



## **SESSION: Nordic Peatlands: Perspectives of People, Science, and Restoration I**

**23-06-2026** 10:30 - 12:10

### **Competing peatlands: Negotiations of care in Danish agricultural landscapes**

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In light of the current climate- and biodiversity crises, the political interest in peatlands has increased dramatically as these ecosystems hold the potential to address several urgent societal challenges. In Denmark, a political agreement from 2024 aims to restore 140.000 hectares of agricultural peatlands by 2030. The main goals are to reduce GHG emissions from agriculture and decrease nitrogen run-off to aquatic environments along with objectives to restore natural habitats, enhance biodiversity, improve the quality of drinking water, create recreational areas and develop more sustainable ways of farming. The restoration effort depends on the voluntary participation of landowners who own and cultivate the land. Hence, implementation of the effort necessitates local collaboration between policymakers, scientists and farmers, but is challenged by contestations over the purpose and outcome of restoration, what is rendered worthy of protection, what it means to restore nature and what landscapes are wanted in the future. Based on ethnographic fieldwork carried out in 2025, I explore how key stakeholders in Denmark enact peatlands in multiple ways through practices of cultivating, measuring, assessing and valuing peatlands. Through the lens of care, I argue that restoring and improving peatlands in terms of climate, nature, environment and agriculture display multiple 'good' peatland(s) that compete in the restoration effort when national policy and local realities meet.

## **SESSION: Nordic Peatlands: Perspectives of People, Science, and Restoration I**

**23-06-2026** 10:30 - 12:10

### **Greenhouse gas emissions from managed and unmanaged drained peatlands in West Iceland**

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About two-thirds of the total human-induced emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG) in Iceland are estimated to be from drained peatlands, both managed (pastures and croplands) and unmanaged land. However, those numbers are highly uncertain due to lack of local studies on the GHG balances of such lands in Iceland. Here we introduce an ongoing study that systematically measures the fluxes of GHGs (CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O) in a cropland on drained land in West Iceland. Four research plots of 2 m × 2 m were established on a drained, managed peatland at Skipanes farm (CL) in West Iceland, each equipped with three collars for LI-COR 7810 (CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>) and LI-COR 7820 (N<sub>2</sub>O) analysers. Two control plots were established on a drained, unmanaged peatland (LL). Regular gas flux measurements were conducted June - October 2025. To compare fluxes of the managed and unmanaged site, t-tests and non-parametric Mann-Whitney U tests were used. The results showed that CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O emissions were consistently higher at the managed site, whereas CO<sub>2</sub> emissions showed a similar pattern except for a three-week period between mid-August and mid-September. To explore potential environmental controls of these fluxes, linear regression analysis was conducted. The results indicated that soil temperature and water content exerted positive and negative effects on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, respectively, whereas their effects on CH<sub>4</sub> emissions were reversed. However, no direct effect of soil temperature and water content was found on N<sub>2</sub>O emissions. To better disentangle the influence of different management interventions and other environmental drivers on GHG emissions from drained peatlands in Iceland, this study will continue for an additional two years and expand to two further sites in West Iceland.

## **SESSION: Nordic Peatlands: Perspectives of People, Science, and Restoration I**

**23-06-2026** 10:30 - 12:10

### **Winter fluxes determine the annual carbon balance of an unmanaged subarctic drained peatland**

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Peatlands store large amounts of soil organic carbon (SOC). However, drainage substantially alters their carbon exchange and hydrological functioning, converting them into net carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) sources. This study presents the first year-round, ecosystem-scale Eddy Covariance (EC) assessment of CO<sub>2</sub> dynamics from a 65-year-old unmanaged drained peatland in Iceland. Two years of continuous EC measurements were collected, which differed markedly in annual weather during the growing season (GS), with 2023 GS being unusually warm and dry, while 2024 GS was cold and wet. Despite these contrasts, annual net ecosystem exchange (NEE) remained similar between the two years. The annual NEE was dominated by non-growing-season (NGS) respiration, which highlighted the necessity for year-round measurements. Overall, the site remained a persistent CO<sub>2</sub> source, emitting 4.1–4.4 t CO<sub>2</sub>-C /ha/yr. Soil temperature exerted the strongest control on ecosystem respiration (Reco), while gross primary production (GPP) responded primarily to seasonal irradiance and NDVI. A compensatory mechanism was observed during the warm year (2023), where warming-induced increases in Reco were offset by an enhanced GPP, resulting in a relatively stable annual NEE despite meteorological contrasts. Soil moisture and vapor pressure deficit played only minor roles under these cool and moist conditions. These findings highlight the need for continued monitoring of unmanaged drained peatlands to better quantify their contribution to regional greenhouse gas budgets.

## **SESSION: Nordic Peatlands: Perspectives of People, Science, and Restoration I**

**23-06-2026** 10:30 - 12:10

### **Changing waters: from waterscape to landscape and back again**

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Across Sweden, nineteenth- and twentieth-century lake lowering, wetland drainage, and peatland conversion reshaped inland waters into productive landscapes, embedding a particular vision of progress in ditches, deeds, pumps, and sediment. This article draws on a critical review of 81 archival, scientific, and policy sources to examine what was done, why it was done, when drainage peaked, and how these interventions continue to shape restoration pathways and hazards. The review shows that drainage expanded from the 1830s and peaked between about 1870 and 1930, supported by patriotic improvement, agrarian modernization, expanding credit, and the 1879 Drainage Act. In total, 2,449 lake-lowering and drainage projects were recorded in Sweden. These interventions produced enduring hydro-social legacies: altered runoff pathways, subsiding peat soils, drainage infrastructures that still condition water movement, and nutrient and contaminant stores that remain active in present restoration contexts. The article argues that restoration therefore cannot be understood as a simple return to an original nature. Rather, it unfolds within historically transformed landscapes that behave as a durable second nature, where earlier interventions continue to organize present possibilities, risks, and expectations. Evidence reviewed in the article shows that rewetting and refilling may restore some hydrological functions, but can also trigger short-term increases in dissolved organic carbon, phosphorus, and mercury, while rewetted peatlands may remain net carbon sources in the first years after intervention. Restoration is therefore approached as a negotiated, place-specific pathway rather than a technical reversal. The article concludes that restoration planning should begin from historical legacies, infrastructural lock-ins, and uneven risk distribution, and should combine long-term monitoring, due diligence, and shared governance when deciding how altered waterscapes might be reworked under contemporary climate and biodiversity agendas. This article links restoration science with human geography by foregrounding temporal change, socio-natural transformation, contested responsibility, and hazard-aware futures.

## **SESSION: Nordic Peatlands: Perspectives of People, Science, and Restoration I**

**23-06-2026** 10:30 - 12:10

### **Does windblown dust shape invertebrate communities in Icelandic wetlands? Implications for wetland restoration projects**

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In recent years, the ecosystem-shaping effects of increasing atmospheric dust levels have been acknowledged on a larger scale, with a focus on the Arctic. Dust deposition can be especially important in originally acidic, nutrient-poor peatlands, where mineral dust can, for instance, act as a pH regulator and fertiliser. Icelandic wetlands are an example of these uniquely minerotrophic wetlands as they are constantly receiving windblown mineral dust, originating from eroding Andosols. Several recent studies in wetlands have shown significant changes in soil properties, vegetation patterns and bird abundances across the dust deposition gradient. In this PhD project, I aim to find out how invertebrate communities – a crucial link in wetland ecosystems – are shaped by dust deposition and wetland drainage and restoration efforts. To accomplish this, I will compare wetland invertebrate communities along a pre-determined dust deposition gradient and between natural, drained, and restored sites in Iceland. In autumn 2025, I sampled aquatic invertebrates from ponds and ditches in 25 wetland sites. During summer 2026, I will sample terrestrial invertebrates with pitfall traps in a subset of the same sites. Additionally, I will sample water eDNA for improved resolution in characterising both aquatic and terrestrial invertebrate communities. I hypothesise that wetland invertebrate communities differ significantly between low and high dust deposition sites, with the former hosting predominantly true peatland species and the latter hosting more grassland species. If this is true, then wetland drainage and restoration may have a bigger impact on invertebrate communities in areas of low dust deposition. This, in turn, could affect the prioritisation of restoration projects by their relative value for biodiversity. In conclusion, my findings will help us predict the future consequences of increasing atmospheric dust levels for Arctic wetland biodiversity and support biodiversity-oriented wetland restoration efforts in Iceland.

**SESSION: Urban Political Economy in Transition: Critical Perspectives on Urban Processes in a Polycrisis Era I**

23-06-2026 10:30 - 12:10

**Corporate landlords and municipal governance: reproduction of urban marginalization in the post-welfare Nordics?**

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Housing and urban scholars have increasingly scrutinized corporate landlords' ambiguous role in providing affordable housing and developing deeply intertwined relationships with cities and civil society under the umbrella of social sustainability. This paper contributes to these debates by asking how corporate landlords enter local urban rental markets and operationalize social sustainability and, in turn, how municipalities govern these landlords in the Swedish context. I draw from research on global financialized landlords and urban marginalization to respond to these questions. The study is based on real estate data, interviews with representatives from medium-sized municipalities, civil society, and corporate landlords, and desk research, focusing on the Swedish case where financialized corporate landlords own a large share of rental housing. The paper identifies how municipal governance consists of both cooperative and controlling mechanisms and discusses how the use, or non-use, of these mechanisms involves both scalar and temporal tensions. The scalar tension refers to how municipalities are stuck in place, governing within their territories, while financialized corporate landlords act from marginalized neighborhoods to regional, national, and international scales. The temporal tension includes that municipalities and corporate landlords have different time horizons, where municipalities' welfare responsibilities necessitate longer time perspectives, while corporate landlords carry out their financialized management and investments within shorter time frames. These tensions raise critical questions regarding municipalities' ability to fulfill their housing provision responsibilities, the reproduction of urban marginalization, and shifting welfare-market relations. In turn, this paper argues that spatial and temporal perspectives are necessary to understand the tensions provoked by corporate landlords entering marginalized urban areas and subsequent effects on municipal welfare provision.

**SESSION: Urban Political Economy in Transition: Critical Perspectives on Urban Processes in a Polycrisis Era I**

23-06-2026 10:30 - 12:10

**The interplay of austerity infrastructure, gentrification and spatial violence in Exarcheia**

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In this paper, I aim to understand how the neglect of public infrastructure coexists with a renewed emphasis on profit-driven infrastructure development in urban contexts. I focus on Exarcheia, an Athens neighbourhood known for its radical character, where state withdrawal from the provision of public infrastructure coincides with ongoing plans for new transport infrastructure and urban regeneration. Using a participatory action research approach and co-producing knowledge with grassroots organisations opposing these plans, I argue that prolonged austerity following the 2008 economic crisis has profoundly reconfigured state-funded public infrastructures, aligning them more

closely with the speculative interests of real estate, commercial and infrastructure capital. In this context, infrastructure increasingly operates as a mechanism for assetisation, contributing to housing pressures and displacement dynamics. The interplay of austerity infrastructure, gentrification and spatial violence manifests as a form of slow urbicide, paving the way for controversial regeneration plans that prioritise the commercial exploitation of urban space at the expense of the historical, political and cultural identities of affected neighbourhoods. By situating Exarcheia within wider debates on the intersections of austerity infrastructure, gentrification and securitisation, the paper contributes a Southern European perspective to the convergence of austerity's spatial violence with revanchist urban restructuring in a period of escalating urban polycrisis.

## **SESSION: Urban Political Economy in Transition: Critical Perspectives on Urban Processes in a Polycrisis Era I**

**23-06-2026** 10:30 - 12:10

### **Understanding gentrification by combining approaches from political economy and everyday life**

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This presentation adopts an epistemological approach and argues that combining the political-economic theory of uneven development with concepts from everyday life can contribute to a better understanding of the production of urban spaces undergoing gentrification. In elaborating this argument, we also expand upon those classical critical geographical conceptualizations of gentrification that focused on the nexus of global socio-economic restructuring and local rent-gap dynamics. From the perspective of the production of scale, we highlight the explanatory potency of the household and body-scales, emphasising the role of lived experience, individual agency, and everyday subjectivities amidst the contemporary polycrisis. To demonstrate the analytical utility of this dual approach, we present empirical findings from two precariously gentrifying urban working-class districts in Hungary; these findings are based partly on historical sources and statistical analysis, and partly on narrative, semi-structured, and focus group interviews. By juxtaposing the spatial practices of marginalised households with historically contingent cycles of state- and capital-led dis/reinvestment, the analysis reveals gentrification as a variegated, 'mosaic' process. This transformation is not merely a product of exogenous capital; rather, we demonstrate that working-class residents, beyond experiencing direct and indirect displacement, navigate complex roles in both reproducing and contesting gentrification's socio-spatial logic. The presentation is based on the results of the '*Marginalised Space Experience in the Context of Uneven Geographical Development*' research project (No. 138713), which has been implemented with the support provided by the Ministry of Innovation and Technology of Hungary from the National Research, Development and Innovation Fund, financed under the K\_21 funding scheme.

## **SESSION: Geographies of solidarity and geographers in solidarity I**

**23-06-2026** 10:30 - 12:10

### **Solidarity and care**

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<sup>1</sup> Maynooth University, Maynooth, Ireland

In this paper, we reflect on how people working with migrant-led and migrant-supporting organisations and grassroots groups in Ireland understand and make sense of the work that they do. In recent years, this work has become more challenging because of the increased visibility of far-right and anti-migrant sentiment and practices, at times resulting in violent confrontation and arson attacks. Despite this, migrant-led and migrant-supporting organisations and groups continue their work, even if more discretely and quietly. Our research is part of a broader research project that seeks to better illuminate and understand how individuals, communities and organisations respond practically and positively to migration and migrants. The project was inspired by literature on (radical) care and care ethics, with care understood as “*everything that we do to maintain, continue, and repair our world so that we can live in it as well as possible.*” In this part of the project, we sought to interview around 30 people about how ideas of care informed their work and practice. We found that while some were influenced by ideas of care, others actively resisted the description of their work as care. Instead, they used other terms, and ‘solidarity’ was particularly common. Using insights from our interviews, we discuss the relationship between care and solidarity, and the implications of this for communities and societies living with migration. We argue that expanding our understanding of solidarity to encompass radical care and care ethics offers an alternative response to the growth of anti-migrant activity and discourse, centred on making lives better for everyone.

## **SESSION: Geographies of solidarity and geographers in solidarity I**

**23-06-2026** 10:30 - 12:10

### **Solidarity through Diversity: A Study of a Local Community in Northern Norway**

Jørn Cruickshank <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University of Agder, Kristiansand, Norway

Place-based communities erode when the local population’s sense of sharing common interests with the people they share a place with begins to fade. This is the dominant way of approaching the question of solidarity. Another threat to a community arises when the diversity and contradictions within a place are suppressed. It is this latter issue that I aim to highlight in this article. In a study of developments in a small local community in Northern Norway, the article shows how a former fishing and agricultural municipality, which was merged with a larger neighboring city municipality, gradually emerged into a single imagined community. The new consensus functions as a resource for local demands, but it has also displaced previously strong place-identities and internal diversity within the original municipality. Strong voices among newcomers, the regional newspaper and the dialogue on social media contribute to the formation of a new local consensus, dominated by a victimization narrative. At present, efforts are underway to secede from the city municipality in favor of merging with another, more rural neighboring municipality. The process of consensus formation contributes to draining the place of meaning and suppresses important aspects of everyday practices and local attachments. Through 11 in-depth interviews, two public meetings, and 15 field visits, I have mapped

perceived and potential lines of conflict within the local community, as well as the shortcomings of public governance and public discussion in creating connections between spontaneous events. The purpose of the article is to highlight how solidarity can erode when the public sphere excludes contradictions and the articulation of incompatible values, and to point to the importance of facilitating the emergence of competing projects that people can attach themselves to.

## **SESSION: Geographies of solidarity and geographers in solidarity I**

**23-06-2026** 10:30 - 12:10

### **Queer-Feminist Spaces of Solidarity and Failure in Times of War and Crisis**

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<sup>2</sup> The Open University of Israel, Raanana , Israel

This paper examines the spaces of solidarity and the feminist-queer failure of activists seeking to create a space that transcends ethno-national identities and power relations. These Israeli and Palestinian queer and trans activists tried to overcome the bloody and protracted conflict by creating a new, queer, and feminist space of solidarity and care. The paper will be based on an ethnography of a queer feminine, self-organized community in Israel/Palestine named “Mitkansot” (gathering together in Hebrew), including participant observations, in-depth interviews, and discourse analysis of the community’s documents. Radical fairies and similar groups in Europe inspired the group's founding and activism, alongside local issues important to its members. The group was founded with a radical queer and feminist utopian vision, while the spaces of gathering and activism were intended to transcend Israeli nationality and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. However, the persistent presence of the national body—particularly after October 7th—and the Gaza war and genocide highlighted the failure to contain both Israeli and Palestinian national grief and the radical solidarity and activism, followed by the departure of Palestinian participants, whose grief wasn’t recognized. The research underscores the importance of local characteristics in the political and spatial work of solidarity and the unique challenges faced in the Israel-Palestine area, particularly in bi-national, shared queer-feminist spaces of solidarity and activism. We propose interpreting the gap between the vision and reality as a queer utopia and queer failure, emphasizing the strength of local social, spatial, and national structures that make this failure inevitable.

