

Fabien Cottier

University of Geneva
Departement of political science and international relations
40 boulevard du Pont d'Arve
CH-1211 Geneve 4, Switzerland

✉ fabien.cottier@unige.ch
🌐 <https://www.fabiencottier.net>
🦋 @fabiencottier.bsky.social
🆔 orcid.org/0000-0003-0742-8993
👤 Fabien Cottier

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Conflict studies, migration, displacement, climate change, quantitative methods.

EDUCATION

- 2018 **Ph.D. in Political Science**, University of Geneva.
Dissertation title: "A Climate of Exclusion? Environmental Migration, Political Marginalization and Violence."
Advisor: Simon Hug (University of Geneva).
Committee: Jonas Pontusson (Chair, University of Geneva), Lars-Erik Cederman (ETH Zürich) & Idean Salehyan (University of North Texas).
- 2012 **M.A. in Comparative and International Studies**, ETH Zürich.
- 2008 **B.A. in Political Science**, University of Geneva.

CURRENT POSITIONS

- 2025 **Lecturer**
Department of Political Science and International Relations, University of Geneva.

PREVIOUS POSITIONS

- 2023–2025 **Associate Research Scientist**
Center for Integrated Earth System Information (CIESIN), Columbia University.
- 2022–2024 **Adjunct Assistant Professor**
School of International and Public Affairs & School of Professional Studies, Columbia University.
- 2020–2023 **Postdoctoral Research Scientist**
Center for Integrated Earth System Information (CIESIN) & Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, Columbia University.
- 2019–2020 **Visiting Scholar**
Arnold A. Saltzman Institute of War and Peace Studies, Columbia University.
- 2018–2020 **Post-doctoral Researcher**
Department of Political Science, University of Geneva.
- 2012–2018 **Teaching & Research Assistant**
Center for Comparative and International Studies, ETH Zürich.
- 2010 **Protection Intern**
Protection Unit, UNHCR Djibouti (six month duration).
- 2006–2007 **Field Assistant**

Swiss Graduate School of Public Administration, University of Lausanne.

AWARDS

- 2022 **International Geneva Award** (IG Award) for the best paper published on a subject related to international studies, Swiss Network of International Studies (SNIS) (with Heidrun Bohnet and Simon Hug for the paper “Conflict versus Disaster-Induced Displacement: Similar or Distinct Implications for Security?”).
- 2019 **Prix Universal** for the best dissertation in social sciences at the University of Geneva (ex aequo).

BOOK AND MAJOR REPORTS

- “Environmental Migration and Violence in Sub-Saharan Africa” (*book project, under contract with Routledge*).
- Rosengaertner, Sarah, Kamal Amakrane, Emma Winkley, Laura Basco-Carrera, Alex de Sherbinin, Michal Burzynski, **Fabien Cottier**, Susana Adamo, Hervé Nicolle, Nikki Stoumen, Daniel Provost, Akvile Krisciunaite and Adelle Thomas. 2025. “Great Caribbean Shifts: The Greater Caribbean Climate Mobility Report, Addressing Climate-Forced Displacement & Migration.” New York: Global Centre for Climate Mobility. <https://greatercaribbean.climate-mobility.org/>.
- Amakrane, Kamal, Sarah Rosengaertner, Nicholas P. Simpson, Alex de Sherbinin, Jane Linekar, Chris Horwood, Bryan Jones, **Fabien Cottier**, Susana Adamo and others. 2023. “African Shifts: The Africa Climate Mobility Report”. Global Centre for Climate Mobility & Africa Climate Mobility Initiative. <https://africa.climate-mobility.org/report>.

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

- Thalheimer, Lisa, **Fabien Cottier**, Andrew Kruczkiewicz, Carolynne Hultquist, Cascade Tuholske, and others. “Prioritizing Involuntary Immobility in Climate and Disaster Policy.” *Nature Communications* 16: 2581.
- Cottier, Fabien**. 2024. “Projecting Future Migration with Bayesian Hierarchical Gravity Models of Migration: An application to Africa.” *Frontiers in Climate* 6: 1384295.
- Nakamura, Jennifer, Richard Seager, Haibo Liu, **Fabien Cottier**, Michael J Puma, David J Wrathall, Brian Katz, Alex de Sherbinin & Susana B. Adamo. 2024. “Recent Trends in Agriculturally Relevant Climate in Central America.” *International Journal of Climatology* 44: 2701–2724.
- Cottier, Fabien**, Marie-Laurence Flahaux, Jesse Ribot, Richard Seager & Godfreyb Ssekajja. 2022. “Framing the Frame: Cause and Effect in Climate-related Migration”. *World Development* 158: 106016.
- Bohnet, Heidrun, **Fabien Cottier** & Simon Hug. 2021. “Conflict versus Disaster-Induced Displacement: Similar or Distinct Implications for Security?” *Civil Wars* 23(4): 493–519.
- Weston Anderson, Charles Taylor, Sonali S. McDermid, Elisabeth I. Nébíé, Richard Seager, Wolfram Schlenker, **Fabien Cottier**, Alex de Sherbinin, Dara Mendeloff & Kelsey Markey. 2021. “Violent conflict exacerbated drought-related food insecurity between 2009 and 2019 in sub-Saharan Africa.” *Nature Food* 2: 603-615.
- Fabien Cottier** & Idean Salehyan. 2021. “Climate Change and Irregular Migration to the European Union” *Global Environmental Change* 69: 102275.

