

# LIFE, LAND, & ANTICIPATED LOSS:

AN ARENDTIAN LENS  
TO CLIMATE-RELATED  
VOLUNTARY IMMOBILITY







Picasa



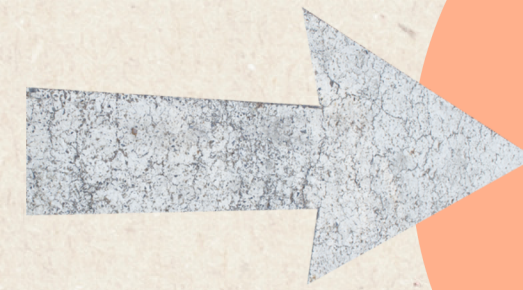


*Polar Bears International*



# CLIMATE-RELATED MIGRATION

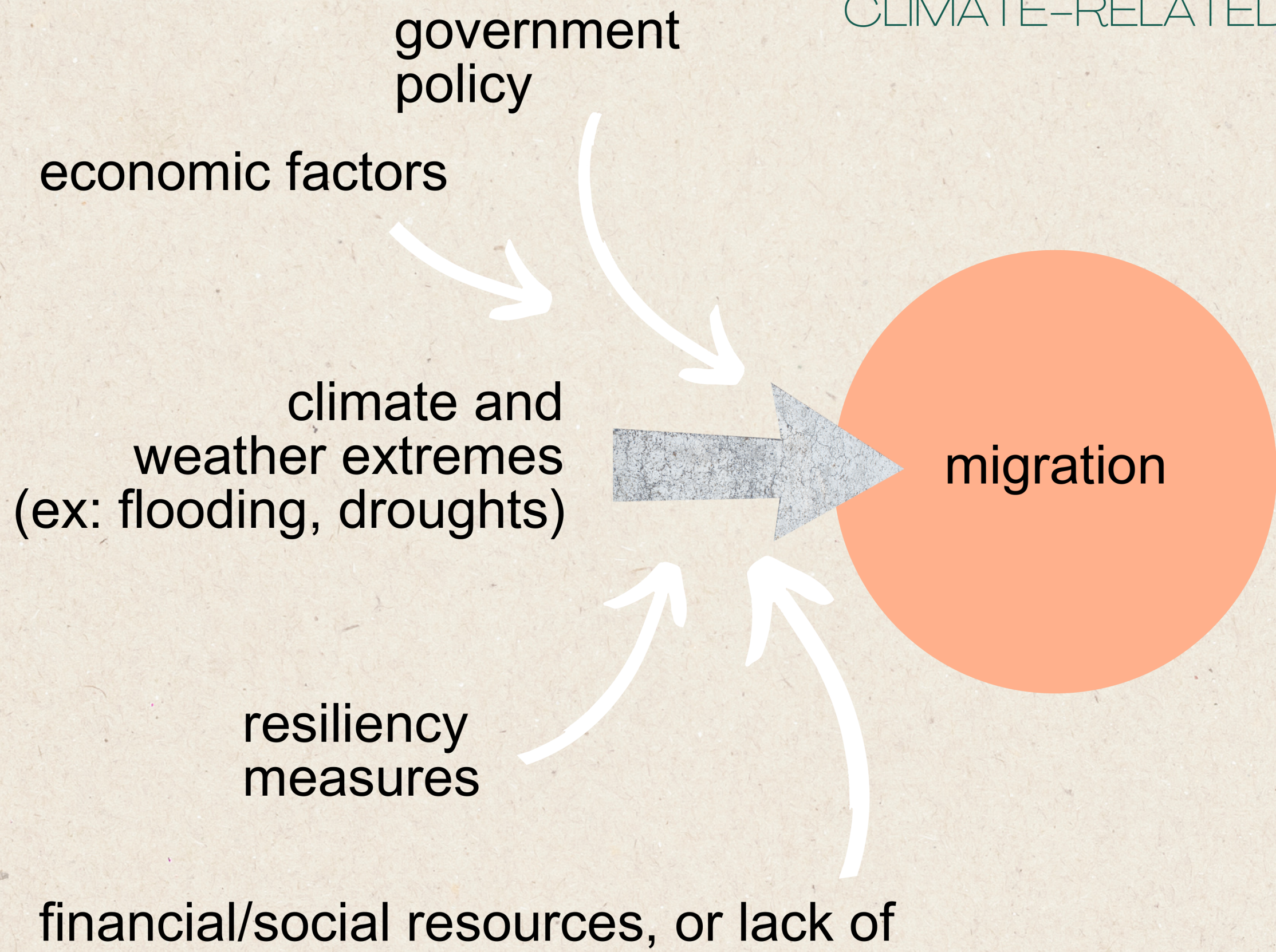
climate and  
weather extremes  
(ex: flooding, droughts)