## **SESSION: Geographies of solidarity and geographers in solidarity I**

**23-06-2026** 10:30 - 12:10

### **Militant research and border abolition: interrogating activism and academic work in migrant solidarity movements.**

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Militant research, an engaged mode of inquiry rooted in autonomist revolutionary traditions, is currently being used in critical migration studies to integrate hands-on migrant solidarity activism with counter-hegemonic knowledge production. From the coastal border zones of Tunisia to the Balkan Route and Calais, we are witnessing an ever-increasing involvement of researchers in border struggles. Yet, few have interrogated the methodological and ethical challenges that come with doing militant research while fighting against borders. Can research and radical action *really* go together? How, if at all, does militant research contribute to border abolition? What challenges do activists/researchers face in a field characterized by structural violence and uneven power relations? To address these questions, we retrace our long-term engagements as migrant solidarity activists and militant researchers on the Bosnia-Croatia and Turkey-Bulgaria borders, and in autonomous legal-aid collectives in Turin, Italy. Through less-than-comfortable self-reflections and epistemological ruminations on abolition, we interrogate our messy experiences in research and activism, unpicking the modalities, spaces, temporalities, and political uses of militant research. Our contribution ultimately proposes that research and activism can converge in a fertile tension — a dynamic making and unmaking of the counter-knowledges and practices of a world without borders. Oscillating between border struggles and academia, we read our work through an abolitionist perspective to retrace the many ways in which academic work is likely to reproduce the very border regime it wants to study or, conversely, how it bears the potential to critically feed the insurgent forces that *will*, one day, tear it down.

## **SESSION: Nature-Based Solutions in Nordic Countries**

**23-06-2026** 10:30 - 12:10

### **Navigating Social Tensions in Participatory Nature-Based Solutions**

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Across the Nordic region, nature-based solutions (NbS) are increasingly combined to address wetland restoration, flood protection, biodiversity loss, and urban resilience. While these approaches aim to balance environmental, economic, cultural, and social goals, their implementation reveals governance challenges that affect long-term sustainability. Drawing on a qualitative cross-case analysis of seven urban NbS projects in Northern Europe, this paper identifies three recurring tensions: (1) between predefined environmental objectives and open-ended participation; (2) between long-term ecological ambitions and short-term, project-based governance structures; and (3) between expert-led technical knowledge and local, culturally embedded knowledge. We argue that these tensions can limit the integrative potential of NbS if not carefully managed. By unpacking these dynamics, the paper contributes to discussions on how Nordic sustainability initiatives can better align ecological resilience, and community well-being in durable, context-sensitive development pathways.

## **SESSION: Nature-Based Solutions in Nordic Countries**

**23-06-2026** 10:30 - 12:10

### **Blue-Green Stormwater Solutions in Grundarfjörður: A Model for Nordic Towns**

Nanna Vilborg Harðardóttir<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Grundarfjarðarbær, Grundarfjörður, Iceland

This paper presents the implementation of blue-green, nature-based stormwater solutions in the small coastal town of Grundarfjörður in West Iceland, and discusses how such measures can be mainstreamed in existing Nordic settlements. Triggered by extreme rainfall events and increasing pressure on an ageing combined sewer network, the municipality adopted a policy in 2019 to integrate blue-green infrastructure into its master plan in order to reduce flood risk, improve water quality and enhance urban liveability. The project combines hydrological analysis, land-use planning and landscape architecture to retrofit streets, open spaces and harbour areas with rain gardens, vegetated swales, permeable surfaces and wetlands that slow down, store and treat stormwater using soil and vegetation. Particular emphasis is placed on plant selection and design solutions adapted to harsh North Atlantic conditions, winter maintenance, traffic safety and public health, including child-friendly learning environments. The paper also introduces the EU-funded LIFE-ICEWATER collaboration, describing how the “Grundarfjörður method” – a step-by-step process from data collection and zoning to design guidelines and local engagement – can serve as a transferable model for nature-based climate adaptation in other Nordic municipalities facing similar hydrological and infrastructural challenges.

## **SESSION: Nature-Based Solutions in Nordic Countries**

**23-06-2026** 10:30 - 12:10

### **Childhood nature exposure and psychotropic purchases in adolescence and adulthood**

Milena Nevanto <sup>1</sup>Jaana Halonen <sup>2</sup>, Timo Kauppinen <sup>2</sup>, Teemu Kemppainen <sup>1</sup>, Pekka Martikainen <sup>1</sup>, Lasse Tarkiainen <sup>1</sup>

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Previous research suggests that natural environments in residential areas may reduce the risk of mental health disorders and support psychological well-being. This is particularly relevant in urban areas, where green spaces are often reduced and fragmented. However, less is known about how different kinds of natural environments contribute to psychological well-being. In this study, we examine whether childhood exposure to different residential green and blue space types influences the risk of psychotropic purchases in adolescence and adulthood. Associations were examined with Cox regression both at the population level and within families. Within-family design controls for between-families confounding. In practice, it compares siblings with differing levels of green and blue space exposure during childhood, for example due to family relocation. Our study uses comprehensive administrative register data covering the entire population of Finland, including information on medication purchases and sociodemographic factors. We focus on children from selected birth cohorts living in the four largest urban regions and evaluate their exposure to different types of green and blue spaces during childhood.

## **SESSION: Nature-Based Solutions in Nordic Countries**

**23-06-2026** 10:30 - 12:10

### **NATURETIME: understanding and leveraging nature's contributions to human sense of time**

Ricardo Aleixo Henriques Correia <sup>1</sup>

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Can nature heal our broken relationship with time? There is growing evidence that experiencing and connecting with nature are essential to maintain human health and well-being. While various benefits of nature experiences are increasingly being recognised, the pivotal role of nature experiences in shaping human time perception – our sense of time – remains largely unexplored and unrecognised. In this presentation, I draw from a growing body of evidence showing that nature experiences can influence human sense of time to suggest they can support a more positive relationship with time. Specifically, nature experiences can extend human perception of temporal duration and shift time perspectives towards a more positive and balanced outlook of the past, present, and future time perspectives. I also outline existing knowledge gaps toward developing nature-based solutions for reshaping human sense of time, and propose a research agenda aimed at generating actionable insights that can help to restore a healthier and more balanced relationship with time. In a context of increasing time scarcity in modern urban societies, with dire consequences for human health and well-being, I argue that nature recovery can positively affect human temporal well-being and behaviours towards nature.



## **SESSION: OPEN SESSION 1 - Belonging, inclusion**

**23-06-2026** 10:30 - 12:10

### **Orienteering and young people's acquirement of spatial competence**

Susanne Stenbacka <sup>1</sup>Sara Forsberg <sup>1</sup>

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This study explores the multiple meanings of young people's engagement in civil society through the case of orienteering, a sport that foregrounds human–environment interaction. In this presentation we focus upon this sport's implications for participation, belonging and identity formation across rural and urban settings. We adopt two perspectives: an organizational perspective which includes how sport leaders perceive the impact of orienteering on young persons' spatial and social competences; and a youth perspective focusing upon young persons' understandings of their own engagement in terms of acquired skills, social networks and prospects for the future. Drawing on the concepts 'spatial capital' and 'spatial competence' we highlight young individuals' appropriation of natural landscape and social contexts. We find that orienteering can involve experiences of spatial conquests and competences including feelings of self-esteem and safety – and that this occurs within a specific framework of family, mobility and shared values and attitudes. Communicative practices function as a cohesive glue where failures or difficult conditions during competitions play a crucial role.

## **SESSION: OPEN SESSION 1 - Belonging, inclusion**

**23-06-2026** 10:30 - 12:10

### **Reimagining public space for menstruation: A feminist utopian approach**

Lucia Ester Hámorová <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Geography, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic

Utopia represents a reimagined and refashioned place that can be spatially described and analysed. The relationship between utopia and geography has traditionally been most evident in urban geography, particularly in literature concerned with imagining improved designs for urban space. However, feminist geographers have critically challenged this tradition for their totalising, heteronormative, and largely descriptive nature. Rather than presenting static ideals, feminist approaches emphasise process-oriented utopianism. They seek to give voice to groups experiencing spatial inequalities and prioritise consultation and negotiation in addressing spatial conflicts certain groups experience, rather than radical transformations that assume such conflicts will disappear. Without relying on closed or totalising utopias, the focus shifts to the ongoing process of imagining possibilities and pathways toward more just futures—an approach commonly referred to as feminist utopianism. This paper more specifically engages with menstruation and explores possibilities for refashioning public space to support better menstrual experiences. The study analyses 14 semi-structured interviews with women who have experience with menstruation. The findings reveal multiple spatial challenges, including the inaccessibility of public toilets, the lack of hygiene products, painkillers, and water sources, restrictive institutional opening hours, inflexible work and school schedules, limited empathy, and the persistent stigma and taboo surrounding menstruation. Through

a feminist utopian lens, the paper interprets these spatial shortcomings, critiques the design of public spaces, and imagines alternative arrangements that could contribute to more equitable and supportive menstrual futures.

**SESSION: OPEN SESSION 1 - Belonging, inclusion**

**23-06-2026 10:30 - 12:10**

**Gay peripheries within metropolitan peripheries: Partial notes from South Africa for Africa and beyond**

Gustav Visser <sup>1</sup>

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The general narrative of queer life in non-metropolitan places is often presented/assumed as one of repression and exclusion, yet evidence from smaller cities suggests this is a misinterpretation; the experience of queer life in secondary cities is highly complex, shaped by numerous variables and significant regional differences. The investigation explores public (male) same-sex expression in Stellenbosch, a secondary city and university town located 50 kilometres from Cape Town, South Africa. In contrast to established theories that posit that gay life emerges from visibility, consolidation, and urban aggregation, the example of Stellenbosch suggests a different model of communal life and social interaction that has changed over time in response to economic and demographic shifts before and after the Apartheid regime. Stellenbosch is thus a reminder to be more mindful of the particularities of smaller cities, cautioning against generalisations about queer lives in non-metropolitan places and countries.

## **SESSION: Knowledge-Making as a Spatializing Process I**

23-06-2026 10:30 - 12:10

### **Spacings for Failure in urban youth work**

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In their article, *Not just growing up, but going on: Materials, Spacings, Bodies, Situations*, geographers John Horton and Peter Kraftl re-conceptualize space as a verb in order to discuss how *failure* may be a catalyst for *spacing* processes. Following Horton and Kraftl, this presentation argues that this articulation of the spatializing dimension of failure is especially important when considering openings for difference in urban landscapes but also in considering young people's *spacings*. It argues that attending to young people's geographies requires more than acknowledging the spaces made available to young people and the way they occupy, affect, create, and misuse space, it also requires recognizing failure as a catalyst for these spacing processes. This presentation attempts to think with these conceptualizations in relation to ongoing field work with Asemanlapset's Walkers Cafe and Walkers outreach bus in the Helsinki region, considering how the geographies of failure delimit (and limit) certain spaces and possible ways of being with them. In exploring the failure and discomfort of affectual states that are sometimes foregrounded in geographical sites of youth work, this work aims to unpack how these spacing processes have the potential to create fractures in taken-for-granted ways of knowing, thinking, and being and how they play an imperative role in potential openings for becoming-otherwise.

## **SESSION: Knowledge-Making as a Spatializing Process I**

23-06-2026 10:30 - 12:10

### **Spatializing Water Hazards: Environmental Identity and Climate Knowledge in Free-Choice Learning Contexts**

Shu-Min Tsai <sup>1</sup> Shawn Rowe <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> National Taiwan University, Taipei, Taiwan

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Water hazards do not merely unfold in space; they support the production of spatial knowledge. This paper reconceptualizes flooding in Taiwan, tsunami memory in Japan, and sea level rise in the United States as distinct spatializing processes through which climate risk becomes knowable, imaginable, and situated within sociocultural and ethical frameworks of value, responsibility, and justice within free-choice learning (FCL) contexts. FCL—voluntary, interest-driven engagement in culturally meaningful places like museums, memorial landscapes, and community sites—provides a critical arena where environmental knowledge is actively assembled through dialogue, reflection, and sociocultural interaction. In these spaces, learners bring prior experiences, cultural understandings, and local memories into conversation with scientific representations of hazard. Through such encounters, both acute events (e.g., flooding and tsunamis) and chronic hazards (e.g., sea-level rise) generate distinct spatial-temporal regimes of knowing: everyday negotiation with recurrent risk, memorialized imaginaries of catastrophic rupture, and datafied projections of future coastlines. Conceptually, this paper draws on environmental identity and worldview construction to frame learning as a spatial process of self-location within hydrological systems. Personal Meaning Mapping

(PMM) is employed not only as an assessment tool but also as a reflective practice through which participants recall prior experiences and integrate new knowledge. Through this process, individuals reorganize spatial references, scales of risk, and relational proximities among self, community, and environment. Across cases, knowledge-making unfolds through reifications such as hazard maps, memorials, museum exhibits, and predictive models that shape how water risks are perceived and imagined. In this sense, FCL environments function as sites where knowledge-making becomes a spatializing process, reorganizing relations among people, environments, infrastructures, and materialized forms of risk. By framing hazard learning as a spatial and more-than-human process, this paper contributes to pedagogical geographies, critical disaster studies, and debates on environmental knowledge production, while extending work on situated cognition and mediated activity.

## **SESSION: Knowledge-Making as a Spatializing Process I**

**23-06-2026** 10:30 - 12:10

### **Transient actors' spatial knowledge and their recognition in landscape governance**

Elena Pibernik <sup>1</sup>Sandra Wall-Reinius <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Mid Sweden University, Östersund, Sweden

Embodied mobility constitutes a spatial practice through which visitors' temporary movements across landscapes produce a spatialization of knowledge. Thus, visitors as mobile actors generate relational knowledge and experiences of multiple interconnected places that extend beyond fixed boundaries. However, within collaborative governance in multi-use landscapes, it has proven difficult to recognize and account for this spatial knowledge generated by mobile actors. Despite the ambitions of collaborative governance to include diverse knowledge from actors in order to negotiate complex challenges in shared landscapes, it largely relies on territorial and institutional conditions to recognize actors and their knowledge. As a consequence, the spatial knowledge created by mobile actors remains largely excluded, exposing the limits of governance structures in recognizing spatiality in their actions. Therefore, this research explores the tension between the spatial, relational knowledge gained through visitors' mobility and the territorial governance structures through which this knowledge becomes visible, actionable or excluded in governance. Drawing on an integrative literature review that conceptualizes visitors as transient actors, the study first proposes terminology to recognize and describe the specific forms of spatial knowledge produced by mobile actors or represented by other actors in multi-use landscapes. Second, the research examines a unique case in Sweden that faces particular mobility-related challenges to analyze how governance arrangements recognize, represent, or exclude spatial knowledge. Through this analysis, the research examines the tension between relational spatial knowledge and territorial governance structures to understand the mechanisms and institutional conditions through which spatial knowledge can be recognized in governance processes. The concept of transient actors thus offers a new way to rethink how governance processes can better recognize the relational spatial knowledge produced by mobile actors in increasingly mobile societies.

## **SESSION: Knowledge-Making as a Spatializing Process I**

**23-06-2026** 10:30 - 12:10

## **Gendered Knowledge and Spatial Politics of Water Governance: What Counts, Who Counts, and Whose Legitimacy?**

Jennifer Dokbila Mengba <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden

Women in many rural communities are primarily responsible for water collection and management within households. Despite their central role, women remain excluded, uninvited, and underrepresented in water governance spaces where important decisions about water infrastructure, distribution, and management are discussed. When women are present, their everyday experience and embodied knowledge about water are marginalized and further subjected to testimonial and hermeneutical injustice. Existing gender-water and feminist scholarship has critiqued women's passive and tokenistic participation in water governance processes. However, less attention is paid to how gender functions as a determinant in the construction and legitimization of knowledge authority. Drawing on feminist political ecology and the concept of epistemic injustice, this study asks two important questions: how does gender structure the recognition, validity, and knowledge legitimacy in rural water governance, and how are epistemic hierarchies reproduced across governance spaces?. I aim to conceptualize gender here not as a demographic variable but more as an 'epistemic filter' that determines what constitutes knowledge, who is authorized to speak, whose voice is considered legitimate, and how epistemic authority is spatially organized across overlapping spaces like the household, local/community water governance committees, and water collection centers. The research is conducted in rural Ghana using feminist ethnographic methods. These include in-depth interviews with men and women water users in households, focus group discussions with local governance committee members, and non-participant observations at water collection centers. This study, focusing on decentralized rural water governance systems in Ghana, contributes to debates on knowledge-making as spatial and gendered processes. The study, scrutinizing knowledge validation and legitimization, posits that equitable governance demands more than women's numerical inclusion. It requires questioning the epistemic foundation of governance structures, particularly in communities where water access is socially gendered.

