

## **PUBLIC FORUM**

### ***How is Climate Change Affecting Islands and What Can We Do About It?***

**Tuesday 3rd October, 2017**  
**4:00pm – 6:00pm**  
Institute of International Relations  
**Lecture Room 1**  
The University of the West Indies  
St. Augustine, Trinidad

#### Context:

This public forum draws on conversation themes, ideas, and participants from a scholarly workshop on “Religion and Climate Change in Cross-Regional Perspective,” a collaboration of the Center for Latin American and Latino Studies at American University (CLALS), the Institute of International Relations at the University of the West Indies-St. Augustine (IIR), and the Environmental Change and Security Program of the Woodrow Wilson international Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C. (WWC). The forum also builds directly on a previous forum held this past July at the WWC on “Religion and Climate Diplomacy in Small Island Developing States.”

#### Description:

Island communities around the world face many of the same challenges as a result of climate change, including sea level rise and coastal erosion, more frequent and intense tropical storms, flooding, water scarcity, displacement and migration. Often drawing on local social and cultural resources, Island nations have also become critical laboratories of adaptation and resilience in developing innovative responses to climate challenges. Drawing on their expertise in climate adaptation or resilience in either the South Pacific or Caribbean, panelists will address shared policy goals while exchanging knowledge across distinct geographic and social contexts, giving particular attention to the role of civil society as a catalyst for community responses to climate change and, where possible, to consider the role of religious actors, networks and organizations in these responses and for the development of climate policy in island nations.

#### Format:

This two-hour event will open with introductory remarks from IIR Director Jessica Byron-Reid and a CLALS representative, and will consist of a discussion among five panelists from academic, policy and NGO backgrounds. Each panelist will offer an initial ten-minute statement, followed by a moderated discussion among the panelists, and concluding with a Q & A and discussion with the audience.