

Shortlisted Book for the 2024-2025

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Jake Bittle

The Great Displacement: Climate Change and the Next American Migration

Date: 2023

List price: \$28.99 hardback (paperback release February 2024)

Publisher website: <https://www.simonandschuster.com/books/The-Great-Displacement/Jake-Bittle/9781982178253>

Publisher description:

Even as climate change dominates the headlines, many of us still think about it in the future tense—we imagine that as global warming gets worse over the coming decades, millions of people will scatter around the world fleeing famine and rising seas. What we often don't realize is that the consequences of climate change are already visible, right here in the United States. In communities across the country, climate disasters are pushing thousands of people away from their homes. A human-centered narrative with national scope, *The Great Displacement* is “a vivid tour of the new human geography just coming into view” (David Wallace-Wells, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Uninhabitable Earth*). Over the next 50 years, millions of Americans will be caught up in this churn of displacement, forced inland and northward in what will be the largest migration in our country's history. *The Great Displacement* compassionately tells the stories of those who are already experiencing life on the move, while detailing just how radically climate change will transform our lives—erasing historic towns and villages, pushing people toward new areas, and reshaping the geography of the United States.

This book is shortlisted for the 2024-2025 Book in Common because

- *It is engaging to students and to a broad audience.* This book points to policy but focuses on human impacts and stories, with an engaging style and compassionate perspective.
- *It has broad appeal across disciplines.* Due to its focus on climate change and its impacts, this book will have particular interest to the disciplines within the College of Agriculture; the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences; the College of Communication and Education; and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts; and the College of Natural Sciences.
- *It is relevant and timely.* The planet continues to warm, and extreme heat is set to continue in 2024 caused by climate change and El Niño. At the same time, the housing crisis, visible in our own community, is at a tipping point: a *New York Times* article from December 19 noted that housing aid hit the lowest level in twenty-five years even though demand has never been greater. The urgency of the housing crisis, combined with dramatic impacts from climate change, is a crucial topic for our current moment.
- *It relates to the university mission.* This book connects to the Strategic Priority of “Resilient and Sustainable Systems” and would honor our pledge to “integrate sustainability and resilience into curriculum” as well as “cultivate knowledge, research and practice to increase awareness that our individual and collective actions have impact regionally, nationally, and globally.”