## **SESSION: Geography and the Humanities I**

**23-06-2026** 10:30 - 12:10

### **Creatively Critiquing (not so) Critical Geohumanities: A vignette-assemblage of personal reflections, place-based creative writings, and just a few charts and graphs**

Sarah DeLeeuw <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> UNBC, Prince George, Canada

I fell in love with feminism when I was six years old. A bumper sticker on a supped-up 1979 Ford-150 pickup truck, muddy from blasting dirt roads around the rural logging industry town of my early childhood, read: "Feminism is the radical idea that women are people too." A short haired woman wearing epic gold-tinted sunglasses was driving that truck and, heart racing, I remember wanting – nay, desiring! – to be a feminist. If only for the short hair, supped up muddy trucks, and fabulous sunglasses that as a child I witnessed feminism being. Nearly 50 years later, I've spent much time thinking about feminism's failures: its persistent whiteness, its rampant hetero-cis-genderedness, its persistent urban-ness. Still, and perhaps more than ever, I hold fast to what I understand as feminism's most foundational tenets. Ending sexism, racism, hetero-colonial-patriarchal domination, and gender-based oppression. It was with those tenets in mind that I became a poet and then a geographer. It was with those tenets in mind that I started engaging geohumanities. And those tenets offer a framework by which I often query the current state of geohumanities, namely with wonderment about a presence (or lack thereof) of queer, anti-racist, feminist, disability, and/or Indigenous voice in the subdiscipline's published research. Anchored (somewhat ironically) in Web of Science publication metrics, this paper uses vignette-assemblage to offer place-based, creatively rendered, personal reflections about being a social justice advocate and anti-colonial feminist in the field of geohumanities. Along with my more personalized musings, I offer suggestions about ways, potentially, to diversify the field, to infuse it with the criticality other areas of human geography and the humanities have (perhaps?) more successfully accounted for.

## **SESSION: Geography and the Humanities I**

**23-06-2026** 10:30 - 12:10

### **Planetary Entanglements Marxian and Earthly Responses to Environmental and Territorial (In)justice**

Edward Huijbens <sup>1</sup>Michael Haldrup <sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Roskilde University, Roskilde, Denmark

This paper will present the content of a 2026 theme issue of seven papers and visual essays addressing ways of *Rethinking Marxism* edited by the authors. The theme issue is inspired by recent notions of the planetary and our framing of earthly entanglements. To us these combined imply adopting a more sensuous and place specific way of engaging with exploitative social relations, seeing critical geographies and the humanities as a distinct rallying point to counter unjust and elitist practices, focusing on the sites of their expression. We argue that a particular, contextual and situational focus is necessary to recognise how terricide, the killing of the Earth, is a process happening at a pace viscerally comprehensible to us humans and our fleeting existence. The ways in which these are profoundly locally expressed sees the Earth and humans as entangled parts of a

common planetary wicked problem rapidly mutating, in urgent need of a grounded pluriversal response drawing on theories and methods of the humanities.

## **SESSION: Geography and the Humanities I**

**23-06-2026** 10:30 - 12:10

### **Palestinian geographies of dance: co-curating a festival as research during genocide**

Sara Christophersen <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway

From November 10th-15th 2025, different spaces across Oslo were filled with Palestinian dance in varying formats. *Praxisfestivalen 2025 – The Palestine Edition* was a festival dedicated to Palestinian dance, co-curated by a team of Palestinian and Norwegian dance artists and researchers. The festival forms part of my doctoral research on the political potential of artistic spaces created during and after political turmoil and war, approached from an embodied perspective. Over the course of a week, the festival presented workshops, performances, screenings, artist talks, a panel discussion and Palestinian food. It was created out of an urgency to try to understand and make sense of how we could create and work with dance and research, while witnessing a live-streamed genocide. The festival asked what it means to create dance under occupation, apartheid and genocide, and reflected on which bodies are seen, how they are seen – and how dance can be a language for resistance, grief and community. In this paper, I explore the practice of co-curation and what it might mean to engage in curation as a creative research practice in times of extreme violence and annihilation. I examine how we can understand the spaces created by the festival, and how co-curation can help us re-imagine our engagement with our fields of research amidst crisis and unsafety for the communities we work alongside. What possibilities does co-curation offer for collaborative, creative and committed work? How can it be understood as a way of practicing anticolonial geography and creating engaged spaces of solidarity across colonial violence and privilege? The GeoHumanities has often been criticised for insufficient engagement with critical, queer, anti-racist, feminist and Indigenous perspectives. By engaging with the questions above, this paper contributes to ongoing discussions on the need for more creative scholarship that is explicitly critical and political.

## **SESSION: Geography and the Humanities I**

**23-06-2026** 10:30 - 12:10

### **“Mediterrani Expandit” (Expanded Mediterranean): Geocreativity, Re-Placement and Activist GeoHumanities in a Relational Sea**

Rosa Cerarols <sup>1</sup>Antonio Luna <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Pompeu Fabra University, Barcelona, Spain

This paper explores the intersection between geographical knowledge, visibility, and artistic practice as dispositifs for expanding the Mediterranean beyond its physical and geopolitical limits. Drawing on the curatorial and research framework of *Mediterrani Expandit (Expanded Mediterranean)*, developed at Konvent (Cal Rosal, Barcelona), the paper conceptualises the Mediterranean not merely as a maritime basin but as a relational, affective, and conflictual space, an entanglement of trajectories, memories, and displacements (Massey 2005). The proposal argues that artistic practice can function as a methodological reorientation of geography itself. Rather than treating art as representation, the project positions it as research: a situated and embodied mode of inquiry capable of articulating memory, materiality, imagination, and mobility. The artistic residency at Konvent operates as a laboratory of sedimentation and experimentation. Located far from the sea but near one of the rivers that flows into it, this interior post-industrial site displaces the Mediterranean from its cartographic centrality and re-places it in a context marked by absence and distance. The works developed through personal archives, material fragments, and narratives of mobility construct a “sensitive cartography” that interrogates borders, circulation regimes, and affective economies shaping the region. “FineArt Igualada” exhibition functions as a public mediating device, where artistic practice becomes a form of geo-humanistic transfer. The artworks operate as counter-archives (Azoulay 2019), challenging linear narratives of progress, stability, and belonging, and foregrounding instead a Mediterranean in dispute and in constant reconfiguration. Situated within broader debates on the intersection of geography and the humanities, this paper defends the hybridisation of research and creation as a means of producing critical, situated, and sensorial knowledge. By mobilising geocreativity as both concept and method, *Mediterrani Expandit* contributes to ongoing discussions about how GeoHumanities might move beyond representational paradigms toward practices that actively reshape intellectual and territorial landscapes.

## **SESSION: Nordic property spaces I**

**23-06-2026** 10:30 - 12:10

### **Property as habit: the legal geographies of Everyone's Right**

Nicholas Blomley <sup>1</sup>Päivi Kymäläinen <sup>2</sup>, Rebecca Frilund <sup>2</sup>

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How do legal subjects take up property? How is the territoriality of property practiced and performed? What might we learn from departures from dominant practices? We lack of a theoretical toolkit to answer these questions. We attempt to do so through a discussion of the Finnish concept of Everyone's Right. This property principle permits non-owners to access the private property of others, under certain conditions, without their express opinion. Owners do not have the automatic right to exclude so central in other property systems. Everyone's Right is also qualified: non-owners may not cause damage, or encroach on the privacy of owners. Rather than the sharp territorial boundaries prevalent elsewhere, therefore, territory is negotiable. We draw from interviews with Finns on their experience and performance of Everyone's Rights in everyday contexts. We test the usefulness of John Dewey's concept of 'habit' (Blomley 2014) to make sense of these performances, including their territorial dimensions. Dewey understands habit as an expression of bodily experience and conceptualization. Rather than something we take up, habits constitute us. While embodied, habits do not allow us to act upon the world; rather, they allow us to act with the world. Viewed in this light, property's territory should be understood as a habit: we learn territory, we take it up, it becomes habituated. We conclude by reflecting on what the habits of territory in the performance of Everyone's Right tell us about the lived geographies of property, and how they might allow us to consider the possibility of more inclusive and relational legal geographies.

## **SESSION: Nordic property spaces I**

**23-06-2026** 10:30 - 12:10

### **Property as Mobility: Social Capital and Access to Land in Nunavut/Territory**

Mark Stoller <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Queen's University, Kingston, Canada

Nunavut/Territory presents a unique challenge to legal geographies of property and social relations. On the one hand, Nunavut Territory is premised upon settler-legal frameworks that allocate surface and sub-surface lands to Nunavummiut for collective benefit and use. On the other hand, Nunavut, as an informal governing ethos for Inuit, is guided by traditional values, customs, and practices for which settler conceptions of property are historically inimical to Inuit relations with land. In theory, formal and informal structures co-exist by conferring equal rights to Nunavummiut to benefit from the land and to secure the continuation of traditional land-based practices. Since the Territory's creation in 1999, however, traditional conceptions of land tenure have increasingly reflected influences of settler-legal modes of property and property relations. This trajectory maps to an evolving class-structure predicated not on ownership of land and property, but on access to the land as a means to retain traditional activities and practices associated with hunting, fishing, harvesting, and camping. This

access is governed by one's ability to purchase equipment – snow machines, ATVs, boats, GPS technology, sat phones, fuel, fish nets, camping and hunting equipment, and the like – and as such is influenced by individual financial wealth and socio-economic status. Property relations are thus governed not by ownership, but by access. This paper examines property as a medium of social relations in Arctic Canada. Through a comparative framework of Nunavut/Territory, I outline the centrality of geographical mobility and access to Nunavut's emerging class structure, the role of property in relation to this, and key contradictions between the settler-legal structure of Nunavut Territory and the idea of Nunavut that are exacerbated by these new property relations. I ask how the historical and geographical circumstances of Nunavut/Territory might shape current and future scholarly discourses of property in circumpolar regions.

## **SESSION: Nordic property spaces I**

**23-06-2026** 10:30 - 12:10

### **Dry land or wet soil? Landownership, farming and soil expertise in 20th century Denmark.**

Nina Toudal Jessen <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark

During the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Danish agricultural soils became well-drained and homogenous through state-supported drainage schemes. This allowed the development of a homogenous and standardized agricultural sector. As the 2021 Danish Climate Act requires a 70 % reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions before 2030, the agricultural sector faces change, because a large part of this reduction shall come from reductions in agricultural emissions. From the scientific community, rewetting carbon rich soils currently in agricultural use is seen as a crucial instrument. However, in practice the process has proven slow, due to both political and public resistance related to changes in landownership, and as this paper hypothesizes, this has resulted in an underestimated resistance to wet soil that is historically rooted in an agricultural and technical fight for dry, arable land. Together, land ownership and an agricultural habit of removing surface water have created physical path dependence. Thus, this paper explores the schisms between dry lands and wet soils by drawing on the historical transformation of agricultural land through state supported drainage and its connected technologies through the lens of land ownership. Building on archival sources from the dominant drainage company– the Danish Heath Society – this paper presents ideas on how to understand the resistance to rewetting through analysis of historical drainage projects as certain habits of land use.

## SESSION: Nordic property spaces I

23-06-2026 10:30 - 12:10

### Property spaces of “The North Sea”

Judith Maria Laibach <sup>1</sup>

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Unsurprisingly, questions of property *in land* rarely consider seas and oceans. However, according to UNCLOS, the territorial sovereignty of a riparian nation state extends beyond its land. The imaginaries, contestations and negotiations of various state and non-state actors regarding critical infrastructure (e.g. food and energy security, shipping) as well as social infrastructure (e.g. education and research) are shifting offshore. Consequently, the seas are becoming increasingly urbanised (Couling & Hein, 2020<sup>[1]</sup>) and are imagined and negotiated as spaces of “transnational cooperation” (European Commission, 2024<sup>[2]</sup>). Recently, legal scholars argued that within the process of transnationalisation deficits remain in the attribution of responsibilities (Seibert-Fohr, 2020<sup>[3]</sup>). In this regard, actual political debates about the “North Sea as Europe’s Green Power Plant” (Ostend Declaration 2023) offer an interesting example of questioning property space at the intersection of Legal Geography, Critical Resource Geography, and Care Ethics. Here, a special focus is on examining how values (e.g. ‘blue growth’, ‘sensitive ecosystem’) are negotiated and performed within this debate. Based on empirical data from event ethnographies at ocean governance events and field research stays around and across the North Sea (2021–2024), a two-part mapping approach is presented: The first step is a *dimensional mapping* of normativities. Current legalities (e.g. UNCLOS and national laws), social norms (e.g. practices of commoning) and care ethics (e.g. practices of responsiveness) are being mapped. Building on this, a *relational mapping* follows to uncover processes of how these normative dimensions are performatively influenced by each other and shape ultimately the North Sea’s materiality. References: [1] Couling, N. R. & Hein, C. M. (2020). <https://doi.org/10.7480/isbn.9789462085930> [2] European Commission (2024a, March 20). [https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/policy/cooperation/european-territorial/trans-national\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/policy/cooperation/european-territorial/trans-national_en) [3] Seibert-Fohr, A. (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-662-60564-6>

**SESSION: The Imagined Geographies of Central and Eastern Europe - Non-existent, Unrecognized, Forgotten and Lost Peoples and Geographical Objects**

23-06-2026 10:30 - 12:10

**Contemporary geography versus the imagined geography of early modern Central and Eastern Europe**

Aleksandra Malinowska <sup>1</sup>

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Imagined geography may refer to a lack of knowledge about the areas described or represented on maps. It can be assumed that over time and as areas closer to the cartographer's location are mapped, the accuracy should increase. However, this paper challenges this assumption by analyzing Marco Beneventano's map derived from the lost 15th-century map of Europe by Nicholas of Cusa. The original map by Nicholas of Cusa has not survived. Thus, it can only be reconstructed through later adaptations. They show that he lacked knowledge of areas east of the German lands. Instead of leaving these regions blank, he filled them using Ptolemaic Geography. The starting point for the analysis of the geographical image of Eastern Europe in the 16th century is one of Cusanus' succession maps, i.e. Marco Beneventano's map, included in a new edition of Ptolemaic Geography (1507), enriched by Bernard Wapowski, the father of Polish cartography. His influence is visible mainly in the addition of numerous Polish town names. As a result, on his map Eastern Europe gained greater cartographic visibility, although the depiction of the region did not significantly improve, as fictitious objects were retained. The article focuses on the analysis of the mythical Hercynian Forest, which supposedly stretched across Central and Eastern Europe. Known since Antiquity, e.g. from the writings of Julius Caesar, the Hercynian Forest was most likely placed on maps to fill in the unknown areas. It is probably one of the most important embodiments of imaginary geography in relation to Eastern Europe. The paper attempts to reconstruct the location of the Hercynian Forest by placing it within a modern coordinate system, based on its position relative to settlements shown on the analyzed map. This spatial reconstruction offers a methodological approach to the study of imagined geographies.

**SESSION: The Imagined Geographies of Central and Eastern Europe - Non-existent, Unrecognized, Forgotten and Lost Peoples and Geographical Objects**

23-06-2026 10:30 - 12:10

**Forest Germans in Forest Germany – between the imaginary and actual geography of borders and migrations**

Marcin Solarz <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Faculty of Geography and Regional Studies, University of Warsaw, Warsaw, Poland

As Poland began to expand eastward in the 1340s, large-scale colonization began on the Polish-Ruthenian borderland in the Carpathians. As a result of the integration of German and Polish colonists on the colonized borderland, a Polish cultural group known as Forest Germans (in Polish Głuchoniemcy) was born. The Polish-German conflict of 1871–1939 led to the removal of the ethnonym and choronym from Polish discourses, and no such regional identity emerged. As a result of this and the international political situation no research, including geographical studies, on Forest Germans has been conducted until 2020. In the mid-18th century a Polish encyclopedist on the issue

of ethnogenesis of Forest Germans pointed out that they were settled in a country virtually unknown to Germans. He hit the nail on the head, as the Polish-Russian borderland in the mid-14th century was located on the edge of the Latin world. Although information about the location and boundaries of Forest Germany has appeared in various publications since the 17th century, it has always been very imprecise. Paradoxically, despite advanced geographical research since 2020, little has changed in geographical knowledge about Forest Germany. The small number of sources on the geography of Forest Germany, originating only from the years 1680-1939, and the selectivity of the information they contain, means that when reconstructing Forest Germany, geographers still remain rather in the realm of imaginary geography. Similarly, we remain more in the realm of imagination than knowledge regarding the ethnogenesis of Forest Germans. This paper will present the latest scientific findings on the location and boundaries of Forest Germany and the ethnogenesis of Forest Germans with particular emphasis on the source areas of their migration. The paper will discuss the limitations of traditional research methods and the prospects for new discoveries in the light of genetic research.

**SESSION: The Imagined Geographies of Central and Eastern Europe - Non-existent, Unrecognized, Forgotten and Lost Peoples and Geographical Objects**

**23-06-2026** 10:30 - 12:10

**Absent Peoples, Persistent Forms: Waldhufendorf Villages in the Carpathians**

Olga Szcześniak <sup>1</sup>

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Waldhufendorf villages are among the most persistent spatial traces of medieval German colonization in the Carpathian region. This colonization is often considered one of the major socio-economic processes that shaped the space, boundaries, and identities of Central Europe. Although many of the settler communities that founded these villages disappeared through assimilation, migration, or depopulation, not all were entirely lost. A Polish cultural group known as the “Forest Germans” is still identified today as descendants of medieval settlers. Regardless of demographic continuity, the characteristic spatial form of Waldhufendorf villages remains clearly visible in the present landscape. This paper examines Waldhufendorf villages as material remains of absent peoples, whose ways of adapting to the environment were permanently built into settlement form. The linear layout of these villages, based on long and narrow plots extending from the valley axis towards surrounding slopes, resulted from colonization practices focused on forest clearance along river valleys. This form reflected both environmental conditions and legal systems introduced by the colonists - people who moved from the area of today’s south-eastern Germany into unknown, forested territories without knowledge of the living conditions they would face. Through an analysis of the spatial distribution of Waldhufendorf villages in the Carpathians, the paper shows how these settlement forms function as persistent geographies of forgotten communities. Despite the absence of the original inhabitants, village layouts preserve relationships between people and land, which are still visible today in rural settlement patterns.

