

Wet spaces

2 Sessions:

1. Blueish Entanglements and transformations: unfolding the restless geographies of more-than-wet spaces

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Proceeding on our passage through the UN fostered Decade of Ocean Science, aqueous spaces seem to appear ever more clear on the horizon as a key enabler of societal transformation. This increasing attention on aquatic spaces creates opportunities for societal and ecological restoration. At the same time, prominent calls for the exploitation of 'untapped' blue resources, and their political narrativizing as pathways to sustainable transition under a blue growth umbrella, create ecological and societal challenges. Hence, to unfold the contradictions, disruptions, but also openings for blue alternatives, requires restless geographies attuned to the fluidity of more-than-wet spaces (Peters & Steinberg, 2019) and open to critical interpretations. How can engagements with blue spaces help us to develop other entanglements, other politics, other plannings for a more just transition? How can thinking-with the wet world develop multiple imaginaries, fluid becomings, other ways of thinking societal transformations and henceforth spark alternative futures off the beaten track?

Interweaving Blue-Thinking and the research field of Critical Ocean Geographies to engage with these questions, this session follows a twofold approach. First, it presents the new edited book *Blueish Entanglements and transformations: unfolding the geographies of wet spaces and their role for societal change* including a chosen set of its chapters; second, encourages external works related to the themes book to complement the debate on restless blue geographies. Based on the diverse contributions of the book and the external contributions the session aims to dip into these conceptual waters by providing a deeper understanding of the perceived roles, the complex processes and the spatially engrained capacities and contradictions of aqueous spaces for societal transformation. Subsequently, the session hopes to attract polyphonic voices that analyses blue spaces' contested representations and exploitations as social, political and economic spaces, locales of (un-)just, (un)sustainable transformations, and work that engages with the conceptualization of blueish spaces.

Practicalities:

The session will follow a hybrid format merging traditional paper presentation slot supplemented by an introductory framing based on the book's aims and is wrapped up by a joint discussion between book editors, chapter authors, and external authors.

2. Geographies of the Blue Economy: Justice, Restlessness, and Resilience

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The Blue Economy has emerged as a dominant framework for governing ocean and coastal spaces, promising to balance economic development, ecological protection, and social inclusion, with uneven levels of success. In the current global era of instability and restlessness, marked by climate crisis, geopolitical tensions, and rapid technological transformation, the Blue Economy itself is examined for its capacity to deliver sustainability and equity amid global turbulence.

Coastal communities in the Nordic and Arctic regions, and far beyond, grapple with the contradictions between extractive and regenerative models of ocean use; between global investments and lived realities of local livelihoods; and between blue growth and blue justice. These tensions reveal the uneven geographies of the Blue Economy.

This session invites critical and creative geographical engagements with the evolving meanings, practices, and materialities of the Blue Economy. We welcome papers that interrogate how Blue Economy practices and discourses are being adopted, resisted, or reimagined across diverse contexts, from aquaculture and fisheries to coastal planning, governance, and community resilience.

Our aim is to foster dialogue across human and physical geography, political ecology, marine social science, and beyond, exploring how geographers can contribute to more just and sustainable transformations in blue spaces amid an increasingly restless world.