

Ivan J. Ramirez

Statement of Interest

Ever since I enrolled in a Physical Geography course at Hunter College, I became fascinated with the atmosphere and how society interacts with weather and climate. From daily to seasonal and interannual climate variability, human beings cope with environmental changes that influence their everyday lives at work, home and leisure. Climate can benefit us, for example, when seasonal rains contribute to a fruitful harvest or simply provide us with a beautiful day at the beach. In contrast, it can adversely affect us when too much rains flood our homes or excessive temperatures lead to heat stroke. My research interests are related to health, climate, and weather extremes. I am particularly interested in weather events related to El Niño-Southern Oscillation and how they may impact human health. Another aspect is to understand why certain populations are more vulnerable to these events than others. Understanding these climate/environment-society interactions requires an interdisciplinary effort that draws upon the expertise of natural, medical, and social sciences as well as the humanities. I am committed to interdisciplinary education and believe this is the only way we can address global environmental problems. As a PhD student, I wish to participate in this workshop because I am interested in learning how to engage, collaborate, and communicate with experts from various fields on matters of climate and society.