

Climate change and impacts

5 sessions:

1. Who Prepares? Critical perspectives on civil preparedness

Session organiser: Webster Natasha A., Örebro University, Sweden, **E-mail:** natasha.webster@oru.se

To prepare a nation for a coming crisis, such as natural disasters or war, is a significant endeavor with many tensions that are felt unevenly between the diverse population and at different geographic scales and the question of how preparedness is implemented - by individuals and households - remains understudied. A key question for civil crisis preparedness, then, is, who does the labor to prepare the state-identified crisis scenarios? In particular, who is expected to perform the tasks and assemble the resources related to preparedness. There has been limited attention to how crisis preparedness relates to the role of preparedness labor, and who undertakes that in household in particular with regard to divisions of labour, especially attuned to the everyday geographies of private and public spheres. Gender, household type and form, community and location are key categories which may shape the opportunities and obstacles to choosing to prepare and the ability to implement.

This session explores critical perspectives on who is undertaking the material, symbolic and emotional labour of preparedness in household, communities and beyond (e.g. labour connecting preparedness efforts across scales and in between societal actors). We welcome papers addressing many forms of crises and temporalities across global contexts as well as papers addressing the theoretical, ethical, methodological challenges of understanding the complexities of crises.

2. Non-Economic Losses to Climate-Induced Events for Communities in the Arctic

Session organiser: Rico Kongsager, Danish Institute for International Studies, Denmark, **E-mail:** rkn@diis.dk

Non-Economic Losses to Climate-Induced Events for Communities in the Arctic

As climate change intensifies, Arctic communities face profound disruptions not only to their physical environment but also to their cultural, social, and emotional landscapes. These disruptions—often referred to as *non-economic losses*—include the loss of cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, identity, sense of place, and social cohesion. Despite their significance, such losses remain underrepresented in research, climate impact assessments, and policy frameworks.

This session invites scholars, practitioners, and knowledge holders to explore and share methodological approaches for investigating non-economic losses resulting from climate-induced events in Arctic regions. The session is anchored in the **LostToClimate** research project (www.losttoclimate.org), which seeks to advance understanding of how communities experience and articulate these intangible losses, and how such experiences can be meaningfully integrated into climate adaptation and loss and damage discourses.

We welcome abstracts that address, but are not limited to, the following themes:

- **Methodological innovations** for identifying and documenting non-economic losses, including participatory, ethnographic, narrative, and arts-based approaches.

- **Interdisciplinary frameworks** that bridge climate science, anthropology, Indigenous studies, and policy analysis.

- **Case studies** from Arctic communities that illustrate lived experiences of loss and resilience.

- **Ethical considerations** in researching and representing non-economic losses, especially in Indigenous contexts.

- **Policy relevance:** How can insights into non-economic losses inform climate justice, adaptation planning, and international negotiations under the UNFCCC?

We particularly encourage submissions that center on traditional and Indigenous perspectives and knowledge systems, and that critically engage with the challenges of translating deeply personal and collective experiences into formats that are legible to stakeholders, policymakers, and researchers.

The session aims to foster dialogue across disciplines and geographies, and to establish a community of practice centered on the recognition and integration of non-economic losses in climate research and action. Contributors will have the opportunity to connect with the LostToClimate network and explore possibilities for future collaboration.

Please submit an abstract outlining your methodological approach, case study, or theoretical contribution, and its relevance to the session theme. We welcome contributions from early-career researchers, community-based scholars, and practitioners.

3. **Lands of ice and fire: Understanding combustion environments in the North**

Session organiser: Charlotte Wrigley, University of Stavanger, Norway, **E-mail:** charlotte.a.wrigley@uis.no

Fire is necessary for human survival, but can also threaten it. Climate change induced 'megafires' are now annual events, whilst out-of-control wildfires enter cities and cause huge amounts of destruction. In the Arctic and boreal zone, wildfires have increased dramatically with rising temperatures. The unique ecologies of these northern latitudes – dense evergreen forests, boggy peatlands, and tundra – produce similarly unique combustion environments. Smouldering fires are the most common form of fire in the North and are poorly understood, whilst the new phenomenon of 'zombie fires' – fires that smoulder underground during the winter months and re-emerge at the surface the following summer – are increasing in regularity. As the Arctic heats at four times the rate of the rest of the planet, how can we as geographers understand and respond to these shifting fire landscapes? How does the geographical concept of 'North' – as an orientation, as an imaginary, as a territory – reconfigure our relationship with fire?