- Bohnet, Heidrun, **Fabien Cottier** & Simon Hug. 2018. “Conflict-Induced IDPs and the Spread of Conflict.” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 62(4): 691–716.

CHAPTER IN EDITED VOLUME

- Cottier, Fabien** & Bohnet, Heidrun. 2023. “Statistical Analyses Using IO Data.” . *Introduction To International Organization Research Methods*, ed. Badache, Fanny, Leah R. Kimber and Lucile Maertens. University of Michigan Press.

POLICY BRIEFS

- Cottier, Fabien**, Roch Yao Gnabeli, Jean-Louis Lognon & Sarah Bütikofer. 2019. “How Horizontal Inequalities Lead to conflict in Migration Countries.” R4D Programme, Policy Brief, N°1 [French translation available].
- Cottier, Fabien** & Owen B. Sichone. 2016. “Ethnic Power Relations in Zambia: A Critical Discussion.” EPR Working Paper Series N°6.

WORKING PAPERS

- “Immobility in the Face of Crisis: Violence and Organized Crime Suppresses Climate-induced Migration from Central America.” (with David Wrathall, Jennifer Devine & others, *under review at PNAS*).
- “Effects of drought on agricultural job losses in India.” (with Robbin van Duijne, *submitted to Nature Sustainability*)
- “Climate Influences Migration, Armed Conflicts Rarely Follow.” (with Barbora Šedová, Sarah Lohr, Lisa Thalheimer & others, *submitted at Nature Sustainability*).
- “Investing with Foresight: A Participatory Agent-Based Model of Livelihood Aspirations and Capabilities in Senegal.” (with Nicholas Choquette-Levy, Andrew Bell, Alex de Sherbinin & others, *to be submitted to Global Environmental Change*)
- “Crop Price Variability, Environmental Change and Intra-Regional Migration in Africa” (with Wolfram Schlenker, Elisabeth I. Nébíé, Richard Seager, Sonali McDermid, Michael J. Puma, Weston Anderson, Alex de Sherbinin, & Andrew R. Bell, *to be re-submitted*).
- “Migration Within and Out of West Africa: Recent Trends and Drivers” (with Elisabeth I. Nébíé, Chandler A. Morris, Richard Seager, Alex de Sherbinin, Wolfram Schlenker, Sonali S. McDermid, Michael J. Puma, Weston Anderson & Andrew R. Bell).
- “Local Determinants of Nativist Violence in Côte d’Ivoire” (with Jean-Louis Lognon, *to be submitted*)
- “Rural-Urban Migration, Horizontal Inequalities and Violence.”
- “Environmental Change and its Effect on Internal Migration.”
- “Perceptions of Economic and Political Inequalities among Young People in Africa” (with Simon Hug).
- “Electoral Information and Night Lights in Authoritarian Regimes” (with Aurélien Evequoz).

MEDIA

- 2025 Documented. “‘Nothing to Go Back to’: How Climate Change Is Driving Migrants From Their Homes to NY” by Carla Mandiola & Jazzmin Jiwa (October 22th).
The Guardian. “Flooding and droughts drove them from their homes. Now they’re seeking a safe haven in New York” by Jazzmin Jiwa & Carla Mandiola (October 22th).
- 2023 State of the Planet Blog. “Anticipating and Tracking Climate Refugees in a Warming Africa” by Marie Denoia Aronsohn (July 6th).
- 2021 Radio Télévision Suisse Romande (RTS). “Des dizaines de millions de personnes pourraient migrer d’ici 2050 à cause du changement climatique.” Émission *Tout un monde* (June 25th).

