

Restless Social Geography

5 sessions:

1. Homelessness, restless circulation, and the production of value and vulnerabilities

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Geographies of homelessness have often been approached through a lens that foregrounds questions of visibility, recognition, and spatial justice (Grange, 2025; Mitchell 2020). Within this field, the right to urban space and the ambivalent role played by spaces of care have been a central concern, highlighting the dual purpose of spaces such as shelters in providing vital support while also controlling visibility and limiting the agency of individuals experiencing homelessness (Cloke et al. 2011; Hennigan and Speer 2019).

In this session, we seek to complement these spatial perspectives by foregrounding the temporal dimensions of homelessness, what we might call its *restless temporalities*, and namely on the processes that produce and exploit them, and the vulnerabilities that are produced or reinforced through those temporalities.

The lived experiences of homelessness have been characterized as lives on the move (Strothmann 2021), as restless processes of circulation in space (Philipson Isaac 2024), relentless cycles through temporary shelters resulting from everyday complex arrangements of care and control (Bonnet 2009), and governed by institutional and everyday logics of emergency and crisis (Krüger 2024). The materiality-temporality nexus is unevenly produced and experienced, where prolonged conditions of waiting alternate with accelerated events such as evictions or relocations, increasing the precariousness of temporal and spatial arrangements (Burraway 2021).

What are the impacts of these restless geographies of homelessness on the lives of people experiencing homelessness? How are social vulnerabilities reinforced or reproduced through the temporal-spatial arrangements of living “in-between” (Jolley 2020; Levy 2022)? How are these temporalities embraced or resisted?

Crucially, the temporalities of homelessness are not created in a vacuum, but rather through complex interplays of economic interests and political-institutional arrangements in a racial-capitalist system. We are therefore keen to go beyond phenomenological understandings to also explore the political economy of homelessness and the ways in which temporalities work to sustain marginality. In doing so, we want to unpack the circuits of value in management of homelessness and marginalisation through concepts such as “destitution economies” (Coddington et al. 2020). As such, we seek to understand the processes of dispossession, devaluation, and displacement that underwrite the condition of homelessness to begin with, situating them within broader political-economic logics of value extraction and accumulation that structure neoliberal, patriarchal, and racial-capitalist urban orders (Bhattacharyya, 2023).

2. The spatialities and temporalities of queer migration and asylum

Session organiser: Thomas Wimark, Uppsala University, Sweden, **E-mail:** thomas.wimark@kultgeog.uu.se

Research on the experiences and conditions of LGBTIQ+ migrants and refugees in the Nordic context has grown substantially and is now well-established (see e.g., Akin 2017; Gottvall 2024; Lunau & Andreassen 2023; Schröder 2023; Selim 2024; Sólveigar-Guðmundsdóttir 2024; Wimark 2025a; b). This body of work within queer and refugee studies has illuminated how LGBTIQ+ migrants and refugees face discrimination, human rights violations, and systemic obstacles during asylum processes and in everyday life in receiving societies—often shaped by heteronormative discourses or what Jasbir Puar (2007) conceptualizes as homonationalism.

However, research specifically addressing the spatialities and temporalities of queer migration and asylum remains limited. This session aims to advance discussions on how space and time intersect with gender, sexuality, and migration. We seek contributions that explore, for example:

How spaces of migration render certain queer bodies “unfit” (Wimark 2021a; Ingvars, 2023)

The temporal and liminal dimensions of asylum and settlement (Ingvars, 2024; Schröder 2023; Tschalär 2023; Wimark 2021b)

The role of mobility, borders, and waiting in shaping queer migrant subjectivities (Seitz 2017)

Intersections of spatial belonging and temporal precarity in queer migrant’s lives (Spanger & Andersen 2023)

We welcome papers from diverse disciplines that critically engage with these themes and contribute to a deeper understanding of the spatial and temporal dynamics of queer migration and asylum.