**SESSION: The Imagined Geographies of Central and Eastern Europe - Non-existent, Unrecognized, Forgotten and Lost Peoples and Geographical Objects**

23-06-2026 10:30 - 12:10

**The Geographies of Language in the Multilingual Landscape of Organized Football Fandom**

Feliks Ričel <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Örebro University, Örebro, Sweden

This study is concerned with examining the complex relationship between languages in the context of the multilingual landscape of organized football fandom in various European minority regions. Football stadiums and their surroundings are material spaces used as important markers in the performance of identity politics associated with language. Organized football fandom offers therefore an ideal framework for research on power and conflict perspectives in multilingual societies. Using the linguistic landscapes and soundscapes of organized football fandom, the study focuses on how collective symbols, discourses, and bodily performances are used, reproduced, and disseminated to shape and redefine collective identities. Language use is examined across various geographical categories to highlight how linguistic practices are embedded in specific locales while also being connected to broader networks and flows. Thus, language functions not only as a medium of communication, but it also constitutes social reality and shapes individual and collective identities. This approach underscores the material and symbolic connections between language, institutions, and spatial contexts, providing a rich environment for investigating multilingualism and the negotiation of linguistic rights. Within the framework of a praxeological approach, the interplay between language, identity, representation and material practices within organized football fandom will be examined in the context of the Sorbian football landscape in the Eastern German region of Lusatia (German: *Lausitz*, Lower Sorbian: *Łužyca*, Upper Sorbian: *Łužica*). The peripheral border region of Lusatia offers an excellent setting for researching spatial-linguistic structures and identity-building processes regarding minoritized languages. The sociolinguistic landscape of the region is characterized by an asymmetric relationship between the socially dominant German language and the minoritized Sorbian languages amid various political, economic and social transformation processes. This study emphasizes the lived experiences and affective dimensions of linguistic practices within the physical and digital realms of football fan culture.

**SESSION: The Imagined Geographies of Central and Eastern Europe - Non-existent, Unrecognized, Forgotten and Lost Peoples and Geographical Objects**

23-06-2026 10:30 - 12:10

**Restless Security Geographies: Imagining NATO Enlargement in Central, North and Eastern Europe**

Danijel Bačan <sup>1</sup> Jelena Lončar <sup>1</sup>

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NATO enlargement is commonly represented as a linear and stabilising geopolitical process that extends a coherent space of collective security across Europe. Such representations rest on an imagined geography of security in which accession is assumed to produce uniform political, military, and societal integration. This paper challenges that assumption by conceptualising NATO enlargement as a process that generates *restless* and internally differentiated security geographies

rather than a homogeneous territorial outcome. Drawing on political geography and critical geopolitics, the paper conceptualises security space as a relational and processual configuration composed of three interrelated dimensions: normative–institutional alignment, operational–military integration, and perceptual–societal–economic embeddedness. Using a mixed-methods research design, the analysis combines qualitative content analysis of national security strategies with an indicator-based comparative assessment of pre-accession conditions and early post-accession trajectories. Empirically, the paper focuses on the four most recent NATO members—Finland, Sweden, Montenegro, and North Macedonia—whose accession paths illuminate persistent centre–periphery dynamics within Central and Eastern Europe. The findings reveal a paradox at the heart of NATO enlargement. While all four states exhibit high levels of normative alignment with NATO standards, their positions within the emerging security space remain uneven. Finland and Sweden display deep pre-accession integration and rapid post-accession consolidation, whereas Montenegro and North Macedonia follow more constrained and fragmented trajectories. Rather than dissolving geopolitical hierarchies, early NATO membership intensifies spatial differentiation and reinforces imagined distinctions between “core” and “peripheral” security actors. By foregrounding the gap between imagined security geographies and lived integration processes, the paper contributes to debates on how geopolitical imaginaries actively reorganise political space in Central and Eastern Europe. It demonstrates that NATO enlargement does not simply extend security territorially, but produces layered, restless, and uneven political geographies whose effects persist beyond formal accession.

## **SESSION: „Critical Geographies for an Inclusive Digital Transition“**

**23-06-2026 14:20 - 15:40**

### **“What is a smart solution supposed to mean anyway?” Fostering knowledge production from the rural margins**

Bianka Plüschke-Altöf <sup>1</sup>Kadri Leetmaa <sup>2</sup>, Bradley Loewen <sup>3</sup>, Mariia Bochkova <sup>2</sup>

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Starting from critiques of smart rurality and persistent urban–rural hierarchies in digital development, this paper examines how dominant, smart city–derived notions of smartness shape—and are reshaped within—rural contexts. It conceptualizes smart rural development as hierarchical knowledge production in which digital transformation depends less on technology than on who defines problems, sets standards, and is recognized as “innovative.” Drawing on qualitative interviews in Estonia—widely portrayed as a digital frontrunner—the analysis explores how rural actors interpret, negotiate, and sometimes resist dominant smart discourses. The findings show that prevailing narratives universalize urban norms and constrain rural participation in shaping digital futures, positioning non-urban areas as deficient. At the same time, they reveal grounded practices of “quiet smartness” and socio-technical improvisation that embody alternative, community-oriented pathways. By foregrounding these practices, the paper contributes empirical and conceptual insights toward more inclusive, bottom-up, and socio-spatially just digital transitions.

## **SESSION: „Critical Geographies for an Inclusive Digital Transition“**

**23-06-2026 14:20 - 15:40**

### **Community Digital Fabrication as Socio-Spatially Just Digital Transition**

Thomas Birtchnell <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University of Wollongong, Wollongong, Australia

As digital transformation reshapes everyday life, its benefits remain unevenly distributed often reinforcing rather than redressing spatial and social inequalities. This paper examines an understudied site of grassroots digital innovation: the use of community-based digital fabrication facilities (makerspaces) by citizens seeking to reduce their dependence on global consumer supply chains through off-grid living. Off-gridders face a structural paradox: efforts to disengage from extractive systems of production and mobility are undermined by the planned obsolescence built into the consumer objects they rely upon, objects whose repair or replacement demands the very global supply chains they seek to exit. With a focus on Australian makerspaces in communities, universities, public libraries and hackspaces, the study explores the different timbres of innovation occurring across these sites. Drawing on original empirical research, the chapter investigates how access to 3D printing technologies within community makerspaces offers a potential pathway out of this paradox. Makerspaces enable citizens to repair household objects locally and to engage in serendipitous learning. In this presentation I frame makerspaces not merely as technical infrastructure but as spaces of socio-technical improvisation and 'quiet smartness', where bottom-up, participatory engagements with digital tools challenge dominant narratives of smart development centred on corporate platforms and top-down governance. The paper contributes to critical digital geographies by

illuminating how community-driven digital fabrication can reconfigure relationships between citizens, technology, and consumption in ways that advance more inclusive and spatially just digital futures.

**SESSION: „Critical Geographies for an Inclusive Digital Transition“**

**23-06-2026 14:20 - 15:40**

**Planning in the wake of increased hybrid work: municipalities' differing conditions for resolving sustainable accessibility**

Ana Gil Solá <sup>1</sup>Eva Thulin <sup>1</sup>, Bertil Vilhelmson <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Göteborgs universitet, Gothenburg, Sweden

By increasing experience and acceptance of digital meetings and remote work, the Covid-19 pandemic altered the conditions for hybrid work. In the post-pandemic period, a larger share of the working population continues to work from home for part of the week, making locations in semi-peripheral and peripheral areas of metropolitan regions more attractive places of residence. When access to larger labour markets can be achieved through virtual mobility combined with long-distance commuting, questions arise regarding processes that may counteract peripheralization—but also concerning challenges related to changes in everyday travel patterns. Municipalities are confronted with residents' changing preferences, conditions, and behaviours regarding travel, housing preferences, and everyday services and retail. This study aims to explore the opportunities and challenges that Swedish municipal planners perceive as following from increased hybrid work while seeking to achieve goals of environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable development. The study focuses on municipalities within a Swedish metropolitan region (Gothenburg), where the possibility of working remotely several days per week has reduced the commute burden of residing at considerable distances from the workplace and increased the flexibility in many people's choice of where to work, live and travel. The study is based on semi-structured interviews with 14 planners in Swedish municipalities. Our analysis pays particular attention to similarities and differences between municipalities that vary in accessibility to the central parts of the region. It highlights how planners describe and contextualise different ways in which municipalities (and other actors), through spatial planning, can support residents' everyday accessibility: through geographical proximity, high-speed modes of transport, and virtual communication. We also discuss how an uncertain external context constrains planning's capacity to guide development in a sustainable direction.

**SESSION: „Critical Geographies for an Inclusive Digital Transition“**

**23-06-2026** 14:20 - 15:40

**Advancing Youth Place Imaginaries with Generative AI: Relational Ethics and Justice-Oriented Children’s Geographies Research.**

Adam Wronkowski <sup>1</sup>Maciej Glowczynski <sup>1</sup>, Michal Rzeszewski <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan, Poland

Abstract: As youths are increasingly recognized as a marginalized group in urban design, the development of digital technologies creates opportunities for more explicit and meaningful inclusion of their voices in planning and decision-making. In this chapter, we introduce generative artificial intelligence (GAI) in-depth interviews as a participatory visual method where youths iteratively co-create representations of places. By adopting a relational ontology, we conceptualise place knowledge as an emergent from youths, researchers, and technical objects entanglements. We show that GAI is not neutral, but an actor co-producing imaginaries through its programmed logics. This researcher–GAI–youth configuration requires a shift from standard to relational ethics, focusing on the redistribution of power, agency, responsibility, and trust. We further connect these concerns to epistemic and representational (in)justice by showing how GAI concurrently supports and undermines youth voices. This happens by translating lived experiences into generic and biased imaginaries shaped by dominant urban narratives embedded in training data. Thus, youth perspectives are further marginalised in urban planning, well-established in current research. Working within that triadic model requires participatory, reflexive, and relational accountability. This makes the co-created representations a place for negotiating power and differences, rather than reproducing dominant imaginaries. Thereby, we advance ethical and justice-oriented children’s geographies research with GAI, ensuring youth voices are substantively included.

**SESSION: „Critical Geographies for an Inclusive Digital Transition“**

**23-06-2026** 14:20 - 15:40

**‘Newspapers of Tomorrow’ – Visions and expectations of smart rurality from a rural elderly perspective**

Bradley Loewen <sup>1</sup>Kadri Kangro <sup>2</sup>, Kadri Leetmaa <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, Norway

<sup>2</sup> University of Tartu, Tartu, Estonia

This paper explores visions and expectations of smart rural futures from an elderly rural perspective in Estonia, often considered a digital leader and post-digital society, where urban-rural socio-spatial exclusion manifests in an ageing rural periphery. In this digital-by-default national context, the elderly are perceived as relatively experienced users of digital services compared to other European countries, yet constitute an underrepresented perspective on smart rural development. Smart rural futures were explored in four workshops with rural elderly participants, where so-called ‘newspapers of tomorrow’ were produced envisioning what the participants’ smart rural locality of the future can look like. We analyze these newspapers of tomorrow using visions and expectations to unpack normative ideals and technological assumptions around the progress and deployment of ‘smartness’ within wider societal trends of rural development. Based on preliminary analysis, the exercise points to the need to uncover complexity in the socio-technical imaginary of a smart society, in particular

regarding its implications for rural areas and underrepresented or missing voices in shaping this future. We suggest that there is a critical tendency to focus on youth rather than elderly voices when discussing the future, even when the social fabric of rural areas disproportionately relies on elderly inhabitants.

## **SESSION: Nordic Peatlands: Perspectives of People, Science, and Restoration II**

23-06-2026 14:20 - 15:40

### **Norwegian rich fens as cultural peatlands: long-term land-use, vegetation history, and implications for management and restoration**

Kristine Fjordheim <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Western Norway University of Applied Sciences, Bergen, Norway

Rich fens in Norway have long functioned as cultural landscapes shaped by human use. This presentation examines species-rich calcareous fens as historical resource landscapes, with particular attention to outfield haymaking, vegetation change, and the transition from traditional use to abandonment, management, and restoration. The presentation draws on palaeoecological and historical research from two boreal rich-fen areas formerly used for mowing, Tågdalen in western Norway and Sølendet in central Norway, and introduces a comparative perspective from former mowing mires in Samnanger, Vestland, where management mowing has not taken place. Using pollen and spore analysis from peat sequences, combined with modern pollen-vegetation relationships, statistical analyses, and archaeological and historical source material, the study reconstructs long-term vegetation histories and phases of human land use in these peatland landscapes. The results show that the rich fens developed over over thousands of years, while mowing created semi-natural vegetation mainly through quantitative shifts in species composition. In Tågdalen, outfield mowing can be traced to the Roman Iron Age, whereas in Sølendet it began in the late Viking Age or early Middle Ages. In both areas, the continuity and intensity of mowing varied with agrarian organization, settlement history, and resource pressure, while climatic variation appears to have played a secondary role during the main phases of cultural use. By comparing peatlands with different trajectories of use, abandonment, and management, the analysis shows how peatlands can be understood as ecological archives, historical landscapes, and present-day objects of conservation and restoration. The study highlights how palaeoecological and historical knowledge can strengthen geographical perspectives on Nordic peatlands and inform current debates on management and restoration.

## **SESSION: Nordic Peatlands: Perspectives of People, Science, and Restoration II**

23-06-2026 14:20 - 15:40

### **External forcings upon lithalsa mires in the Icelandic highlands: a long-term perspective**

Luisa Malin Wassermann <sup>1,2</sup> Susanne Claudia Möckel <sup>1</sup>, Egill Erlendsson <sup>3,4</sup>, Emmanuel Pagneux <sup>1</sup>, Mariana Verdonen <sup>1</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Institute of Earth Sciences, University of Iceland, Reykjavík, Iceland

Warming climate has especially strong effects on ecosystems at higher latitudes, e.g. permafrost-induced landforms like palsa mires. Degradation of palsas due to thawing of permafrost can lead to altered hydrology and habitat loss. Icelandic palsas are formed in a unique soil environment under aeolian and volcanic influence. Due to their high mineral content, Icelandic palsas are more adequately classified as lithalsas. Lithalsas are among the most threatened habitats in Iceland. While

climate is a crucial factor in soil formation, including soil development in lithalsa areas, the processes controlling their formation and degradation in Iceland remain poorly understood. Our research focuses were on the influence of environmental changes on the formation and degradation of Icelandic lithalsas and how past shifts in environmental conditions are reflected in the depth development of soil properties and characteristics in two study areas, Guðlaugstungur and Orravatnsrústir. We selected the two palsa areas located in the Icelandic highlands. Soil cores at three sites (an intact lithalsa, a degraded lithalsa, and a nearby fen) were collected, and core chronologies for each were established. Selected soil morphological, physical and chemical properties were investigated in the laboratory for each core at contiguous 2 cm intervals. The depth development of the properties was used to reconstruct the long-term development of the lithalsas within the context of environmental conditions like climate change, volcanic eruptions as well as land use. We expect the results of our research to augment the knowledge about lithalsa mires in the unique Icelandic soil forming environment and contribute to a deeper scientific basis for improving the resilience of Iceland and other subarctic and Arctic regions to climate change.

## **SESSION: Nordic Peatlands: Perspectives of People, Science, and Restoration II**

**23-06-2026** 14:20 - 15:40

### **Peatland LIFEline: a project for the restoration of Iceland's volcanic peatlands.**

Elisabeth Bernard <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Landbúnaðarháskóli Íslands, Hvanneyri, Iceland

Peatland LIFEline is an ambitious project that addresses the long-standing disappearance of peatlands in Iceland. As they have extensively been drained through the centuries, especially during the 20<sup>th</sup> century, most peatlands and wetlands have disappeared or are currently facing dire conditions as the biodiversity which depends on them slowly vanishes. The project adopts a holistic approach as it doesn't only focus on the restoration itself and national governance, but also on a rigorous monitoring of both biotic and abiotic factors (plants, habitats, birds, gas fluxes, freshwater), as well as the monitoring of the perception of peatlands at the national and the local scale and what it means for local communities to see them restored. This talk will notably present the results of a survey conducted in the winter 2025-2026 with national stakeholders to assess the understanding of peatland ecosystems and the importance of their restoration. The results of this survey enable us to get a clearer picture of the relevance of peatlands within the Icelandic society and help us adapt our methods when engaging with local stakeholders on the field. The project is the first to have received funding from the European Commission through the Nature & Biodiversity sub-group of the LIFE Programme in Iceland. It started officially in September 2025 and will run for five years and a half, or until February 2031.

