

## **Thesis summary**

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This doctoral research project focuses on the interactions between environmental degradations (often related to global warming) and the ways in which individuals and households are coping with these transformations in Bolivia through displacement.

Climate change represents a global challenge which is primarily engendered by increasing greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere. In particular, global warming has been linked to the accelerating retreat of tropical glaciers in the Andes, and to the increase in weather variability and weather extremes affecting the andean ecosystems, with significant repercussions on ecosystem integrity and the welfare of local populations. Changes in water supply will have adverse effects for mountain and plain communities, agriculture, the energy sector and ecosystem integrity.

At the moment, Bolivia has already been affected by different manifestations of environmental degradation such as floodplains, retreating glaciers, water scarcity and droughts. The aim of the thesis is to explore the role of environmental factors on population displacements. The research is theoretically informed by strands of scholarly literature and research on human vulnerability, adaptation strategies and migration decision-making theories.

This project falls within the field of social sciences. The research design is primarily qualitative. Firsthand data will be collected through semi-structured interviews during periods of academic residency and field research.

Considering the large volume of recent academic and policy publications on the impacts of environmental/climate change migration, the number of empirical studies of contemporary manifestations of the influence of climate on migration is surprisingly small. Moreover, this type of research has rarely been conducted in Bolivia