RESEARCH GRANTS

- 2025 Research grant: “The Impact of Land and Climate Change on Conflict.” Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Principal Investigator, \$57,500.
- 2024 Research grant: “Displaced Livelihoods: Climate Change, Agrarian Distress, and Labor Migration in India.” President’s Global Innovation Fund, Columbia University, Principal Investigator, \$100,000.
- 2023 Conference grant: “Climate Migration Model Intercomparison Workshop.” LDEO Climate Center, Columbia University, \$13,191.
- 2019 Research grant: “Migration and Conflict in Ivory Coast.” Supplementary grant. Swiss National Science Foundation & Swiss Development Agency, R4D Programme, CHF 5,017 (With Roch Yao Gnabli & Jean-Louis Lognon).
- 2018 *Early Postdoc.Mobility* fellowship to conduct research as a visiting scholar with the Saltzman Institute of War and Peace Studies, Columbia University. Swiss National Science Foundation, 85,200 CHF.
Research grant: “Migration and Conflict in Ivory Coast.” Swiss National Science Foundation & Swiss Development Agency, R4D Programme, CHF 63,973 (With Roch Yao Gnabli & Jean-Louis Lognon).
- 2015 *Doc.Mobility* fellowship to conduct research as a visiting scholar with the Political Science Program, University of Texas at Dallas. Swiss National Science Foundation, 30,333 CHF.

TRAVEL GRANTS

- 2018 ISA Travel Grant. Pre-conference workshop on “Refugees, Forced Migration and Conflict”, International Studies Association Annual Convention, San Francisco, April 3–7.
- 2014 Fondation Ernst et Lucie Schmidheiny Scholarship. Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis, University of Essex.
Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences Travel Grant. ISA Annual Convention, Toronto, March 26–29, 2014 and the MPSA Annual Convention, Chicago, April 3–6.
- 2013 SNSF Scholarship. Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis, University of Essex.

TEACHING

- 2022–2023 GIS For Sustainability Management, School of Professional Studies, M.A. in Sustainable Management, Columbia University.
Analytics for Environmental Science and Policy, School of International and Public Affairs, M.P.A. in Environmental Science and Policy, Columbia University.
- 2018 GIS Methods Applied to Research on Conflict and Ethnic Politics, Department of Public Policy and Administration, American University in Cairo, Egypt (three-day workshop).
- 2017 Introduction to Political Science, seminar, B.A. in Political Science, University of Geneva (seminar).
- 2016 GIS Methods Applied to Research on Conflict and Ethnic Politics, Dag Hammarskjöld Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies, Copperbelt University, Zambia (two-day workshop).
- 2012–2014 International Relations II A/B, B.A. in International Relations, University of Geneva (seminar).

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- 2024 Climate Mobility Summit, UN Global Center for Climate Mobility, Scandinavia House, September 25.
Conflict Resolution Collective (CRC), School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia, April 1, 2024.
- 2023 Climate Change and Regional Security, Columbia Global Center, Istanbul, December 13–14 (online)
Thematic Workshop on Data on Human Mobility in the Context of Climate Change, Karthoum Process, Kampala, May 3–4.
Guest lecture on “Climate, conflict and displacement”, Columbia University, March 1.
- 2022 Paper presentation and guest lecture on on “Environmental Migration: How to resolve a conflicting literature?” Université de Neuchâtel, Neuchâtel, Switzerland, May 5.
WZB Berlin Social Science Center, March 2.
Guest lecture on “Climate, conflict and displacement”, Columbia University, March 1 (with Kristina Petrova).
- 2021 International Research Institute for Climate and Society, Columbia University, October 26.
NYU Migration Network, New York University, October 14.
- 2020 Arnold A. Saltzman Institute of War and Peace Studies, Columbia University, April 20.
Panel on “Climate Change-induced Migration and Displacement,” Sustainability Science Program, Columbia University, April 14.
Workshop on “International Workshop on Environmental / Climate Change, Migration, and Conflict,” ETH Zürich, January 31.
- 2019 Workshop on “Transdisciplinary Research on Migration in West Africa,” Columbia University, December 5.
Center for International Earth Science Information Network, Columbia University, June 25.
Sierra Club, New York, March 13.
- 2018 International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), December 17.
Centre d’enseignement et de recherche en action humanitaire (CERAH), November 20.
- 2016 Workshop on “Ethnic Mobilisation in African Politics,” Copperbelt University, Zambia, September 16.
Guest lecture, course on “Forced Migration,” ETH Zürich (instructor: Seraina Rüegger).
- 2015 Political Science Colloquium, University of Texas at Dallas, October 27.
Center for International Environmental Studies, Graduate Institute, May 6.
- 2014 Political Science Colloquium, Copperbelt University, Zambia, October 15.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2024 American Geophysical Association Fall Meeting, December 9–13.
Trust and Influence Program Review, Dayton, Ohio, August 12–16.
- 2023 American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, August 31–September 3.
Managed Retreat Conference, New York, June 20–June 23.
American Association of Geographers, New York, March 23–March 27.
- 2022 Wittgenstein Centre Conference, Vienna, November 30–December 2.
Climate Mobility Research, Columbia University & Princeton University, New York, September 17.
Expert Consultation on “Modeling methods for forecasting climate mobility in small island countries”, Columbia University, New York, September 16.
Scenarios Forums, Vienna, Austria, June 20–22.
American Association of Geographers, New York, February 25–March 1.
- 2021 American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting, New Orleans, December 13–17.
Households in Conflict Network (HiCN) Annual Workshop, University of Göttingen, October 11–12.
International Studies Association Annual Convention, Las Vegas, April 6–9.
- 2020 American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting, New Orleans, December 1–17.
International Studies Association Annual Convention, Honolulu, March 25–28 (cancelled).
- 2019 International Studies Association Annual Convention, Toronto, March 27–30.
Swiss Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Zürich, February 3–4.
- 2018 International Studies Association Annual Convention, San Francisco, April 3–7.
Swiss Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Geneva, February 5–6.
- 2017 Colloque international pluridisciplinaire du LAASSE, Université Félix Houphouët-Boigny, Abidjan, March 15–16.
- 2016 International Studies Association Annual Convention, Atlanta, March 16–19.
- 2015 American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, September 3–6.
European Political Science Association General Conference, Vienna, June 25–27.
- 2014 American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Washington D.C., August 28–31.
Midwest Political Science Association Annual Convention, Chicago, April 3–6.
International Studies Association Annual Convention, Toronto, March 26–29.
- 2013 PSS-ISA Joint International Conference, Budapest, June 27–29.
European Political Science Association General Conference, Barcelona, June 19–21.
European Network for Conflict Research (ENCoRe), University of Amsterdam, April 24–26.