References:

- Akin, D. (2017). Queer asylum seekers: translating sexuality in Norway.
- Gottvall (2024). Exploring the mental health impact of asylum-seeking of sexual minority men.
- Guðmundsdóttir (2024). North-to-North queer migrations.
- Ingvars, Á. K. (2023). Poetic desirability: refugee men’s border tactics against white desire. NORMA
- Ingvars, Á. K. (2024). Event(ual) Queer Crafting of Dublin Regulated Sogíe Refugees.
- Lunau & Andreassen (2023). Surveillance practices among migration officers.
- Puar (2018). *Terrorist assemblages: Homonationalism in queer times*.
- Seitz (2017). Limbo life in Canada’s waiting room.
- Schröder (2023). Shifting paradigms, not identities.
- Selim et al. (2025). (In) credibly queer? Assessments of asylum claims based on sexual orientation.
- Spanger, M., & Andersen, M. (2023). Convoluting mobility.
- Tschalär (2023). Queering migration temporalities.
- Wimark (2021a). Homemaking and perpetual liminality among queer refugees.
- Wimark (2021b). Housing policy with violent outcomes.
- Wimark (2025a). The Limits of Refugee Status Determination Through Credibility Assessment.
- Wimark (2025b). Decoding Sexual Orientation in Refugee Status Determination.

3. Just transitions in a restless world: moving beyond technical decarbonization to address social justice issues in the climate transition

Session organiser: Nína M. Saviolidis, University of Iceland, Iceland, **E-mail:** ninamaria@hi.is

In a restless world where geopolitical instability, economic uncertainty, and social unrest are increasingly becoming more prevalent, action to address climate change must not only be rapid but also just. The global advance towards decarbonization has largely focused on technical solutions such as renewable energy deployment, energy efficiency improvements, and electrification. These measures are necessary but not sufficient, as political fragmentation threatens to unravel decades of progress, exacerbating social inequalities, and thereby reducing the acceptance of decarbonisation and other climate action policies. Adequately addressing the social dimensions of climate action is thus long overdue and a pathway to a more resilient, long-lasting and inclusive change. A just transition framework intends to bridge the gap between technical solutions and critical social dimensions by embedding principles of inclusion, fairness and justice in climate action and decarbonisation policies. A just transition can ensure that climate action addresses inequitable outcomes and does not reinforce existing vulnerabilities. This session will welcome inclusive, intersectional, and interdisciplinary insights on the intersection of social issues with climate policy and governance. How labour rights, indigenous sovereignty,

gender equality, vulnerable groups and other pertinent equity and justice issues can inform approaches, strategies and policies to a just and resilient climate transition.

4. Social reproduction and digitalization - levelling up or levelling down spatial inequalities?

Session organiser: Desirée Enlund, Linköpings universitet, Sweden, **E-mail:** desiree.enlund@liu.se

We all need to be cared for during the course of life. Life itself depends upon people who care – about other people, about the functioning of the welfare state, and about the Earth as fundamental to our existence. And yet the crisis of care (Fraser, 2016) is increasingly undercutting our abilities to reproduce ourselves, society and planetary life. Social reproduction takes place at scales stretching from the individual, the home, the community, the state and beyond. It is a prerequisite for capital accumulation. As of late, the idea of infrastructures of social reproduction (Hall, 2020; McFadden, 2023) has gained traction in human geography, in part to move beyond the home as the locus of social reproductive labor. Beyond the increased pressure on social reproduction in the private sphere, infrastructures of social reproduction are increasingly marketized, commoditized and financialized (Mosciaro et al., 2024; Rosenman et al., 2024; Henry and Loomis, 2023).

One response and purported solution to these social reproductive difficulties comes in the form of digitalization. Outsourcing cleaning, shopping and the delivery of food to platform companies offer an instant 'care fix' (Dowling, 2022) to time-constrained households, while complicating the social reproduction of those performing the work (Zampoukos et al., 2024). Some care fixes rely on the development of welfare technologies such as digital monitoring cameras, medicine dispensers and social robots (Arnelid, 2025), that automate or displace labour in elder care and other care contexts. Other times health data aimed at fixing healthcare, also function as a fix to the digital economy (Enlund, 2025). Because of their position as perceived "fixes" of care crises, it is necessary to examine how digital care infrastructures and solutions impact our capacities for social reproduction. This includes how digitalization attempts to combat, overlaps with or exacerbates spatial inequalities.