## **SESSION: Nordic Peatlands: Perspectives of People, Science, and Restoration II**

23-06-2026 14:20 - 15:40

### **Contrasting CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes in natural and drained peatlands in western Iceland**

Chenxin Feng <sup>1</sup>Asra Salimi <sup>1,2</sup>, Hlynur Óskarsson <sup>1</sup>, Pepijn Hoffard <sup>3</sup>, Theresa Strobl <sup>4</sup>, Lukas Domenc <sup>5</sup>, Bjarni Diðrik Sigurdsson <sup>1</sup>

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Peatlands represent a major global carbon store due to its restrained decomposition under waterlogged conditions. Yet, their drainage contributes disproportionately to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Rewetting has therefore been widely used as a restoration strategy to mitigate carbon losses from drained peatland. To fully access the effect of rewetting on GHG emissions, year-round measurements are essential, particularly in sub-Arctic regions, where the long winter and underestimated winter dynamics may play an important role. In Iceland, relatively mild, yet prolonged winters, together with frequent freeze-thawing cycles may further enhance off-season GHG fluxes. Nevertheless, most previous studies have focused primarily on the growing season, highlighting the need for a better understanding of non-growing season GHG emission dynamics. In this study, we investigated the whole year-round dynamics of GHG (CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O) emissions in a recently rewetted peatland (2025, March), and we compared them with those from a natural and a drained peatland. We aimed to identify the transition point at which rewetting restores hydrological conditions and therefore shift the rewetted site from a former CH<sub>4</sub> sink to a CH<sub>4</sub> source. We tested three hypotheses: 1. non-growing seasons exert low but persistent GHG emissions across all sites, 2. shoulder seasons contributes substantially to hydrological restoration and consequently to increasing CH<sub>4</sub> emissions at the rewetted site, 3. Micro-topography plays a key role in determining the magnitude and direction of GHG emissions across all sites. Our study improves understanding of post-rewetting dynamics of GHG emissions across seasons in sub-Arctic peatlands.

## **SESSION: Nordic Peatlands: Perspectives of People, Science, and Restoration II**

23-06-2026 14:20 - 15:40

### **The effect of tree cover on peat carbon, studies on naturally forested and drained peatland forests**

Joshua Ratcliffe <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Umeå, Sweden

Tree cover on peatlands occurs both naturally and in response to management. In the past, natural tree cover has been highly sensitive to climatic variation, both in Iceland and elsewhere. In recent centuries, many peatlands have been drained for forestry and to promote tree growth and large questions remain about the effect of this on Carbon stocks. Here we present 10 years of work on forested peatlands, spanning natural tree cover, Nordic forestry and highly intensive non-native planting in Scotland. We show using both Eddy Covariance data and peat cores that the impact of trees on peatland ecology is profound, but the effect on carbon stocks and exchange is highly

variable. We present evidence that low density tree cover can be beneficial for peat carbon, yet the opposite is true for higher density tree cover.

## **SESSION: Contested Energy Landscapes: Resourcification, Knowledge and Imaginaries in Nordic Energy Transitions**

23-06-2026 14:20 - 15:40

### **Understanding emotional investment in the sociotechnical imaginaries of supporters and opponents of offshore wind**

Maria Skjelbred Meyer <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Global Development and Planning, University of Agder, Kristiansand, Norway

How we collectively imagine the future is not merely a creative exercise – rather, our collective visions of the future impacts societal and technological developments. Jasanoff and Kim expanded upon former theories of imaginaries when they coined the term "sociotechnical imaginaries" (STI). Jasanoffs later definition is widely cited, arguing that sociotechnical imaginaries are “collectively held, institutionally stabilized, and publicly performed visions of desirable futures, animated by shared understandings of forms of social life and social order attainable through, and supportive of, advances in science and technology” (Jasanoff in *Dreamscapes of modernity*, 2015, p: 4). Since the term was first coined it has increasingly been utilised in social science research on energy systems and energy transitions. Affect and emotions are largely absent concepts in this body of literature, and this article argues that by examining emotions and affect in imaginaries we can better understand how and why imaginaries endure or change, or how and why they become dominant or peripheral. We exemplify how such a lacanian-inspired STI-framework can be used by examining affect and emotion as drivers of imaginaries among relevant regional actors that are affected by the development of offshore wind in Norway. It is argued that in accounting for emotional investment among key actors we are better equipped to understand the nuances of regional energy conflicts, and how the different materialities of these actors’ day-to-day lives impact their emotional investment in such conflicts.

## **SESSION: Contested Energy Landscapes: Resourcification, Knowledge and Imaginaries in Nordic Energy Transitions**

23-06-2026 14:20 - 15:40

### **Politics of Place: Renewable Energy Expansion and the Complexity of Wilderness**

Anna Dóra Sæþórsdóttir <sup>1</sup>Rannveig Ólafsdóttir <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University of Iceland, Reykjavík, Iceland

Wilderness maps are inherently political tools that embody competing values. They shape how wilderness is conceptualized, which areas are considered worthy of protection, and which are deemed suitable for development. This paper critically reviews how different wilderness mapping approaches create distinct spatial interpretations and how these interpretations can be employed in legal and political debates. It emphasizes the challenges of wilderness mapping and shows how different interpretations of what constitutes wilderness, and therefore what should be mapped, can influence land-use governance. Using a long debated hydropower plant proposal in the Icelandic Central Highlands as a lens, the paper discusses how different mapping approaches can lead to different understandings of potential development impacts and thereby shape governance outcomes. The conflicting visions evident in Iceland's spatial planning reveal a lack of strategic coherence in wilderness governance, where nature protection, tourism, and energy production are often addressed in isolation. Greater coherence in wilderness mapping criteria and their policy application is therefore

essential for aligning renewable energy planning with the protection of wilderness landscapes, including their ecological, experiential, and symbolic dimensions.

**SESSION: Contested Energy Landscapes: Resourcification, Knowledge and Imaginaries in Nordic Energy Transitions**

**23-06-2026 14:20 - 15:40**

**Land use justice in Nordic energy transitions: developing a framework for contested landscapes**

Johannes Welling <sup>1</sup>Edita Tverijonaite <sup>1</sup>, Benjamin Hennig <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University of Iceland , Reykjavik, Iceland

The expansion of renewable energy in the Nordic region is reshaping landscapes and intensifying conflicts over land use and associated values. Wind energy development in Nordic countries reveal tensions between climate goals, economic objectives and competing land-use priorities, particularly the protection of landscapes, local livelihoods, and community interests. This paper presents work within the JUSTGREEN project, a Northern European collaboration developing a land use justice framework for analysing contested energy landscapes. The framework integrates distributive, procedural, recognition, and capabilities-based justice with pluralistic valuation approaches to assess fairness, legitimacy, and inclusivity in energy-related land use decisions. It is designed as a flexible analytical tool to capture diverse value systems, knowledge forms, power relations, and stakeholder perspectives, and to reveal trade-offs and conflicts across different planning contexts. To demonstrate the framework application, the paper draws on initial stakeholders interview material from the proposed Mosfellsheiði wind farm initiatives in Iceland. These preliminary insights highlight key justice concerns, including uneven distributions of benefits and burdens, limited influence in participation processes, and the under-recognition of place-based values. Rather than focusing on the case itself, the paper uses these findings to demonstrate how the framework can be operationalised and refined. In doing so, it contributes a grounded yet adaptable approach for analysing land use justice in Nordic energy transitions and supports more context-sensitive and legitimate planning practices.

## **SESSION: Contested Energy Landscapes: Resourcification, Knowledge and Imaginaries in Nordic Energy Transitions**

23-06-2026 14:20 - 15:40

### **“Ownership” in energy transition projects: social acceptance, legitimacy and places under pressure**

Hilde Nymoer Rørtveit <sup>1</sup>Ståle Angen Rye <sup>1</sup>, Håkon da Silva Hyldmo <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, Norway

Norwegian municipalities have become key players in securing energy projects for the green shift, but also sites of polarising debates and conflicts tending to exceed the local. On the one hand, EU and national policies for green transitions are framed as ambitious growth strategies for industrial development that offer opportunities for rural communities facing declining population and economic challenges. On the other hand, a growing resistance to energy transition projects as an alternative to oil-based economy, often fuelled by land use conflicts, violations of indigenous rights and the transformation of nature into industrial land, has put many energy transition initiatives at risk. The political emphasis on securing value chains and to speeding up planning processes that dominates EU and national policies for green industrial development, is therefore increasingly accompanied by a search for social acceptance and justice. In this paper we discuss how municipalities can navigate this ‘politics of urgency’, and how questions of social acceptance and justice can be translated into approaches to planning on the ground. We start from more recent critiques in Nordic planning as preoccupied with procedural justice and a strong belief in formal planning processes as open, democratic and fair, and argue that a more transformative and strategic role is needed for a stronger local ownership and control. We illustrate our arguments by empirical examples from ongoing case studies of local communities.

## **SESSION: Contested Energy Landscapes: Resourcification, Knowledge and Imaginaries in Nordic Energy Transitions**

23-06-2026 14:20 - 15:40

### **A non-participatory turn? Exploring the role of contestation and civil society in the management of nuclear waste repositories in Sweden**

Jenny Sjöholm <sup>1</sup>Thomas Keating <sup>1</sup>, Anna Storm <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Linköping university , Linköping, Sweden

Nuclear waste presents a unique set of environmental and management problems: its radioactivity life is unprecedented and a repository of nuclear waste often incites fear, defies easy solutions, and demands extraordinary levels of care and attention. In this context, nuclear waste planning and management is far from only being a series of technical challenges but is also a long term political and social issue. In this paper, we present an analysis of the perceived role of civil society actors in decision making processes related to Final Repository for Nuclear Waste (FRNW) management in Sweden. We explore how civil society actors, non-profit organisations, volunteers, activist groups and environmental organizations in Sweden ‘participate’ in – that is, their capacity to inform, scrutinize, critique, support, and/or contravene – state plans for FRNW. Previously key civil society organizations received state funding to enable their participation in and scrutiny of FRNW plans in relation to long term safety. However, more recently they have been defunded leading to an uncertainty over how

non-governmental actors will be involved in the planning of the repository space with an environmental impact and supposed lifespan of 100 000 years. We seek to better understand the capacity of non-governmental actors and to assess their perceived and imagined utility for informing the politics of managing nuclear waste in the future.

## **SESSION: The Timeless and Restless Highlands I**

**23-06-2026** 14:20 - 15:40

### **Norðtungusel: the palaeoecology and plant use at a shieling in Borgarfjörður**

Snædís Sunna Thorlacius <sup>1</sup>Egill Erlendsson <sup>1</sup>, Dawn Elise Mooney <sup>2</sup>, Susanne Claudia Möckel <sup>3</sup>, Elín Ósk Hreiðarsdóttir <sup>4</sup>, Árni Daníel Júlíusson <sup>5</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Institute of Archaeology, Reykjavík, Iceland

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Shielings used to play a vital part in the Icelandic agricultural system for a millennium, until it was abandoned around 1900. They served as sites of transhumance where domestic animals were brought for grazing during the summer to spare the infields and maximise the land use. Shielings were usually located upland and inland from the farms they belonged to, often on the fringe of the highlands. One of those sites is Norðtungusel, a shieling belonging to Reykholt, the manor of Snorri Sturluson. Archaeological research has previously been conducted on the site as a part of The Reykholt Shieling Project. In this talk palaeoecological data analysed from a peatland core retrieved from the vicinity of the shieling ruins will be presented, focusing on palynology, sedimentology and tephrochronology. This data demonstrate the changes in vegetation prior to, during and after the shieling was in use. Furthermore, archaeobotanical data from cultural layers inside the shieling ruins will be presented, shedding light on potential plant use by the inhabitants of Norðtungusel. This research is a part of a PhD project about the palaeoecology of shielings in Iceland, where Borgarfjörður is the third and last research area. Most previous palaeoecological studies in Iceland have been undertaken in the lowlands where farms have been active since the settlement. This PhD project is one of the few focusing on marginal areas, such as the ones shielings were commonly located in. It highlights the importance of the outfield and the highlands in the agricultural system employed by farmers in Iceland since their arrival in the 9<sup>th</sup> century.

## **SESSION: The Timeless and Restless Highlands I**

**23-06-2026** 14:20 - 15:40

### **Archaeological remains in Fagridalur and settlement in the peripheral valleys and highlands northeast of Vatnajökull: human–environment interaction.**

Indriði Skarphéðinsson <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Sagnabrunnur, Seyðisfjörður, Iceland

In the summer of 2024, archaeologists from Sagnabrunnur ehf. conducted a preliminary excavation of ruins in Fagridalur, Brúaröræfi. The valley lies approximately 20 km north of Brúarjökull, between the glacial rivers Kreppa and Jökulsá á Brú. This region is characterized by extensive erosion, with isolated vegetated oases formed by groundwater emergence. The ruins are located on the eastern edge of the vegetated area at approximately 610 m above sea level. Two test trenches were excavated in 2024. Tephrochronological analysis indicates occupation prior to AD 1158, most likely during the 10th–11th centuries. The site's remote location in the highlands north of Vatnajökull places it at the margins of known settlement. No evidence of post-11th-century activity has been identified,

apart from a probable sheep shelter dating to the late 19th or early 20th century. Substantial environmental changes have occurred since the settlement period. Historical sources document increasing highland erosion that continue to this day. Vatnajökull-glacier, that now lies 20 km south of the valley, has considerably increased in size since the settlement of Iceland which likely had an impact on precipitation north of the glacier. Volcanic activity and grazing pressures further contributed to landscape degradation. Archaeological research on farms and shielings in the nearby regions indicates settlement until c. 1158, with limited continuation into the 14th–15th centuries, followed by abandonment until the 18th and 19th century. It has been suggested that Fagridalur and Brúardalir may have formed part of the Norðlingaleið-route. The route was probably used by people from northern Iceland to access the richer fishing grounds in the south. As well as a being on the route over Vatnajökull-glacier. The paper aims to examine the Fagridalur ruins in the broader context of highland land-use in the region and long-term environmental change in Brúaröræfi.

## **SESSION: The Timeless and Restless Highlands I**

**23-06-2026** 14:20 - 15:40

### **Topographic analysis of the settlement at Hrunamannafréttur, central Highlands**

Gylfi Helgason <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Institute of Archaeology, Iceland, Reykjavík, Iceland

The Icelandic Highlands have often been described as a marginal landscape with few resources and/or poor land quality. Whilst this claim is hardly controversial, few, if any, attempts have been made to characterise and understand the significance of the land quality for the settlement in the Highlands. This talk will centre on the Highland settlement at Hrunamannafréttur. The area was surveyed, along with small-scale excavations in the early and mid-20<sup>th</sup> century and it is one of the most famous Highland settlement in Iceland. Up to 17 farms are known in the area, most of them are only mentioned in *Jarðabók* (a 18<sup>th</sup> century land register). But based on previous field surveys and excavations, only the southernmost farms were likely settled. The area was abandoned before AD 1104 and seems to have been used for grazing and/or commons after that. The talk will feature GIS analysis on elevation, slope, solar insolation (April-September), and access to marshes. Instead of examining each attribute in isolation, a method for combining and grading areas based on these land attributes will be proposed. The results will be used to explore if the quality of the land influenced the settlement patterns in the Highlands or if other aspects were more important.

## **SESSION: Transformative adaptation in Africa's fast-growing small towns**

23-06-2026 14:20 - 15:40

### **Urban land transformations and differentiated access to provisioning ecosystem services in a fast-growing town in Burkina Faso**

Batan Romeo Kadeba <sup>2</sup>Ole Mertz <sup>1</sup>, Awa Pounyala Ouoba <sup>2</sup>

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Small and medium-sized cities in sub-Saharan Africa are now the main drivers of urban growth. Their dynamics, closely linked to rural areas and the livelihoods that depend on them, present both opportunities and constraints in the face of spatial change. However, knowledge remains limited on how urban-rural spatial transformations can restructure access to ecosystem services (ES). This study therefore analyzes the diversity of provisioning ES and inequalities in household access, exemplified by the municipality of Ziniaré in Burkina Faso. The methodology combines statistical analyses and exploratory models applied to data from semi-structured and structured surveys, interviews, and direct observations. The results reveal around ten ES in use. The mode of access to these ES varies according to the area: direct production in rural areas (44.80%), private distribution in non-allotted areas (46.49%) and public distribution in allotted areas (39.03%). This differentiation of results from the combined effect of anthropogenic pressures and the status of the residential area (allotted, non-allotted, and rural) contributes to two distinct profiles of household vulnerability: those with multiple or hybrid modes of access and those with limited modes of access. These findings call for greater integration of the land dimension into urban resilience strategies, in particular through the preservation of multifunctional common spaces capable of supporting equitable access to non-market ES.

## **SESSION: Transformative adaptation in Africa's fast-growing small towns**

23-06-2026 14:20 - 15:40

### **Living in and off Africa's small towns: Adaptation through multi-local livelihood arrangements**

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Africa's rapid urbanization is closely linked to migration, everyday mobility, and multi-local living, through which households draw on resources from multiple locations with shifting centres of residence. Such practices shape livelihoods in small towns, making them dynamic not only due to changing income sources and varying dependencies on physical and environmental resources, but also as a result of broader societal and environmental transformations. Mobility patterns simultaneously play a central role as drivers of household adaptation strategies in response to socioeconomic and climatic changes, situated in the intersection between rural and urban ways of life. This study examines how different multi-local practices interact with households' ability to navigate changing living conditions and evaluates whether multi-locality represents a positive asset or conversely a constraint, and for whom. The investigation draws on a study of two rapidly growing small towns located between traditional villages and the fast-expanding metropolis of Tamale in northern Ghana. The analysis is based on survey data collected in spring 2024, supplementary qualitative data gathered in 2025, and project data collected during the period 2022–2025.