ADDITIONAL EDUCATION

- 2018 Machine Learning, Department of Political Science, University of Geneva.
- 2015 Bayesian Analysis for Social and Behavioral Sciences and US and International Asylum & Refugee Law and Policy, University of Texas Dallas.
Visualizing Model Inference and Robustness, European Network for Conflict Research (ENCoRe), University of Konstanz, March 25–27.
- 2012–2015 CUSO Doctoral Program in Political Science, courses on Research Design, Security Studies (2012), Quantitative Methods (2014), and Bayesian Statistics (2015).
- 2014 Hierarchical Models, Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis, University of Essex, August 4–15.

- 2013 Spatial Econometrics, Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis, University of Essex, August 5–16.
Field Research Methods (Qualitative and Quantitative) in Environmentally-induced Migration, United Nations University, Bonn, July 8–12.
Geographic Information Systems, Department of Geography, University of Geneva.
- 2012 Training School on SQL and PostGIS, European Network for Conflict Research (ENCoRe), ETH Zürich, August 22–24.

WORKSHOPS, COMMITTEES, AND OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 2024 Lead organizer of a panel session on “Climate Change in Fragile Contexts: Responses, Adaptation, and Security.” American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting, December, December 9.
Lead organizer of a workshop on “Climate Migration Modeling Intercomparison,” Princeton, September 27–29 (Columbia University, Princeton University, Cornell University, & UN Global Center for Climate Migration).
- 2022 Co-Organizer of a symposium on “Climate Mobility Research,” New York, September 16 (Columbia University & Princeton University).
Co-Organizer of a conference bringing together practitioners and academics on “Environment and Migration,” Mbour, Senegal, May 10–12.
- 2019 Co-Organizer of a workshop bringing together practitioners and academics on “New Evidence on Environmental Migration and Conflict,” Geneva, November 5.
- 2014–2019 Co-editor, webpage, project on “Ethnic Power Relations and Conflict in Fragile States” (<https://r4d.epr.ethz.ch>).
- 2017–2018 Coordinator, Political Science Colloquium, University of Geneva.
- 2013 Co-organizer of a workshop bringing together practitioners and academics on “Conflict-Induced Displacement: New Data, Security Concerns and Protection Challenges,” Geneva, November 7, 2013.

FIELD WORK

Ivory Coast (2020, 2019, 2017), Egypt (2018), Zambia (2016, 2014), Ethiopia (2014), Djibouti (2010).

SERVICE TO THE DISCIPLINE

Reviewer for *Nature Communication*, *American Political Science Review*, *World Development*, *Journal of Politics*, *Journal of Peace Research*, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *Political Geography*, *Climatic Change*, *International Migration Review*, *Frontiers in Climate, Ecology and Society*, *Applied Economics Letters*.

COMPUTER LITERACY

R, Python, Postgres SQL, Stata, JAGS, ArcGIS, QGIS, Stan, ENVI, L^AT_EX.

LANGUAGES

French (native), English (fluent C2), German (advanced C1)

REFERENCES

Available upon request.