migration



CLIMATE-RELATED MIGRATION



government  
policy

economic factors

climate and  
weather extremes  
(ex: flooding, droughts)

resiliency  
measures

financial/social resources, or lack of

migration



- The islands haven't sunk and the evidence is lacking
- Extreme weather events → temporary displacement
- Migration as voluntary or enforced



**the voluntary immobile** describes individuals and communities who have the ability but not the aspiration to migrate



- militant monitoring and management measures
- anticipatory resettlement is a "scientific but also highly political decision that remaining in place is impossible."



HANNAH ARENDT



## HANNAH ARENDT (1906–1975)

*The Origins of Totalitarianism* (1951/1973)

*The Human Condition* (1958)

*On Revolution* (1963)

“Understanding and Politics (The Difficulties of Understanding)” (1994)

“The Rights of Man: What Are They?” (1949/1978)

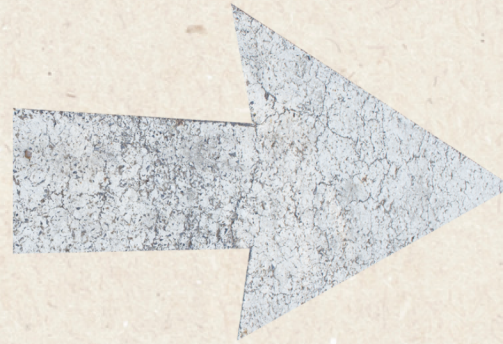
“We Refugees” (1943)

PHOTO BY FRED STEIN



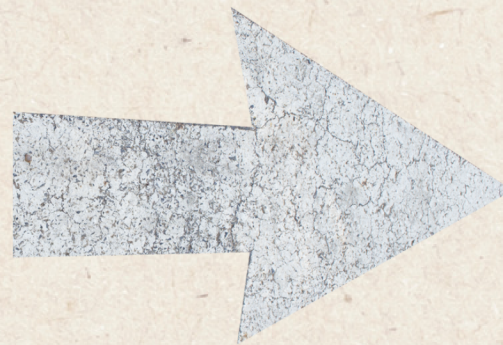
APPLYING ARENDT: VICTIM FRAMING

victimhood



pity,  
compassion  
care

agency



common world,  
understanding,  
facing the other



“...only an ‘understanding heart,’ and not mere reflection or mere feeling, makes it bearable for us to live with other people, strangers forever, in the same world, and makes it possible for them to bear with us.”

(ARENDT, 1994, P. 322)

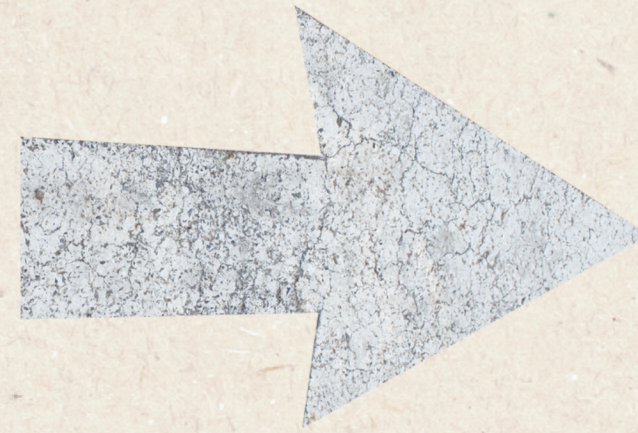


**“Pacific nation ambassadors envision a future as self-determining nation-states, and thus, strongly resist media/policy discourses that legitimise their possible future displacement en masse.”**

(MCNAMARA & GIBSON, 2009, P. 481)



**citizenship**



**agency**



"The world found nothing sacred in the abstract nakedness of being human."