## **SESSION: Transformative adaptation in Africa's fast-growing small towns**

**23-06-2026** 14:20 - 15:40

### **Violence Against Civilians in African Conflicts: How Vulnerability Shapes Civilian Response**

Matthew Pflaum <sup>1</sup>

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Despite extensive research on armed conflict, scholarship has largely treated civilian vulnerability and response as separate processes, focusing either on the impacts of violence or on patterns of adaptation. This paper bridges this divide by examining how vulnerability shapes and provokes differentiated and heterogeneous civilian responses under conditions of insecurity. Drawing on original micro-level survey data from the Mali Insecurity and Adaptation Survey, combined with georeferenced conflict data from ACLED, the analysis shows that vulnerability is not solely a function of exposure to violence but is systematically structured by socio-political features and livelihoods, including occupations, displacement status, social status, gender, and mobility. The results demonstrate that while exposure provides the baseline conditions of insecurity, its consequences vary substantially across individuals. Displacement and livelihood systems play a central role, simultaneously amplifying vulnerability and constraining adaptive capacity. Crucially, different dimensions of vulnerability produce different behavioral responses: material disruptions—such as livelihood loss and mobility constraints—are more strongly associated with adaptation than subjective perceptions of insecurity. By linking vulnerability and response within a unified empirical framework, the paper shows that civilian behavior in conflict settings is shaped by the interaction of exposure, identity, and structural constraint. These findings challenge approaches that treat civilians as homogeneous and highlight the need to account for heterogeneity and constrained agency in analyses of conflict.

**SESSION: Urban Political Economy in Transition: Critical Perspectives on Urban Processes in a Polycrisis Era II**

23-06-2026 14:20 - 15:40

**The paradoxes of residential decarbonisation inequalities in England: Securing equitable decarbonisation amidst housing tenure insecurity**

Uttara Narayan <sup>1</sup>

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This research argues that dominant manifestations of decarbonisation are a socio-ecological fix to the crisis of capitalist accumulation and perpetuates uneven development and inequalities. Technocratic and insufficiently conceptualised framings of decarbonisation demonstrate four types of paradoxes concerning: agenda, welfare, politics and scale. The paradox of agenda observes that despite seemingly possessing the technologies, policy acceptance and market enthusiasm, we continue to struggle with decarbonising. The paradox of welfare recognises the state's tenuous position, whereby it is expected to provide welfare to mitigate socio-environmental shocks but is also an active agent of accumulation. The paradox of politics occurs within a landscape of increased concerns over climate within mainstream politics (Net Zero) while simultaneously being depoliticised through techno-managerial 'solutions'. The paradox of scale engages with the tensions of envisioning an equitable transition across different scales of the energy system and society, as decarbonisation is predominantly implemented through individualised and privatised technologies. Residential buildings were the second largest emitter in 2024, making residential decarbonisation a UK policy priority. It remains a challenge and English housing is rapidly assetised while policies privilege homeowners and landlords, despite tenants becoming the largest category of English residents. This compels the need to consider housing and energy issues in a more integrated manner amidst the intersecting energy, housing and cost of living crises. By using the 'What's the Problem Represented to be' (WPR) approach, I will share preliminary findings from a critical policy analysis about the framing of residential decarbonisation as a 'policy target', its consideration (or lack of consideration) of tenure insecurity and the scope for tenants to be active agents of residential decarbonisation measures. My other methods include interviews and participatory action research in Oxford, UK. Through this, I aim to understand who is rendered the subject of decarbonisation and the state's responsibility in decarbonising 'equitably'.

**SESSION: Urban Political Economy in Transition: Critical Perspectives on Urban Processes in a Polycrisis Era II**

23-06-2026 14:20 - 15:40

**Who's Driving the Financialization of the Urban Green Transition in Sweden? Municipal Financialization as a Class Coalition Process**

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Following the 2015 Paris Agreement, local states face growing pressure to accelerate the 'green and just transition' through policy and strategic investment. Recent data indicate a substantial rise in local sustainability action: in 2024, 611 cities reported a 23% year-on-year increase in investment requirements. Within the OECD, sub-national authorities now spearhead this transition, increasingly

relying on debt financing—especially in Europe and North America. This trend is reflected in the rapid expansion of the ‘green-labelled’ government bond market, which grew fivefold between 2017 and 2023. By 2023, local states and state agencies held nearly 20% of the USD 4.29 trillion in outstanding sustainability-labelled bonds worldwide. This paper contributes to the emerging literature on local statecraft and financialising transformations of municipalities and their associated processes of de-democratization by examining a less explored dimension: coalition-building between municipal and financial actors. Departing from urban regime theory, it employs a discursive-material framework to analyse these coalitions in terms of class alliances. Drawing on semi-structured interviews and organizational documentation from both municipalities and financial actors in Sweden, the paper conceptualizes coalition formation as a productive field in which financialization is materially and discursively enacted. The findings suggest that coalitions function as effective mechanisms for channelling finance capital into municipal sustainability initiatives. Operating partly within non-public, ‘closed-room’ settings, these ideological processes ensure effective integration of finance into green urban governance. Ultimately, the paper argues that such local coalition-building represents a form of class alliance formation essential to the financializing local state.

## **SESSION: Urban Political Economy in Transition: Critical Perspectives on Urban Processes in a Polycrisis Era II**

**23-06-2026** 14:20 - 15:40

### **Manifesting growth: Cities in polarizing economic realities**

Antti Wallin <sup>1</sup>Anni Jäntti <sup>1</sup>, Liisa Häikiö <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Tampere University, Tampere, Finland

Cities strive for growth in order to be attractive to investors and newcomers, and to fulfil their statutory obligations in service provision and sustainable development. This paper contributes to understanding cities’ growth imperative as the ultimate driver of urban policy and practice by analyzing the strategic plans of Finland’s 21 largest cities. Our critical policy analysis shows how city strategies discursively manifest growth, expressing hopes that the outspoken vision will become a self-fulfilling prophecy. Even the stagnating cities cling to pro-growth policies, despite already living in a non-growth reality with no growth on the horizon. The growth imperative co-opts everything within; strategies argue that growth is a prerequisite for sustainable development and welfare provision. Sustainability discourses are used to attract new investment, and the term economic sustainability gives austerity an attractive mask. The hegemonic growth imperative leaves cities with no option but to manifest growth. The paper suggests cities to draw their strategies against the grain and rethink the city as a post-growth bureaucracy that could set a strategy manifesting a good life for citizens and the environment.

## **SESSION: Geographies of solidarity and geographers in solidarity II**

23-06-2026 14:20 - 15:40

### **Solidarity in Three Acts: Housing and Climate Change**

Mohammed Rafi Arefin <sup>1</sup>Geraldine Pratt <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada

Amidst global upheaval, emerging forms of fascism, a warming climate and universities divided by debates on neutrality and gutted by austerity, what is the role of academic research in effecting change? In this talk we reflect on 3 experiments in interventionist community-driven research in order to develop an answer to this question that resists nihilism and puts the university to work for community demands. We draw on three housing related projects that we have conducted as part of the UBC Centre for Climate Justice, all created and carried out in collaboration with grassroots organisations. First at the municipal level, we demonstrate how an alliance of tenants, a grassroots organization, and researchers won retrofit funding for housing of last resort in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside despite a conservative council. Another, at the provincial level, documents the use by corporate landlords of a distinctive avenue for rent increases (beyond the legislated allowable rent increase) that obliges tenant to pay for basic maintenance as well as possible climate-related upgrades. A third focuses on workers with a migrant organisation to document the extreme heat in agricultural workers' housing at the federal level of government. We consider these studies as a means to theorise the potentials and limits of academic research for social change amidst overlapping and cascading crisis within and outside the university.

## **SESSION: Geographies of solidarity and geographers in solidarity II**

23-06-2026 14:20 - 15:40

### **Producing Spaces of Solidarity: The Case of Popular Education and Study Circles for Asylum Seekers in Sweden**

Zinaïda Sluijs <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden

Popular education (*folkbildning*) has become a key actor in Sweden's welcoming spaces for people in the asylum process. Since 2015, study associations have been commissioned by the Swedish government to organise study circles introducing asylum seekers to the Swedish language and society. Drawing on Lefebvre's theory of the production of space, ethnographic observations of study circles, and interviews with study circle leaders and participants, this paper examines how solidarities are practiced, negotiated, and spatially produced within and through spaces of *folkbildning*. I argue that different actors (state actors, study associations, circle leaders, participants in the asylum process) occupy different positions and, consequently, produce different understandings of spaces of *folkbildning*. By analysing how different representations, practices, and experiences of *folkbildning* are negotiated, this paper contributes to theorisations of solidarity as multiple and contested. However, the analysis shows that contestation not only concerns the meanings, practices and outcomes of solidarity but also the spatialities of solidarity. Concretely, I argue that *folkbildning* solidarities simultaneously produce absolute and relational conceptions of space. Attending to these co-existing

spatialities allows for a more nuanced and complex understanding of how folkbuilding solidarities both reproduce and contest migration and integration regimes.

**SESSION: OPEN SESSION 2 - Regional development, spatial changes**

**23-06-2026** 14:20 - 15:40

**Change agency and temporality in left-behind places: lessons from a petrochemical fenceline community in Taiwan**

Lai Huei-Ling <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> National Sun Yat-sen University, Kaohsiung, Taiwan

Studies on left-behind places have opened up space for exploring different types of change agency in transforming disadvantaged areas. Local agency, especially that of local communities driven by strong place attachments, has been identified as pivotal in rejuvenating left-behind places. However, studies on local communities' change agency remain scarce and Western-centered, with little attention paid to less successful place-making attempts elsewhere and their effects on sense of place and feelings of left-behindness. This paper seeks to address this gap through a case study of Taihsi village in Taiwan—a fenceline rural community neighboring Asia's largest petrochemical industrial complex and home to various place-making attempts in the 2010s, ranging from campaigns against industrial pollutions to community-based social innovations. Despite these grassroots efforts, limited progress has been achieved in deterring the rapid decline in local well-being, giving rise to a deep sense of frustration, exhaustion, and futility among community members. This paper seeks to unpack the interplay between local agency, sense of place, and the characteristics of left-behindness in Taihsi village across time, drawing on the model of hope and mundane path formation and the concept of spatial imaginaries. A documentary analysis, 22 in-depth interviews, and several field trips have been conducted since January 2025, supplemented with data generated through the author's previous fieldwork in 2017 and several follow-up visits thereafter. The findings demonstrate that shifts in residents' spatial imaginaries occurred alongside different forms of local responses to the evolving configuration of left-behind conditions in the place. Moreover, frustrating experiences of place change attempts, compounded by persistent downward socio-demographic trends, have resulted in a loss of future visioning capacity within the community. The paper thus argues that time is a pivotal issue in transforming left-behind places, where local agency and the opportunity space for change may be particularly fleeting.

**SESSION: OPEN SESSION 2 - Regional development, spatial changes**

**23-06-2026** 14:20 - 15:40

**Higher education as coastal community development: lessons learned from the University Centre of the Westfjords, Iceland**

Matthias Kokorsch <sup>1</sup>Catherine Chambers <sup>2</sup>, Peter Weiss <sup>2</sup>

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Theoretical and applied scholarship examines the role of educational institutions as a rural and regional development tool. In this paper, we use the 20-year history of the University Centre of the Westfjords (UW), located in Ísafjörður (population 2,700) as a case study in university education as a community development tool. Close to 300 graduates from UW's two coastal-themed master's programs plus countless study abroad and guest students and researchers have contributed

significantly to the region's cultural and economic revitalization. Many graduates choose to stay in the Westfjords, supporting community development through innovative projects, entrepreneurship, and social engagement. This retention of talent has been crucial in addressing demographic challenges such as outmigration and gender imbalances. The authors use methods from insider research in higher education to reflect on lessons learned about the role of universities in small-scale societies, using data on local economic impact and the immeasurable cultural impact of university institutions in rural coastal communities. We examine how UW has acted as a policy tool for societal transformation, enabling the region to move beyond economic, educational, and demographic stagnation. In this way, UW serves as a model for the concept of universities as collaborative platforms for promoting sustainable development in coastal communities through education and research grounded in local economic and cultural connections to the sea. By sharing these insights, this work contributes to the broader discussion on the unique challenges and opportunities of how university activities in coastal communities can serve as engines for regional development.

## **SESSION: OPEN SESSION 2 - Regional development, spatial changes**

**23-06-2026** 14:20 - 15:40

### **When New Arenas Crowd Out Old Networks: Soft Regional Planning and Inter Municipal Cooperation in Sweden**

Sabrina Fredin <sup>1</sup>Therese Aldinge <sup>1</sup>, Manda Bensköld <sup>1</sup>, Malin Larsen <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Blekinge Institute of Technology, Karlskrona, Sweden

Soft planning has, in recent years, emerged as an important complement to regulatory, hard planning. It is frequently portrayed as more efficient than hard planning, due to its speed, flexibility and focus on getting things done. While this is true in some respects, the existing literature has also identified several limits to this supposed efficiency. These constraints have been described as a 'breaking point', where the very informality, flexibility and complementarity that make soft planning effective begin to hinder continuous cooperation and the implementation of agreed goals. Empirically, the paper draws on interview material from Region Östergötland and analyses the development of the regional spatial strategy (RUM) as a soft planning practice that simultaneously enables and constrains municipal, intermunicipal and regional planning work. In the RUM process, extensive regional meeting structures and knowledge production have created new arenas for dialogue and learning, but they also reveal limits of soft planning when participation depends on already stretched municipal capacities, especially in smaller municipalities where one or a few planners are expected to cover 'everything'. Moreover, the intensive regional work around RUM has, in several cases, pushed back or crowded out preexisting intermunicipal collaborations and arenas, raising questions about how soft regional initiatives relate to and potentially reconfigure established networks and collaboration structures. By situating these tensions in the Östergötland case, the paper contributes to debates on the institutional limits of soft planning and the conditions under which regional spatial collaborations can support, rather than undermine, local and intermunicipal planning capacities.

## **SESSION: Knowledge-Making as a Spatializing Process II**

23-06-2026 14:20 - 15:40

### **Knowing with others: 'following' as non-representational geography education**

Haikku Ilo Arosuo <sup>1</sup>William Smolander <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland

In this presentation, 'following' is introduced as a pedagogical practice for more-than-human geography education. The practice embeds knowing in space while giving way to new spaces of education with potential for thinking beyond representation. Following is based on the idea of extending the classroom into the surrounding world and into the encounters that make worlds, by instructing students to find someone other-than-human to follow. Students are urged to approach this other with openness and respect and to try to attune to its rhythms. The loosely structured learning experiment challenges students to sense first and cognitively reflect only later. It is a fragile attempt at letting go of knowing *about* others and rather, know *with* them. Following is rocky process: it entails tolerance for slowness and raises discomfort. Part of the discomfort stems from important criticisms: of whether the thinking-with all too easily results in potentially counterproductive imagining-instead; and of whether the contemporary fascination with non-human others is all too grounded on instrumental interests. In this presentation, these criticisms are navigated in terms of the responses they necessitate in our pedagogical practices. Despite and because of the rockiness, following enables cultivation of realization of the world as a shared one. The encounters of learning constitute two-fold spatializing knowledge-making in the context of education: they tie knowing directly to the spaces made and inhabited together; and in doing so, this balancing and intertwining act of sensing and sense-making makes possible different – perhaps less destructive – worlds.

## **SESSION: Knowledge-Making as a Spatializing Process II**

23-06-2026 14:20 - 15:40

### **Painting stories: A reflection on digital geographies of bees**

Webster Natasha A. <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Örebro University, Örebro, Sweden

Last June while sitting in my garden for a zoom meeting, I could hear it. It started small causing me to glance up across the garden but not enough to pay much attention. As my meeting droned on, the coiling of noise churned louder, and I realized I knew that sound and how my yard was about to transform. The garden was abuzz, it rumbled, the grasses and leaves shook with the noise of it all. The air lifted with the motion of a hive coming to a consensus; It was time to move and start a new community and swarm. The noise was now distracting me from my meeting, the voices faded against the backdrop of swarm, so loud it blocked the sounds of birds, wind but not traffic. The garden was reverberating with the energy of the migration, but bees are at their most gentle during a swarm, not likely to sting. The next day the swarm, with barely a whisper, was gone. But during those moments, the geography of my garden changed; it was a different place. This study explores the role of sharing space and places through my relationship with my bees as a beekeeper and as a researcher of spatial relations. This paper follows a visual exploration digital geographies of beekeeping presented through painting spaces of my bees as I made short video clips of bees in, near and away from their hives. I reflect on how painting (and mapping) the sounds of my hives is part of creating a digital and

embodied mind map of their geographies placing bees as more than object of care but as agents in the spaces and places surrounding their homes.

