.

Case Study: Senegal

Senegal is highly environmentally fragile and faces concomitant sea level rise, coastal erosion, soil salinization, maritime storms and depletion of fish stocks and biodiversity.

The country has a high incidence of climate-sensitive economic activities, including farming and fishing.

This is due to the high population density and the concentration of almost all economic activities in coastal areas.

About 65% of the population live in coastal areas, mostly concentrated around Dakar and other urban areas.

Senegal is ranked as the world's eighth most at-risk country in terms of sea-level rise. Although the majority of the country has a tropical climate, Senegal's northern regions (located in the Sahel) are arid.

Waste management is both a behavioural and structural issue.



Historically

**Internal mobility from rural areas to the coast
(Seasonal migration)**

People find job in fishing industry to sustain their rural activities in villages of origin.

DAKAR and SAINT LOUIS are NOW

transit points for migrants from internal rural areas, as well as some neighbouring countries

departure points for some seeking to reach a better life in Europe.

Case Study: Senegal

“A visible metaphor for the inequalities between tourists, privileged travellers of the world, and the local inhabitants who, owing to their marginalised position within structures of racial capitalism that underpin the global economy, are unable to access such freedom of movement.” Walker S. & Giacomelli E. (2021). Waste, space and mobility justice: interconnecting strands of the climate crisis as experienced in Dakar, Senegal. Lo Squaderno, 60



Plage du Virag, Dakar, Senegal



Thiaroye-sur-mer, east Dakar, Senegal.

credits: Elena Giacomelli

Q: 'What is climate change for you?'



MAMADOU - this is a photo of a primary school destroyed by the sea in Guet Ndar, Saint Louis

MODOU- this photo shows the terrible damage that the Langue de Barbarie is suffering



Change over time: Dakar



Dioumblack:

“I chose these photos [of Hann Bay] taken in 1957 and 2021... Before, the population number was low, particularly in Hann and there were not many industries. Climate change has natural causes but the main causes are due to human activities. Now, Hann Bel air is an industrial zone if you look at the number of industries that are located here. These industries don't abide by the environmental regulations because they dump through open air channels their waste water into the sea. Their waste water contains toxic products that now prevent people from bathing in the sea.”



Q: How do you cope with changes in the environment?



Marie Helene:

“This is a beach clean up event in Hann Bay. As activists, we take actions through awareness raising and advocacy.

Awareness raising about climate change and its negative effects on the environment and on people; advocacy targeting government authorities for a climatic justice by educating populations on the responses and approaches to be taken to address climate change (reduction of the use of plastic bags, recycling of plastic materials, tree planting...)”

Q: What is mobility for you?



Abou Sow:

“Mobility linked to daily travel has led to traffic problems such as congestion with a high concentration of vehicles noticeable in the city of Saint-Louis. This situation is accentuated by the socio-professional reconversion of rural households affected by the effects of climate change, such as the abandonment of agricultural land and the absence of pasture for livestock. As a result, they always converge on the city to benefit from the services it offers.”

Interrelated THEMES EMERGING FROM THE RESEARCH in Senegal

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Waste



Fishing



Mobility



Climate crisis as a social crisis

The ecological crises we are facing cannot be separated from economic, social and political inequality – they are inextricably interlinked.

Yet whilst the climate crisis may be one across the globe, the impacts are not felt in the same manner, with those who contributed least to the climate crisis feeling the impacts the most due to ongoing global socio-economic inequalities.

Given this diversity in impact and the ambiguities in understandings of the climate crisis, 4 case study countries were selected by the #ClimateOfChange consortium to examine the complex nexus between the climate crisis and human mobility.

Among other quantitative and qualitative tools, the research team adopted an innovative visual methodology - the Climate Diaries.

#ClimateOfChange core messages: from research to advocacy and campaign

- Those who contribute the least suffer the most
- Climate change reinforces global injustice
- Climate induces migration mostly at country/regional level
- Exploitation of people (mHREDD)
- Human, social, economic costs for everyone and especially for the most vulnerable

GLOSSARY

the words we use are important

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Enviromental crisis

[/ɪnˌvaɪrən'ment(ə)l 'kraɪsəs/] *noun*

- The term “environmental” covers both sudden-onset natural disasters and slow degradation phenomena.
- To ensure holistic approaches that address the intersectional, systemic, global, and political nature of the crisis
- This holistic approach must ensure a just transition to climate justice and mobility justice



Climate crisis

[/'klaɪmət 'kraɪsəs/] *noun*

- The term “climate” is now being challenged as it only accounts for phenomena due to increasing average temperatures
- Excluding movement due to state or private initiatives that are harmful to the environment, such as land grabbing.





Terminology: Climate or Environmental?

- The term “climate” is now being challenged as it only accounts for phenomena deriving from climate change – so due to increasing average temperatures.
- This then excludes movement due to state or private initiatives that are harmful to the environment, such as land grabbing
- The term that is more widely accepted is “environmental” as it covers both sudden-onset natural disasters and slow degradation phenomena. This term also covers environmental disruptions caused by human activity that may lead to population displacement.