This session welcomes presentations that advance theoretical and/or empirical knowledge on how digitalization, in a broad sense, transforms or preserves the geographies of social reproduction at a variety of scales, and across different geographical contexts. Topics may include, but are not limited to:

How social reproduction in the public sector is affected by digitalization

Platform companies inserting themselves into (private and/or semi-private markets for social reproduction

The logic(s) that govern the development and programming of digital spaces for social reproduction

Gendered and racialized aspects of digitalized social reproduction

Automation in the sphere of social reproduction

Digitalization's role in the commodification of social reproduction

5. Geographies of Crisis: Youth Perspectives

Session organiser: Sophie Milnes, Loughborough University, United Kingdom, **E-mail:** s.a.milnes@lboro.ac.uk & Dr Rhys Dafydd Jones, Aberystwyth University E-mail: rhj@aber.ac.uk

The 'Doomsday Clock' of the International Bulletin of Atomic Scientists was recently adjusted to its closest-ever position to 'midnight', signifying apocalypse. This is unsurprising given the recent contexts of environmental emergencies, geopolitical turmoil and conflict, authoritarianism, cost of living crises, increased competition for jobs and the threat of obsolescence due to AI, and limited prospects of social mobility, or maintaining quality of life. To this end, discussion of 'omnicrisis' or 'polycrisis' has become commonplace. Young people, in particular, are distinctly exposed to many of these crises and their intersectionality.

Geographers are instrumental in addressing young people's everyday experiences within macro-scale crisis contexts such as global pandemic geographies (Cortés-Morales et al. 2022), economic crises (Horton et al. 2021) and geopolitical instability (Hopkins et al. 2019), as well as shedding light on individual youth transitions in crisis (van Blerk, 2021), and the way in which crisis produces, or exacerbates inequalities (Mills et al. 2025; Bonner-Thompson et al. 2021). As such, this session invites research on the geographies of 'being young' in an era of multiple, intersecting crises. This session aims to create a conversation on the complex landscape of 'crisis geographies', exploring the way in which young people experience, negotiate and resist crisis times in different contexts, how crises geographies intersect, and how an era of 'polycrisis' reshapes lifecourse geographies.

Moreover, this session invites an exploration of atmospheres of crisis for young people; including generational pressures of climate-related activism (Walker, 2017), anticipatory politics enacted by economic and geopolitical crises (Horton, 2016; Pain et al. 2010) and financial (inter)dependence hindering 'normative' life milestones across different contexts (Tomaszczyk & Worth 2020). Indeed, the current era of 'polycrisis' creates a landscape whereby macro-scale crises increasingly impact, and curtail, individualised views of the future, outlining the importance of emotional geographies and imagined futures within this discussion (del Río et al., 2025). In bringing together diverse global perspectives of contemporary crisis, this session seeks to aid the important conceptual development of contemporary youth geographies today.

Papers are invited on topics that may address (but are not limited to) the following:

- Conceptual, theoretical approaches to crisis geographies.
- Empirical geographies of children and youth from diverse 'crisis' perspectives
- Multi-scalar crises and notions of 'polycrisis'.
- Methodological innovations to capture crisis geographies.

6. Geographies of punishment in the Nordics and beyond

Session organiser: Dragan Kusevski, Uppsala University, Sweden, **E-mail:** dragan.kusevski@kultgeog.uu.se

Over the last decade or so, we have been witnessing a steady escalation in "law and order" discourses and practices in the Nordic countries. These are commonly discussed in media and political circles alongside matters of immigration and race, often being conflated and presented as a crisis of national identity. In this, the Nordic states are not alone; they exist within a broader global context of increasingly popular punitive governance, as witnessed in the brutal ICE raids in US cities, deadly police operations in Brazilian favelas and draconian large-scale prisons in El Salvador. Once considered states with exceptionally humanitarian penal systems, many Nordic governments now seem eager to shed this reputation and join the "tough on crime" bandwagon. As a result, prison populations are reported to be growing and the capabilities and reach of the police are expanding.

One aspect that remains underexplored is the geographical/spatial dimension of this trend— despite the fact that scalar considerations, territorial strategies, and spatial imaginaries seem to underlie many punitive discourses and practices. Terms such as "stop-and-frisk zones", "vulnerable neighborhoods", "ghettos", and "geographical bans" are frequently invoked and implemented by policing actors. This session, therefore, invites papers that engage with entanglements of space and the judicial/punitive domain. Papers may discuss: the use and misuse of (material and representational) space in policing matters, the spatial consequences of the increased focus on law and order, the implications of these developments for how we approach and think of social space, etc. Scholars working in urban and social geography, legal geography, and carceral geography will be particularly well suited but the session also welcomes contributions from other disciplines (urban studies, cultural studies, critical criminology, critical legal studies, etc.) that seek to understand the contemporary punitive trend (provided they maintain a geographical focus).