## **SESSION: Knowledge-Making as a Spatializing Process II**

**23-06-2026** 14:20 - 15:40

### **Learning with Earth: geography education for the Earthbound**

William Smolander <sup>1</sup>

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In a time of planetary urgency, geography education faces a difficult task. While young people are increasingly called upon to respond to socio-ecological crises, dominant educational approaches often remain tied to detached ways of knowing about these conditions. Representational notions of learning, which privilege explanation, classification, and the transmission of knowledge, may help students meet curricular demands, including those measured in the matriculation examination. However, they can also reinforce reductive understandings of geographical knowledge as a set of isolated narratives and models of Earth. In Bruno Latour's terms, such modern processes of purification separate "Humans" from Earth, sustaining an understanding of Earth as a distant system and making it easier to disregard those rendered other-than-human, thereby sustaining exploitative relations. This presentation argues for another orientation to learning in geography education. Rather than treating learning as the achievement of a self-contained subject, it approaches learning as emerging through spatial encounters with Earth. Central to this argument is rhythm, understood as the grounding patterning of affective intensities through which bodies, materials, and forces come together in a spatial encounter and generate difference. Such world-building encounters can interrupt taken-for-granted ways of knowing, opening possibilities for young people to attend more closely to their shared geographies. Moving from purification toward hybridization – the ongoing more-than-human relations through which Earth emerges – it becomes clear that the subject emerges through its geographies. In Latour's terms, it is Earthbound. Non-representational methodologies can support this shift from detached ways of knowing about towards becoming with by interrupting familiar rhythms of schooling and creating small breaks in established ways of knowing. In this way, learning with Earth's diverse rhythms is proposed as a transformative orientation for attending to common matters of concern in a time of fragmentation and opposition.

## **SESSION: Knowledge-Making as a Spatializing Process II**

**23-06-2026** 14:20 - 15:40

### **"Thinking With" the Digital in Place: Mobile Pedagogy and the Spatialisation of Qualitative Research with QualNotes**

Danielle Drozdowski <sup>1</sup>

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Mobile technology can transform how we do qualitative research, collect data and produce geographic knowledge. The development of QualNotes was driven by a desire to enhance the collection, collaboration, and coordination of qualitative data using a device most researchers, educators, students, and planners already carry—their smartphone. The QualNotes App maps, captures, records, edits, and annotates field-based research, and integrates it digitally. QualNotes started from the premise that digital devices are already part of how we as researchers and our students, learn and practice qualitative methods. Informing its conceptual development, then, has been ‘more-or-less’ digital geographies (Merrill et al, 2020), and Pink et al’s (2017: 379) contention that ‘our ways of engaging with [the digital] are multisensory, and [they] accompan[y] us through the everyday world’. Notwithstanding the nuanced advantages of emplaced, embodied and sensory methods and the availability to ‘think-with’ the digital, there remains a deeply rooted preference for classroom-led instruction when it comes to method-based knowledge instruction. In this paper, I not only discuss the development of this innovative digital technology, but I also track through the narrative of its development and experimentation to show how I encountered different languages of technology, contexts and concept bases. Central to the pedagogic process has been a desire to shift towards students learning in place and with the digital tool already (always) in their hands, by incorporating digital technologies to synthesise the experiential (cf. Kolb 2014) and emplacement into qualitative data collection.

## **SESSION: Geography and the Humanities II**

23-06-2026 14:20 - 15:40

### **Appropriate scale: aesthetics, colonialism, AI and the scale of geographical research in the humanities**

Phil Dodds <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Lund University, Lund, Sweden

Like many academics I have a story to tell about not feeling entirely at home in my home department. After getting a PhD in urban historical geography, imbibing some of the research culture of cultural geography, and adopting much of the mindset of a critical geographer interested in social and political issues, I have spent the following eight years working across the humanities, from cultural studies to ethnology and art history to musicology. Despite challenges, engaging with humanities scholarship has helped my thinking and research in relation to one classic geographical concept: scale. I hope to show here how humanistic approaches to scale can challenge and expand geography's traditional scalar theorising. Approaches to scale in literary studies, cultural studies and art history in particular help with radically reconceiving the range of possible relations between the big and (relatively) small, the general and the particular, the global and the local, and so on. Moreover, as a crucial addition to traditional geographical conceptions of the political-economic and social construction of scale, humanities research can elucidate how scale is often a cultural achievement – that is, produced through artistic and cultural practices of various kinds – and that the cultural production of scale can be both radical and reactionary. I will highlight the potential of humanities approaches to scale through three small vignettes from my research on three big issues: aesthetics, colonialism and artificial intelligence. In each case, at stake are questions and assumptions about the appropriate scale of the topic and of our research on it. I show how some humanities research on these issues is at heart geographical because of its critical attention to scale. And I suggest that appropriating humanities approaches to scale enables richer, more ambitious and more critical geographical research on these and other issues, big and small.

## **SESSION: Geography and the Humanities II**

23-06-2026 14:20 - 15:40

### **Geography and the humanities beyond space: reflections on the new temporal turn in more-than-human geography**

Mathilda Rosengren <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Malmö university, Malmö, Sweden

Though contemporary geography's engagement with the humanities has largely been defined by their spatial relations, in recent years, a new "temporal turn" may be detected. In many ways separate from more established geographical approaches to time (such as Hägerstrand's *time geography*), one field where this turn is particularly visible is more-than-human geography. Here, the actions and impacts of other-than-human beings, matter, and atmospheres pull into sharp focus temporalities that differ from mechanical clock time. In a disciplinary *mélange* of critical time studies, the environmental humanities, urbanism, and the social and political sciences, the entwinement of time and agency is posited as inherently more-than-human (Bastian 2009), trees become "timekeepers" (Dümpelmann 2024), street soil "archives of care" (Ferrari forthcoming), weedy and toxic temporalities acquire "agonistic" qualities

when confronted with facile narratives of linear urban progress (Barchetta & Rosengren 2026), and so on. In this talk, I tease out the emergence of this turn through three distinct nodes of temporal enquiry – the “accelerated time” of the Anthropocene, the “anthropause” of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the diverging temporalities of the more-than-human city – to ask: What gains may be had from this more assertive engagement with time and the temporal in geography today?; What does it mean for the discipline’s *raison d’être* when the humanities (among other) pull it further away from its core focus on space?; Conversely, does geography have something unique to bring to humanistic time studies?; Finally, as a turn very much in the making, where should we go from here?

## **SESSION: Geography and the Humanities II**

**23-06-2026** 14:20 - 15:40

### **Film as method: Visualising the revival of indigo dyeing in West Bengal**

Vivi Mellegård <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Royal Holloway, University of London and Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, London, United Kingdom

Indigo dyeing is a creative, physical and affective craft practice involving the skill and knowledge of a dyer in collaboration with a leguminous dye plant. Using film as a methodology and argumentation in my practice-based PhD, I reflect on ways in which using participatory and creative methods can guide the practice of geography. *Indigofera tinctoria* thrives in the heat and humidity of West Bengal, India where a small group of farmers are reviving indigo production more than 150 years after it stopped. During the 19th century, many of the region’s indigo factories were under British colonial control. An unjust and unfair system trapped farmers in debt and poverty. In 1859, after waves of violent protests, indigo production stopped in large swathes of Bengal. In the same landscapes where indigo became vilified by generations of farmers through its association with a hateful regime, the current revival in West Bengal reflects different interests. I used film and photography to document the whole process of indigo production, from seed to dye vat and make visible the biocultural practices embedded in the craft. What emerged ranged from the cognitive knowledge and physical skill embedded in growing the plant, but also the affective, emotional relationship between human and plant that evolves out of nurturing a live fermentation vat. As well as analytical and knowledge-generating in themselves, the films also helped to mobilise knowledge and reflections, emotions and memories. This was not confined to my interlocutors but also as it turns out, to me. Performing situated research in collaboration with farmers in landscapes that were unfamiliar to me, film-as-method also encourages reflection and reflexivity. In particular, about how interdisciplinary practices change us as geohumanities researchers and consequently, the ways in which we conduct and present research.

## **SESSION: Geography and the Humanities II**

**23-06-2026 14:20 - 15:40**

### **Future nostalgia: The speculative making of the 15-minute City**

Micaela Mancini <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Gran Sasso Science Institute, L'Aquila, Italy

Opening with Italo Calvino's reflection that cities, like dreams, are woven from desires and fears, this paper approaches the 15-Minute City (15mC) not as just a planning model for easy spatial accessibility, but as a narrative and imaginative device through which urban futures are made thinkable. Rather than asking how the 15mC is implemented, the paper asks: what spatial and moral imagination of urban life does it cultivate? Bridging insights from future geographies and literary urban studies, this paper conceptualises the 15mC as a form of geographical imagination 'conjugated' in the future tense. The 15mC advances a morally desirable horizon of 'the good city', projecting proximity, walkability, and neighbourhood intimacy as both spatial arrangements and ethical commitments. In doing so, it operates not merely descriptively but performatively: it reorganises what appears responsible, progressive, and fundable in contemporary urbanism. The analysis draws on the transformation of a former mobility corridor now identified to become a residential area, where proximity-based planning principles resonate with municipal strategies and research projects. Through intertwined processes of 'centre-making' and 'future-making', peripheral infrastructures are re-scripted as local centres, and anticipated urban futures are translated into present planning frameworks, research agendas, and investment priorities. The paper argues that the 15mC mobilises a selective 'future nostalgia': it reworks familiar imaginaries of sociable neighbourhood life into plausible and morally reassuring futures. This modest and common-sense aesthetic lends persuasive force to the model while subtly delimiting alternative urban possibilities. By conjugating geographical imagination in speculative temporalities, the paper contributes to geohumanities debates on how narrative, affect, and moral horizons shape spatial intervention. It reflects on how spatial thinking enriches humanistic inquiry into imagination and futurity, while humanistic approaches expose the ethical and political work performed by contemporary geographical models.

## **SESSION: Nordic property spaces II**

**23-06-2026** 14:20 - 15:40

### **Between Threat and Opportunity: Prefiguring on Public Property**

Anna Kobierska <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Tampere University, Tampere, Finland

Prefigured common spaces operating on public property are facing increasing pressures of redevelopment and commodification forcing commoners to continuously renegotiate access to urban space. Drawing on a case study from Helsinki, this paper examines how prefigurative practices sustain and transform amid contested property relations as the City of Helsinki advances policies of public-property divestment, temporary use and market-oriented redevelopment. The study shows how prefigurative practices both rely on municipal support enabling their activity but are simultaneously oppressed by development initiatives threatening to displace them. These tensions contribute to a political landscape in which prefigurative actors mobilize institutional, contentious, and everyday forms of politics to sustain and defend an alternative socio-spatial order and right to public property. These dynamics expose a set of paradoxes illustrating the City's complex role as an entity providing welfare while simultaneously operating as an economic actor in capitalist markets, and the prefigurative actors' complex role as simultaneous opponents and supporters of the City. This research contributes to the scholarship on prefigurative politics in the context of local public property regimes.

## **SESSION: Nordic property spaces II**

**23-06-2026** 14:20 - 15:40

### **Sticky Stigmas – How Municipal Decision-Makers Label Obsolete Public Sector Real Estate?**

Toni Ryyänen <sup>1</sup>Annamari Kiviaho <sup>1</sup>, Torsti Hyyryläinen <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University of Helsinki, Ruralia Institute, Mikkeli, Finland

Vacant public real estate is becoming an obnoxious burden in the Nordic region. In addition to an ageing and shrinking population, long distances, and diminishing economic opportunities, small rural municipalities often struggle with an obsolete property stock. Once visually appealing and functional properties built for identified needs have become a burden rather than an asset. Drawing on Erving Goffman's stigmatisation theory, originally developed to analyse social interactions and the management of an individual's spoiled identity, we analyse how vacant public property is stigmatised in the speech of municipal decision-makers. The data consist of 12 semi-structured interviews with representatives from three municipalities in the South-Savo region of Finland. The results show that municipalities have ragged portfolios, distinguishing between "desired" and "haunted" public-sector properties. Although the desired properties are at risk of slipping into a haunting state, they are typically proactively managed. Focusing on the various symbolic boundaries of haunting properties, these real estates are stigmatised by their (dis)location, deformed outer appearance, internal structural defects, historical or otherwise sticky pasts and branding as "something" to be avoided. The property type, the severity of its stigmas, or both affect potential measures. For some properties, demolition is not an option despite severe and haunting stigma (an uninhabitable but listed building in the municipal centre), whereas others are not even worth demolishing (a collapsed worker's cottage out of sight). Stigmas are also dispelled in various ways. Unused properties in central locations are masked (windows covered, facades renovated), while large and institutional units, such as former

schools and industrial halls, are subdivided and compartmentalised to make them more attractive to potential users. Our study concludes by presenting a framework of socially constructed stigmas associated with public-sector properties. It also extends the theory of stigmatisation to the built environment and material culture in rural municipalities.

## **SESSION: Nordic property spaces II**

**23-06-2026** 14:20 - 15:40

### **Municipal planning and property relations: land-use governance in Norwegian municipalities**

Lasse Klæboe Kristensen <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Nord University, Levanger, Norway

In the Nordic countries, municipalities play a central role in governing land and shaping property relations through spatial planning. In Norway, the Planning and Building Act assigns municipalities responsibility for maintaining and revising their key planning instruments, including the municipal planning strategy and the municipal master plan. These plans translate political priorities into spatial regulations that structure land use, development rights, and access to land. Despite these formal requirements, it remains unclear whether municipalities systematically update these plans within the prescribed planning cycles. This article examines patterns of plan revision across Norwegian municipalities, focusing on how municipal size, centrality, and fiscal capacity may influence the ability to maintain up-to-date planning frameworks. The findings contribute to discussions on the geographies of property in the Nordic context by showing how municipal governance capacity shapes the regulation and organization of land.

## **SESSION: The Timeless and Restless Highlands II**

23-06-2026 16:10 - 17:10

### **Settlement expansion in pre-modern Iceland, four case studies.**

Árni Daníel Júlíusson <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Háskóli Íslands, Reykjavík, Iceland

Settlement expansion has been noted in Iceland in separate periods. In the 19th century highland areas in the North East part of Iceland, perhaps counterintuitively, was considerable. The areas of Fliótsheiði between Mývatnssveit and Bárðardalur, Jökuldalsheiði south of Vopnafjörður and the Þistilfjörður inland area were all settled, along with a huge uptick in the population of Vopnafjörður. What were the movers behind this expansion, the reasons for this sudden interest in highland settlement made famous in Halldór Laxness' *Independent People*? This expansionary period will that be compared with another lesser known expansion period in the 12th-14th century. Settlement in Austurdalur and Vesturdalur in Skagafjörður seems to have expanded at this time. Even if no written records exist of this expansion, the large number of deserted farmsteads in this area was recorded already in Jarðabók Árna and Páls in 1713. The same goes for Kelduhverfi, and indeed the Þistilfjörður highlands. The JÁM is lost for East Iceland so it is uncertain if any deserted farmsteads were recorded there in Jökuldalur. The reasons for this earlier expansion will also be discussed and points of comparison between the two periods analysed somewhat.

## **SESSION: The Timeless and Restless Highlands II**

23-06-2026 16:10 - 17:10

### **Rediscovering Wilderness: Engaging Icelandic Stakeholders to Conceptualize and Map Wilderness in the Central Highland**

Clint Cook <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University of Iceland, Reykjavík, Iceland

Mapping complex, multi-dimensional constructs, such as wilderness, poses unique challenges as no universal definition exists to specify the objective criteria, qualities, elements, or characteristics to incorporate. How one defines wilderness depends on how one conceptualizes the term, and this has been shown to vary considerably between expert knowledge and public participation approaches. Values associated with wilderness depend on an individual's culture, experiences, and preferences; wilderness mapping, then, is reliant on the operational definition selected and the proxy data chosen to represent wilderness. A systematic literature review of all published wilderness mapping efforts over the past four decades, identified through Scopus and Web of Science, found that 98% relied on expert knowledge to determine which elements were selected to symbolize wilderness. However, recent studies have shown that incorporating local stakeholder values can yield more accurate wilderness maps. The IUCN has called for the inclusion of local stakeholders, and given the discrepancies between expert knowledge and public wilderness maps, their inclusion may lead to a more holistic approach to wilderness mapping. This presentation highlights key findings from the systematic literature review and discusses how those results provide the foundation for my PhD project, focused on stakeholder identification of wilderness in Iceland, using a participatory mapping methodology.

**SESSION: Urban Lines and Informal-Formal Meshworks: friction zones at the intersection of formal and informal urban infrastructures and practices**

23-06-2026 16:10 - 17:10

**Mapping Spaces of [Ins]urgent Footwork: a longitudinal study of the role of informal desire lines in co-producing urban parks.**

Andrew Byerley <sup>1</sup>Ulf Jansson <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Kulturgeografiska Institutionen, Stockholm, Sweden

Urban parks commonly bare the material imprint of *desire lines*; informal footpaths made by people wandering off-score from planned pathways. Despite their pervasiveness and their potential to enrich debates concerning 'urban walkability' and informal-formal 'co-production' of urban space, desire lines remain largely 'off map' in planning practice and urban and landscape studies of urban park design. We address this neglect by putting desire lines 'on the map'. Through a case-study of Rålambshovsparken in Stockholm, which utilizes field-mapping, aerial-photography, archival studies and interviews with landscape architects, we longitudinally map the emergence, transformation and governance of desire lines from the 1930s, when Rålambshovsparken was established as a (now iconic) modernist 'Stockholm Style' park, up to the present today. Drawing on Ingold's 'anthropology of the line' and Caldeira's concepts of *autoconstruction* and *transversal logics*, we analytically elaborate: (1) four eras evincing incrementally larger configurations of informal-formal path 'meshworks', (2) changing transversal relations between informal desire lines and formal park governance, including different formal responses regarding 'what to do' with desire lines (e.g., formalize, remove or ignore), and (3) a typology of desire line types showing their functional complexity to exceed their commonly attributed role as merely short-cuts. The increased path-connectivity and walkability shown to be provided by desire lines confirms that vernacular footwork can co-produce and thus co-design park surfaces. However, the historically contingent transversal relations in this particular case emphasizes the need for comparative studies of different types of park spaces.

