

Population and Climate Change

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The interactions between population changes and climate change need to be studied in both directions: Humans have been causing climate change and changing population size is one of the factors in this together with consumption per person and with technology (emissions per unit of consumption). Human populations are also vulnerable to the consequences of climate change which is the main reason for being concerned about it. But populations are not homogeneous and in this lecture I will discuss which factors contribute both to differential vulnerability and to different capacities to mitigate climate change. In this context education seems to play an important role in both climate change mitigation as well as adaptation. This will be illustrated in the form of alternative scenarios as given by the narratives of the SSPs (Shared Socioeconomic Pathways) that stratify populations around the world by differential mitigative and adaptive capacities for the rest of the century.