"Only with a completely organized humanity could the loss of home and political status become identical with expulsion from humanity altogether. Before this, what we must call a 'human right' today would have been thought of as a general characteristic of the human condition which no tyrant could take away."

ARENDT (1949/1978, P. 299) | ARENDT (1951/1973, P. 297)



“Our political life rests on the assumption that we can produce equality through organization, because man can act and change and build a common world, together with his equals and only with his equals... We are not born equal; we become equal as members of a group on the strength of our decision to guarantee ourselves mutually equal rights.”

(ARENDR, 1951/1973, P. 301)



"Families and island communities are debating ways in which their culture, identity and right to self-govern will remain theirs if one day the islands become uninhabitable."

(FARBOTKO & LAZRUS, 2012, P. 201)



**“To be really alive is to be embedded in a mess that must constantly be negotiated.”**

(WEBER, 2019, P. 154)



**“The effects of climate change invite us to re-examine how place may be lost—or sacrificed—to protect or promote other cherished things and ideals.”**

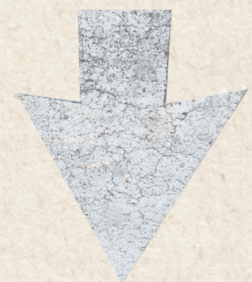
(ELLIOTT, 2018 P. 11)



centering of political identity

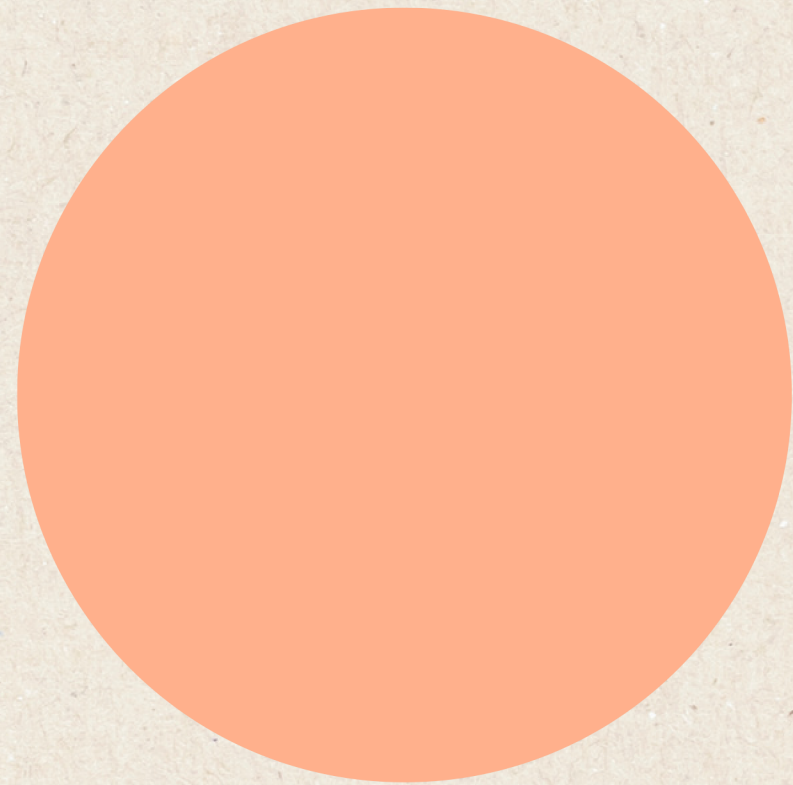


agency



allowing for difference and equality





Thank you!



Communication

**LIBERAL ARTS  
AND SCIENCES**

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