**SESSION: Urban Lines and Informal-Formal Meshworks: friction zones at the intersection of formal and informal urban infrastructures and practices**

23-06-2026 16:10 - 17:10

**Advertising or art? Navigating the aesthetics of (in)formality in London's outdoor advertising industry**

Tom Ward <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden

Over the past 15 years, hand-painted advertising (HPA) has become a common feature of walls in East London - walk around Shoreditch, and you're likely to see large billboard-style ads that are, in fact, delicately and cleverly hand-painted. In this paper, I argue that tracing the governance and regulation of HPA in London offers a unique window into the aesthetics of (in)formality, and speculate upon the explicitly spatial consequences of such aesthetic regulation. I firstly draw upon work in legal geography to examine the way regulation of this growing industry in London depends upon aesthetic interpretations of local laws and planning policy. Adopting Nicholas Blomley's (2003) notion of the frontier, I examine how discourses traditionally used to negatively frame graffiti (e.g. Cresswell 1996)

are sometimes mobilised in efforts to install HPA, arguing that advertising is presented as a safer and more aesthetically appropriate alternative to graffiti. Secondly, I go on to adopt Iveson and McAuliffe's (2022) concept of 'informality from above' to suggest that the coordination and installation of HPA not only relies on mobilising a frontier between advertising and graffiti, but also, conversely, relies upon a blurring of the distinction between art and advertising, as defined by local planning policy. In making these arguments, I seek to demonstrate how, by taking the example of HPA, an aesthetics of (in)formality emerges in this London context, in which the subjective, debated line between art and advertising is often perforated and blurred to achieve specific commercial outcomes, and in ways that play out with material consequences for urban space.

## **SESSION: Urban Lines and Informal-Formal Meshworks: friction zones at the intersection of formal and informal urban infrastructures and practices**

**23-06-2026** 16:10 - 17:10

### **Working the Gaps: How Couriers Navigate Formal and Informal Urban Infrastructures**

Hoai Anh Tran <sup>1</sup>Stephen Marr <sup>1</sup>, Melgaco Lorena <sup>2</sup>, Bruno Cardoso <sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Malmö University, MALMÖ, Sweden

<sup>2</sup> Lund University, Lund, Sweden

<sup>3</sup> Federal University, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Platform delivery services restructure urban space–time by operating across and through both formal and informal infrastructures. While platforms present themselves as systems of formalized coordination—algorithmic scheduling, digital interfaces, and standardized procedures, their functioning depends on informal infrastructural practices, including improvisation, social negotiation, and the flexible use of urban spaces. Couriers must navigate the temporal frictions generated by this hybrid infrastructural landscape: the formal temporalities of algorithmic time and logistical precision, and the informal temporalities emerging from traffic flows, waiting practices, access negotiations, and improvised mobility routes. These intersecting regimes compress workers' temporal autonomy and produce forms of infrastructural-temporal marginality through which platforms extract value. Yet workers also deploy informal infrastructural tactics—using shortcuts, bending rules, coordinating with peers—to reclaim time and manage the gaps between formal and informal systems. In this essay, we suggest that foregrounding temporality and examining how workers navigate multiple, often conflicting temporalities is crucial for understanding the relationship between platforms and the city. It also offers insight into platform governance and the tactics of adaptation and resistance employed by platform workers.

**SESSION: Social reproduction and digitalization - levelling up or levelling down spatial inequalities?**

23-06-2026 16:10 - 17:10

**The consolidation of hybrid work: how the co-location of paid work and home reshapes women's and men's time use**

Louise Brundin <sup>1</sup>Bertil Vilhelmson <sup>1</sup>, Eva Thulin <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University of Gothenburg, Gothenburg, Sweden

Enabled by extensive digitalization – and accelerated by the work-life shock of the COVID-19 pandemic – a large share of employees now regularly work from home. In Sweden in 2025, 46 percent of the gainfully employed reported work from home on a weekly basis. This spatial reorganisation of paid work, from the office to the home, is likely to change how productive and reproductive labour are organized and coordinated. In particular, it may open up possibilities for renegotiating the temporal organization of everyday life for women and men. How does working from home alter time use as women and men meet the demands of paid and unpaid work in the same sphere? Does the consolidation of hybrid work reinforce existing gendered divisions of labour, or does it facilitate convergence in everyday time use? In this presentation, drawing theoretically on social reproduction perspectives on home-ing and time geography, we examine how working from home affects time use for productive and reproductive daily activities, including paid work, household chores, caring for children, mobility and leisure. Using nationally representative survey data from Sweden, we compare days worked from home and at the regular office. We trace how being at home reshapes what workers spend their time on – and whether and how these patterns differ or converge when women and men spend their working days in the place of home.

**SESSION: Social reproduction and digitalization - levelling up or levelling down spatial inequalities?**

23-06-2026 16:10 - 17:10

**Archipelagic thinking and social reproduction of platform labour**

Olivia Maury <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland

Undertaking cleaning and food delivery gigs via digital platforms is a battle with time and space. Many workers find themselves confronted with infinite workdays, however pierced by time in-between gigs, while unable to fill this time in a meaningful way. Thus, a major part of lifetime is consumed by platform capital. The paper addresses the social reproduction of the platform worker in an everyday urban setting, defined as the maintenance of labour power and people's methods of sustaining themselves in new kinds of technologies of power (Mitchell et al., 2004). Analytically, the struggles and compromises over daily social reproduction is addressed through the conceptual encounter between 'archipelagic thinking' (Glissant 2009) and the 'careless expenditure of people's lifetime' (Tadiar 2022). Using archipelagic thinking as a heuristic for or non-totalizing thought, I explore the connections across the atomised struggles over social reproduction among migrant platform workers in Finland and analyse the spatial and temporal inequalities that are intensified in relation to converging processes of racialisation. The paper suggests that the social reproduction of labour

power in platform capitalism generates atomised enclaves of everyday social reproduction which are inextricable from the racialisation of time in an urban context.

**SESSION: Social reproduction and digitalization - levelling up or levelling down spatial inequalities?**

**23-06-2026** 16:10 - 17:10

**The Uneven Geographies of Platformised Care – (Re)shaping Social Reproduction in Sweden**

Kristina Zampoukos <sup>1</sup>Peter van Eerbeek <sup>2</sup>, Desirée Enlund <sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Economy, Geography, Law and Tourism, Mid Sweden University, Östersund, Sweden

<sup>2</sup> Department of Geography, Media and Communication, Karlstad, Sweden

<sup>3</sup> Linköping University, Linköping, Sweden

Platforms mediating care services are increasingly reshaping the geographies of social reproduction, offering care fixes to some, while exacerbating the crisis of care for others. In this paper, we draw on research on healthcare, deliveries and cleaning platforms in Sweden to argue that platforms reinforce and redistribute flows of care privilege and care poverty between the Global North and the Global South, between urban and rural locations, and within cities, thus deepening *the uneven geographies of care*. These uneven geographies apply to those performing social reproductive work as well. While the working conditions of migrant platform cleaners have clear repercussions for their own social reproduction, other segments, such as healthcare professionals, may experience platform work as a fix to both working conditions and work-life balance. Ultimately, we propose that the political economy of social reproduction unfolds as a spatially uneven process, making life easier for some and harder for others.

**SESSION: Restlessness, Resilience and Relocation: Community-Driven Retreat in a Changing Climate**

23-06-2026 16:10 - 17:10

**The Eldfell Eruption, Iceland, 1973: Hierarchies Of Value And Their Impact On The More-Than-Human Evacuation From Heimaey.**

Rhian Meara <sup>1</sup>Árnason Arnar <sup>2</sup>, Erin Roberts <sup>1</sup>, Helga Hallbergsdóttir <sup>3</sup>, Sigurjón Hafsteinsson <sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Swansea University, Swansea, United Kingdom

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<sup>3</sup> Eldheimar Museum, Vestmannaeyjabær, Iceland

<sup>4</sup> Háskólan Íslands, Reykjavík, Iceland

Around 5,000 people were successfully evacuated from the island of Heimaey to the Icelandic mainland within the first 15 hours of the Eldfell eruption in 1973. Pets, livestock, community services and personal belongings were left on Heimaey however, with many believing the evacuation was only a precautionary exercise. As the severity of the eruption became clear, thoughts turned to their evacuation, but was stalled by the island's location, poor planning by the authorities, and the perceived values of these More-Than-Human agents. Interviews and archived historical documents are used to investigate the non-human evacuation from Heimaey and highlight the need to combine More-Than-Human and Plural and Relational Values approaches to disaster management planning, to ensure that at-risk communities are considered through a more holistic lens.

**SESSION: Restlessness, Resilience and Relocation: Community-Driven Retreat in a Changing Climate**

23-06-2026 16:10 - 17:10

**Restless Resilience: A mobilities-based approach to understanding movement during crisis**

Jason Bunderson Toler <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Nord University, Bodø, Norway

Arctic communities face a polycrisis at the intersection of climate change, industrialization, and securitization. They are increasingly subject to 'relocate and retreat' frameworks, such as the Sendai Framework, which center movement away from risk as the default resilient response. However, when the mobility networks enabling that movement were not designed with crisis in mind, and when communities have compelling reasons to stay, these frameworks raise questions of environmental justice. While Arctic mobility networks are culturally thick, they are geographically thin relying on long and often vulnerable links to join people to places and resources necessary for robust crisis response. As a contribution to understanding the challenges of this context, this presentation examines restlessness as adaptability, a deeply learned skill embedded in local life systems and wellbeing, which informs the choice between relocation and refusal by using space syntax methods. It will examine the characteristics in three cases: Kiruna's mine-driven urban transformation, Nordland's historic evacuation networks, and continued habitation of Indigenous reindeer herding communities within localized networks cultivated over generations. Through this, the presentation will examine how Arctic resilience is manifest not only through movement but through the refusal to move, and that community-held mobility networks constitute legitimate preparedness infrastructure independent of state-designed frameworks.

**SESSION: Restlessness, Resilience and Relocation: Community-Driven Retreat in a Changing Climate**

**23-06-2026** 16:10 - 17:10

**Is relocation a viable adaptation strategy for Arctic communities? Societal costs and rural futures in hazard-prone Iceland**

Matthias Kokorsch <sup>1</sup>Gísladóttir Jóhanna <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University Centre of the Westfjords, Ísafjörður, Iceland

Drawing on the relocation work package within the ARCHAIC project (Sustainable and Resilient Communities in Remote Settlements in the Arctic in the Age of Climate Change), the presentation examines how communities exposed to natural hazards can re-imagine futures beyond rebuilding in high-risk areas. In the Nordic countries, relocation or managed retreat has so far rarely been discussed as a proactive adaptation strategy. It tends instead to be framed as a last-resort solution, initiated only when all other measures appear exhausted. This makes relocation a highly sensitive topic with clear political, legal, and rights-based dimensions, including questions of consent and procedural justice. Yet, given increasing hazard exposure and structural vulnerabilities in small, remote communities, relocation is an uncomfortable option that may nonetheless need to be addressed earlier in adaptation debates. Empirically, the contribution presents results from the ongoing relocation process in Grindavík, Iceland, following the seismic crisis that began in 2023. The study provides a comprehensive calculation of the societal costs of relocation, including housing buyouts, compensation schemes, infrastructure investments, emergency response, and indirect social impacts. While grounded in a single case, the analysis argues that Grindavík represents a potential precedent for other Icelandic rural settlements facing escalating natural hazard risks.

**SESSION: Book Launch: A Research Agenda for Emotional Geographies**

**23-06-2026** 16:10 - 17:10

**Book Launch: A Research Agenda for Emotional Geographies**

Natasha Webster <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Örebro University, Örebro, Sweden

This book launch for *A Research Agenda for Emotional Geographies* will explore the role of emotions in geography both as a subdiscipline and a practice. Authors and invited discussants will together explore key themes from chapters and the future of emotional geographies. An open discussion will follow. **Link to book:**

**<https://www.elgaronline.com/monobook/book/9781035319626/9781035319626.xml>**

**SESSION: Urban Matters - Journal keynote: Nurhan Abujidi**

**23-06-2026 16:10 - 17:10**

**Colonial Urbanism and Social Resilience: Urbicide in Palestine**

Nurhan Abujidi <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Zuyd University of Applied Sciences, Herleen , Netherlands

**Nurhan Abujidi investigates how urbicide—‘urban murder’—is used to dismantle Palestinian territoriality and urbanity. She also seeks to redefine urbicide as an instrument for spatial expropriation and control and analyses contemporary political violence and destruction in the context of colonial projects in the Middle East. Her research and book *Urbicide in Palestine: Spaces of Oppression and Resilience* (2014) has shown how the weakening or denial of the Israeli policies of control, surveillance, and destruction in the occupied Palestinian territories gives rise to new forms of Palestinian resistance, which manifest in everyday tactics, commemorations, and reconstruction projects.**

## **SESSION: Knowledge-Making as a Spatializing Process III**

**23-06-2026** 16:10 - 17:10

### **Tactile intelligence & kinetic enchantment – An ethnopoetic exploration of young people’s knowledge-making in Finland**

Wolfgang Zeller <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland

At the time of writing, the last patches of snow in southern Finland are melting fast and my 14-year-old son is once again eager to find, catch and release as many reptiles and amphibia as he can get his hands on. He has been diagnosed with a mild form of attention deficit disorder (or “Inattentive ADHD”) - but witness that boy’s laser-beam focus & gentle patience when handling venomous snakes threatened by habitat destruction and fearful homeowners wielding blades. Meanwhile, in an east Helsinki youth activity house the workers confirm that the pastime technology most popular among their 14 to 17-year-old visitors is not the large-screen gaming console, but the pool billiard table. This paper explores the utility of ‘tactile intelligence’ and ‘kinetic enchantment’ as two closely related concepts to understand the appeal of physical contact as essential elements of the knowledge-making processes of these young people, their spatial and political agency. The paper is authored as part of an ongoing project by Noora Pyyry and Raina Aiava investigating ‘Enchantment in young people’s technoscientific urban landscape’. One of the project’s core objectives is to direct attention to young people’s situational agency as being produced in affective encounters with other (human and non-human) bodies, by highlighting the material-affectual conditions that structure those encounters. The paper will deploy ethnopoetic renderings of text, drawings, images, YouTube videos and other forms of expression, which a group of young people in Helsinki will produce as part of a participatory action research process to be conducted during April and May 2026.

## **SESSION: Knowledge-Making as a Spatializing Process III**

**23-06-2026** 16:10 - 17:10

### **How Young People Reimagine Urban Spaces through Dreaming, Drawing, and Designing in San Diego County Elementary Schools**

Phevee Paderes <sup>1</sup>, Adeana Eubanks <sup>1</sup>, Violet Navarrete <sup>1</sup>, Carolina Souza <sup>2</sup>, Dan Grafton <sup>1</sup>, Stuart Aitken <sup>1</sup>

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This paper examines how collaborative engagements with elementary students in San Diego County reveal young people’s capacity to participate meaningfully in civic and urban planning processes. Through several participatory activities, we analyzed young people’s drawings and written responses using thematic coding and creating a poetic atlas. Students articulated priorities related to safety, belonging, support, and play, often proposing equity-focused policies such as free food, housing, and healthcare. Their imaginative yet practical ideas highlight how young people’s lived experiences can

inform more inclusive planning. We argue that integrating youth perspectives strengthens community well-being and fulfills their right to participation.

### **SESSION: Knowledge-Making as a Spatializing Process III**

**23-06-2026** 16:10 - 17:10

#### **The Atmosphere of Trust and Non-Representational Knowledge-Creation in Participatory Youth Research**

Lauri Jäntti <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland

In my presentation I will respond to the session's emphasis on knowledge as situated, spatial, and relational processes by examining how the construction of trust and the production of knowledge are intertwined in participatory youth research. Drawing on non-representational geographical thinking, I argue that an atmosphere of trust arises within a field of interconnected affective forces that—though difficult to verbalize—take shape differently in and through each research encounter. Such shared atmospheres can neither be reduced to prescriptive guidelines nor comprehensively represented. This difficulty is inseparable from knowledge production itself, and I suggest that both trust and knowing should be approached as processes that exceed the individual subject; scientific knowledge always emerges within its prevailing conditions, as part of the world's abundant eventfulness. Although the atmosphere of trust escapes capture, its energizing charge can nonetheless be sensed. Trust nurtures commitment to what is at hand and creates space for hesitation in the face of the taken-for-granted. In this way, new routes for knowledge production are opened. To illustrate how this argument takes shape, and to open new possibilities within geography education, I draw connections to a series of art-based, participatory pedagogical experiments conducted with young people in everyday urban settings in the Helsinki region, developed in upper-secondary-level geography course. These experimental practices serve as openings that show how creative, collaborative engagements can reconfigure ordinary spaces as sites of learning, reinforcing the claim that trust and knowledge-making co-emerge through the spatial dynamics that contour each encounter.