

Precarious geographies

3 sessions:

1. Housing: negotiating habitability, precarity and profitability in times of crisis

Session organiser: Geraldine Pratt, University of British Columbia, Canada, **E-mail:** gpratt@geog.ubc.ca

The housing question endures, with new twists and complications, as a key site of struggle. New forms of capitalist profitability through corporate consolidation and financialization have intensified multiple crises of social reproduction, not just housing affordability but health and well-being, including capacity to endure in the face of climate change. As David Madden (2025) phrases it, housing is the “lever by which the impact of social-reproductive crises can be weakened or intensified.” Climate change, in particular temperature extremes, place pressures on existing housing stock and has introduced new sites of struggle for tenants and owners. Differential thermal comfort is one manifestation of what has been termed climate apartheid. The ever-rising costs of housing, utilities and food mean that, according to recent research, one in four renter households with incomes below \$25,000 in the US reported they sometimes or often don’t have enough to eat (State of the Nation’s Housing 2024). In many contexts, a crisis of housing affordability intertwines with inhospitality to migrants. We invite papers on housing across this broad spectrum from climate to cost of living pressures, with especial interest in the following:

The corporate consolidation and financialization of housing provision

Housing as a key site and generator of crises of social reproduction

Passing the costs of climate adaptation to tenants and housing as a site of climate apartheid

Tenant organising amidst broader macroeconomic pressures

The intersections between the politics of migration and housing

The limits of crisis framings for housing justice

Non-market experiments in housing

2. Geographies of death revisited in times of change and crisis: deathscapes, social change, politics and environment

Session organiser: Avril Maddrell, University of Reading , United Kingdom, **E-mail:** avril.maddrell@reading.ac.uk

At a time characterised by mobilities, political change, environmental crises and war, this session invites theoretically engaged reflective, empirical and methodological papers providing critical geographical perspectives on death and associated material, embodied and virtual deathscapes, human and non-human.

The session invites papers which address three key themes:

Changing social and cultural practices, including the role of mobilities and migration; urban land use pressures; individuality, secularity, post-secularity; and digital technology in shaping evolving deathscapes (material, embodied and virtual) and related remembrance practices (Beebeejaun et al 2021; Gao et al 2022; Margry and Sanchez-Carretero, 2011; Marjavaara, 2017; Nordh et al 2023)

Necropolitical spaces and practices, including the 'killability' of some humans and non-human species; theatres of war and genocide; carceral spaces; quantitative and qualitative work examining the intersection of geopolitics, biopolitics and necropolitics (Butler 2009; Mbembe 2000; Maddrell et al 2021; Morin 2016; Tyner 2018; 2023)

Anthropocene ecological crises, loss and recovery, including the necrogeographies of endangered species and extinction; the politics of environmental degradation and climate crises; environmental grief and hope; species reintroduction; green space and biodiversity gains and ecosystem services in cemeteries (Head 2016; Huijbens 2021; Mazhary 2021; McClymont and Sinnett 2021; Rae 2021; Shcheglovitova & John-Henry Pitas 2022; Skar et al 2018)

3. Labour geographies in the Nordic peripheries

Session organiser: Charlotta Hedberg, Umeå University, Sweden, **E-mail:** charlotta.hedberg@umu.se

Work and labour are constitutive parts of how we are organising our societies, at the same time as they are parts of our individual identities. Labour geography puts the spotlight on the role of workers, which otherwise tends to go unnoticed in analyses of economic processes and regional development, while emphasizing aspects of spatiality, agency, power and inequalities, precarity and experiences of workers.

Social processes of change are currently reproducing the labour geographies of the Nordic peripheries, in relation to the specific conditions that exist in this region, political governance and an uncertain surrounding world. On the one hand, the ongoing major industrial restructuring, linked to the so-called green transition, means that labour issues – such as access, skills and employee rights – are becoming central, often linked to the precarity of international migrant workers. On the other hand, many peripheral regions are characterised by aging populations, structural unemployment, limited labour markets and dependence on certain types of work and industries, such as seasonal work, care work and jobs in tourism, as well as commodity-based and areal industries.

These conditions create unique spatial labour relations that have so far received limited attention in the Nordic region. We welcome paper presentations related to topics of labour geographies in a broad sense, including topics of international labour migration, social sustainability and precarious work, and changing modes of work and precarity.