Climate refugee

['klaɪmət refjʊ'dʒiː/] *noun*

No legal basis in the Geneva Convention
Many don't identify with this terminology
Does not include the multicausal nature of mobility



Environmental migrant

[/n,vaɪrən'ment(ə)l 'maɪgrənt/] *noun*

Not necessarily climate related
A broader terminology including voluntary mobility
Always existed since humans have been around



Climate-induced migrant

['klaɪmət ɪn'djuːs 'maɪgrənt/] *noun*

Less broad than environmental
Indicates that it is not purely voluntary
Includes multi-causality of mobility



Terminology: Migrant or Refugee?



- The distinction derives from the false division between ‘forced’ and ‘voluntary’ migration. Instead, migration can be understood as operating along a spectrum between voluntary and forced, recognising the complexities at work in people’s mobilities and the structural constraints to which they are subject which limit their room for manoeuvre (O’Connell Davidson, 2013).
- Whilst ‘migrant’ is a generic term without legal definition, ‘refugee’ is defined in law and foresees a forced journey towards third countries where the state is unable or unwilling to protect the individual. ‘Refugee’ is defined under the 1951 United Nations Convention which shaped a conceptual frame of reference that excluded the natural environment as a cause of refugee flight.
- Further, those involved may themselves reject the term refugee. For example, Pacific Islanders strongly reject the term “climate refugee” owing to its implicit allusion to apocalyptic futures of sinking, powerlessness and lack of agency (Farbotko and Lazrus, 2012).

Environmental migrants



“Environmental migrants are persons or groups of persons who, predominantly for reasons of sudden or progressive change in the environment that adversely affects their lives or living conditions, are obliged to leave their habitual homes, or choose to do so, either temporarily or permanently, and who move either within their country or abroad”

From IOM (2019) Migration glossary <https://www.iom.int/glossary-migration-2019>

The problem with «alarmist» narratives



- Migration and climate change are often framed in the media via the logic of *emergency*. This places attention on the immediacy of the event, and not on its causes. It then leads to calls for an urgent response, usually humanitarian or military, with no time for economic, social or political complex analysis (Calhoun, 2010).
- Framing migration and climate change with emergency narratives translate into, and justify, *ad-hoc* and short term responses instead of holistic approaches that may be more appropriate given the intersectional, systemic, global, and political nature of these phenomena.
- This alarmist approach then **risks the depolitization** of issues that are actually deeply politicized and rooted in fundamental global inequalities and power dynamics related to
 - **mobility justice**
 - **climate justice**

Climate justice

['klaɪmət 'dʒʌstɪs/] *noun*

- Recognises the inequalities between those who contribute most to climate change and those who suffer the impacts the most
- Links climate to people and to all forms of injustice we need to challenge together – generational, racism, gender, inequality



- Whilst the environmental crisis may be one across the globe, the impacts are not felt in the same manner
- The human cost of climate change falls overwhelmingly on low and lower- middle income countries: vulnerability to risk, and degrees of suffering, are determined by levels of economic development rather than climate *per se* (CRED, 2018).

- Addresses the combined problems of climate change, unsustainable urbanisation and unsustainable bordering systems;
- Movement is not necessarily representative of greater vulnerability, sometimes the most vulnerable can struggle to move;
- The ability to CHOOSE whether to move or not often relates to resources, networks and political economy.

Mobility justice

[/məʊˈbɪləti ˈdʒʌstɪs/] *noun*

- Addresses the combined problems of climate change, unsustainable urbanisation and unsustainable bordering systems
- Enables us to re-characterize those displaced by 'climate change' not as 'climate refugees', but as displacees of a globalized network of intersecting mobility regimes fueled by fossil fuel extraction

And now....Let's go to the workshop

We will test Climate Diaries in presence.

We asked you:

What is climate change for you ?

Could you show us some pictures representing past and presence of the impact of climate crisis in your country/town/village?

<https://padlet.com/pecastefania/nuqqyy02abm72gok>

In this session (10.45-11.45):

Division in 4 groups

Each group will reflect on 2 questions:

- *What is climate crisis for you?*
- *What is mobility for you?*

We suggest to think individually, first and then to share to the group.

Use the chart or the padlet to create some clusters of your answers and sentences.

OUR RESEARCH QUESTIONS is: ***Is there a link between mobility and the climate crisis? If yes, which one? If not, why?***

What is climate crisis for you?

What is mobility for you?

THINK ABOUT YOU!

YOU ARE THE **SUBJECT** OF YOUR RESEARCH and USE CREATIVITY!

Bibliography:

- Mimi Sheller (2018) “**MOBILITY JUSTICE. The Politics of Movement in an Age of Extremes**”. Verso Ed.
- Leslie Kern (2021) “**Feminist City. Claiming Space in a Man-made World**”, Random House Publishing Group
- Frantz Fanon (2001) “**The Wretched of the Earth**”, Penguin Books Ltd.
- bell hooks (2000) “**Feminist theory: from margin to center**”, Pluto press.

Free publication:

[Climate Justice and Migration. Mobility, Development, and Displacement in the Global South](#)

[Property Will Cost Us the Earth Direct Action and the Future of the Global Climate Movement](#)

Inspiration and usefull tools:

<https://beforeidieproject.com/>

<https://ejatlas.org/country/senegal?translate=en>

Brave Blue World (2020) (documentary)