This session invites scholars to 'the land of ice and fire' to think through the intersections of combustion and northern environments. It welcomes interventions that address the material and socioecological relations between fire and cold places/spaces, as well as the managerial and political challenges of fire management in boreal and Arctic regions. Potential topics include but are not limited to:

- Northern wildfire environments: smouldering fires, forest fires, peatland fires, megafires, heathland fires, zombie (overwinter) fires.
- Fire and climate change
- Prescribed and cultural burning
- Forestry/forest industries and fire
- Agriculture and fire
- Biodiversity and fire

- Fire policy, including international collaboration directives such as The Arctic Council
- Fire and technology eg. remote sensing, real-time fire reporting
- Fire cultures
- Power, colonialism, and fire

4. Climate futures: Anticipations, trends, spaces

Session organiser: Joni Vainikka, University of Helsinki, Finland, **E-mail:** joni.vainikka@helsinki.fi

The one thing that we know about the future is that it is going to be warmer. The climate crisis presents a massive global event whose impacts will unfold and be felt for generations to come. With current levels of global greenhouse gas emissions, global surface temperatures are expected to rise 2.7°C from late 19th-century levels by 2100. While we have already observed more frequent extremes such as droughts, heavy precipitation and heatwaves, some cities in the future will become close to uninhabitable for part of the year. This session calls to discuss climate-changed futures, where an increased amount of energy in the atmosphere and in seas propagate/institute a future where climate is not a solvable problem but a condition that we must live with and where structural injustices are bound to grow. We are interested in ways climate-changed futures can be imagined, described and narrated, especially in a field that is in its nature *graphical*, explorations into urban futures and planning practices where the changed climate sets new standards for any forms of good life, modellings where current trends and trajectories are challenged with a drastically different climatic future and imaginations of Nordics/world after irreversible tipping points. We are also interested in the kind of temporal activism geographers are associated with, anticipatory practices, future washing, distant times or participatory futures imagining. Drawing on what some have termed the temporal turn, we look at how future talk is founded on present knowledges and what kind of cultural and philosophical leaps it would require to talk otherwise, or to change from preformative to affirmative languages. In this scheme, it can be necessary to define our present hopes and fears when we are irretrievably building utopias and dystopias for a world that does not share the same environmental ground.

We welcome papers with various perspectives related to, for instance,

The temporal turn in geography, new languages and transformative politics

Emotional, affective and ethical dimensions of climate futures

Temporal imaginations in geography and social sciences that explore futures with climatic change

Tipping points and long-term resilience planning

Adaptation practices and strategies for more just futures

Climate-changed urban futures and explorations to the possible and loss

Cultural lag, future shock and 'futurisation', and how our sense of time is changing in the age of extremes

Societal trajectories, trends and estimates and their limitations

Temporal activism and anticipatory politics

5. Resilience for whom? Tourism, vulnerability, and adaptation in Nordic and global settings

Session organiser: Siamak Seyfi, University of Oulu, Finland, **E-mail:** siamak.seyfi@oulu.fi

Contemporary human–environment systems across both the Nordic region and the wider world face accelerating and uneven pressures. The Anthropocene, understood as a phase in which human actions carry planetary consequences, shapes environments and societies in ways that are difficult to predict with confidence. These pressures are sharply visible in Nordic settings where Arctic warming transforms ecosystems, mobility patterns, and long-standing livelihood practices, yet they also resonate across regions facing fire seasons, prolonged drought, rising seas, and political volatility. Tourism operates within these global and Nordic shifts and moves through circuits of extraction, mobility, and disturbance that define this era. As visitor flows expand into fragile Nordic landscapes and crisis-prone regions worldwide, it becomes necessary to consider how communities respond, and whose resilience is highlighted in policy narratives.

This situation has encouraged growing reliance on resilience thinking as a guiding idea in tourism research, planning, and governance. The term is often associated with the capacity of individuals and communities to absorb shocks, reorganise, and continue functioning in the face of change. Yet the framing of resilience can sidestep important questions. It may overlook the structural conditions that create vulnerability, the distribution of responsibilities, and the political decisions that shape who is protected, who is exposed, and who carries the burden of adjustment.

Against this background, this session examines how tourism and community resilience are shaped, challenged, and renegotiated across Nordic and global settings under the conditions of the Anthropocene. The aim is to question assumptions that portray tourism as an automatic route to renewal and to identify cases where resilience is presented as a community obligation rather than a shared institutional commitment. The session seeks to advance discussion on how tourism futures are imagined across diverse regions, which groups are expected to adjust, and what forms of social and ecological care become possible when tourism growth shapes and is shaped by climate strain, political instability, and economic uncertainty.

This session welcomes both conceptual and empirical contributions. Studies using qualitative, participatory, or collaborative methods are especially encouraged. The goal is to encourage grounded debate on whether current tourism paths support fair and ecologically viable futures, or whether they intensify existing strain