

# ERC Starting Grant: Dynamic Territory

## A Normative Framework for Territory in the Post-Holocene

### CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: ONE GRANT TO WRITE A MASTER THESIS CONNECTED TO THE TOPICS OF THE PROJECT (starting 01.01.2021)



Photo Credit: William Lamson, *Hydrologies*, 2014.

#### Summary of the project

Climate change will disrupt current political, societal and economic paradigms. What should a just territorial arrangement be for countries that will partially or totally disappear due to sea level rise, or whose main productive activities—like farming—will be lost due to changed weather patterns? How to think of *locals* and *migrants* in a world where climate refugees are estimated to reach up to one billion by 2050? How should Global Systemic Resources like rainforests be governed to guarantee their maintenance?

DynamiTE conceptualizes territory as dynamic, and integrates environmental studies, geography and international law into political philosophy, to examine three transversal themes: people in flux, distribution of land and resource use, and governance of Global Systemic Resources.

#### Purpose of the project

In a world where sea level rise, desertification, droughts, crop failure, floods and extreme weather events will be the norm, we need normative criteria to solve conflicts of interest around land and natural resources. DynamiTE aims to provide those criteria, developing a novel framework for territory on a global scale, and reassessing the traditional rights and duties associated with it.

While current normative theories of territory rely on stable and predictable climate, geography and demographics, DynamiTE theorizes territory amidst instability and unpredictability. While current theories draw their main normative assumptions from the Western liberal canon—e.g., that property rights over land and natural resources secure justice—DynamiTE questions their adequacy now and in the future.

#### How to apply

Possible topics: the appropriateness of the Lockean theory of property over land from today's perspective; how to solve the indeterminacy problem of connection-based theories; moral issues in climate migration; governance of Global Systemic Resources; etc.

If you are interested, send an email with a two-page statement of what you would be willing to investigate, plus a cv and a short writing sample to [Alejandra.mancilla@ifikk.uio.no](mailto:Alejandra.mancilla@ifikk.uio.no). Deadline: **December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020**.

The successful candidate will be notified after her/his project description in FIL4081 has been approved.