



## **SESSION: OPEN SESSION 3 - Platforms, urban development**

**24-06-2026 08:30 - 10:10**

### **Finding familiar strangers: an exploration how Airbnb encounters are curated online**

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This paper explores the digital curation of "stranger intimacy" within the domestic sphere of Airbnb. This paper engages with social organizing principles on the platform of Airbnb and explores how digital features are employed in the strategies Airbnb hosts employ in managing booking requests. The research highlights a fundamental tension between the development of trust and the potential for selective exclusion. Findings suggest that hosts employ "digital triangulation"—often reaching beyond Airbnb to social media—to decipher guest trustworthiness through clues of linguistic capital, shared values, and aesthetic markers. The research argues that these curated interactions are not neutral; they are deeply entangled with cultural rationalities and affective "gut feelings" that risk reinforcing racial biases and social echo chambers. This "hunt for clues" frequently results in homophily, where encounters are orchestrated between individuals who perceive one another as "generally alike." Drawing on qualitative interviews with hosts in Copenhagen and Philadelphia, the study examines how the platform's digital interface—including verified IDs, mutual reviews, and personal profiles—facilitates a shift from the "strange stranger" to the "familiar stranger." Ultimately, the paper sets an agenda for understanding how platform affordances transform the home into a site of managed intimacy, where the unpredictability of the encounter is increasingly replaced by orchestrated likeness.

## **SESSION: OPEN SESSION 3 - Platforms, urban development**

**24-06-2026 08:30 - 10:10**

### **Dataism at work in the housing sector: negotiating housing market structures, political-economic trajectories and regulatory environments in Sweden.**

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Housing digitalization and the role of Prop Tech varies according to specific housing market structures and features in which it takes place. Tenure type, the local composition of landlords (including the local power of corporate landlords and international finance) and the role of the state in housing provision should be particularly considered. Recent political-economic histories, including major events such as financial and/or foreclosure crises – or the absence of it – have a particular impact on

the housing market and the nature of its digitalization. Additionally, regulatory environments, from international environments such as the EU to national regulations and particular local regulations have a significant impact on the extent and nature of housing digitalization. Using Sweden as a case study, this paper will demonstrate how we can understand housing digitalization or housing 'dataism' through these path-dependent variations of housing market structure, political-economic histories and regulatory environments. The ideology and economy of dataism (Lohr 2015) pledges that if big data is the input, then 'smarter choices and wise judgement' are the output.

**SESSION: OPEN SESSION 3 - Platforms, urban development**

**24-06-2026** 08:30 - 10:10

**Traffic Signing and Urban Centrality: Reproduction of Spatial Patterns or a Path Towards Sustainable Urban Planning?**

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The paradigm of sustainable urban mobility has become increasingly established within urban transport policies and urban development visions in recent years. A key objective of these strategies is the gradual reduction of car use within the overall modal split. However, the ideal of a city integrating multiple forms of mobility and supporting the autonomous functioning of neighbourhoods within a polycentric structure often clashes with realpolitik of urban governance and the pragmatism of transport engineering. Drawing on the case of Brno (Czech Republic), this paper highlights the spatio-temporal manifestations of technological lock-in within car-oriented systems, in a context that paradoxically promotes sustainability through strategic and spatial planning. The tension between the existing state of affairs and planning narratives provides the analytical framework for examining differing representations and productions of urban space. In Brno, approaches to transport infrastructure design, spatial orientation, and wayfinding continue to reinforce a centripetal pattern of mobility. In contrast, analytically derived and normative representations frame the city as polycentric and supportive of non-motorised transport. Drawing on data on traffic signage that directs movement towards the city centre, as well as recent asphalt-driven reconstructions of urban radial roads that operate as car-dominated corridors, we reveal the ongoing reproduction of car-oriented space. This reproduction not only disregards societal and institutional calls for sustainable mobility but also contradicts evolving understandings of urban centrality within increasingly multifaceted spaces of everyday (non-)human interactions. By confronting transport discourse with geographical conceptualisations of the transformation of lived urban space, we identify key barriers to the implementation of sustainable mobility visions. The findings are situated within broader debates on the future of urban mobility and the conceptualisation of urban centrality.

**SESSION: OPEN SESSION 3 - Platforms, urban development**

**24-06-2026** 08:30 - 10:10

**At the Intersection of Human Geography and Literary Studies: Interpreting the Travelling "Creative City" Narrative in Finland 2000–2025**

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The research approaches urban development and planning as a narrative practice (Sattler, 2022; Ameal, 2021; van Hulst, 2012; Sandercock, 2010) and employs theory and methods from literary studies to examine the polyphony of urban landscape and alternative imaginaries that inform understandings of the past, present, and future. It seeks to contribute to the so-called “narrative turn” in human geography by advancing theoretical dialogue on central concepts and suggesting novel ways in which they may work together. At the turn of the millennium, imaginaries of creative urban futures spread globally, propelled by influential ideas such as Charles Landry’s *creative city* (2000) and Richard Florida’s *creative class* (2002). Despite the widespread diffusion of these ideas, there is little, if any, empirical evidence supporting the claim that investments in culture reliably generate economic growth. On the contrary, concerns have been raised regarding the extent to which representatives of the creative sector have actually benefited from these developments (Miller, 2009). In the dissertation, “creative city” is defined both as a travelling planning model and a narrative. In the city of Helsinki, the model has been applied since the 2000s, particularly through large-scale public initiatives (the European Capital of Culture year 2000 and the World Design Capital year 2012). However, there is a lack of research on the long-term impacts of these initiatives. This doctoral study addresses this gap by examining the qualitative legacy of these investments. When travelling planning models land in a specific geography and history, there are often external consultants working on its adaptation to a particular place. This presentation will cover the research design of an interdisciplinary dissertation project and early findings of the first article regarding the “ownership” of the creativity concept as presented in the vision papers written by external consultants in the case of Helsinki.

## **SESSION: Tick of the City: Migration, Labor, and the Architectures of Fulfillment**

**24-06-2026** 08:30 - 10:10

### **Tick of the City: Migration, Labor, and the Architectures of Fulfillment**

Don Mitchell <sup>1</sup>

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One of the most visible impacts of the proliferation of digital platforms in the cities of the global north is the transformation of urban space due to new on-demand forms of services such as food and parcel delivery, ride hailing, cleaning and waitering labelled as ‘platform-mediated gig work’. As research has shown, many of the workers that provide such services are migrants. Based on a special issue in progress, this panel discussion will explore how the nexus between platform-mediated gig work and migration plays an active role in remaking the contemporary urban space. To do so, the discussion will focus on and seek to advance the concepts of ‘migration infrastructure’ and ‘labour as infrastructure’ to examine how they help us understand the logics and architectures of fulfillment that increasingly shape cities. The discussion will be attentive to the intersection of processes operating at transnational, national and urban scales which positions migrants working through digital platforms as central actors in the transformation of the city. It will also explore how the city both constrains and enables the everyday lives of these particular groups of gig workers and what it means both for them and more generally when urban space is increasingly dedicated to the processes of fulfillment, especially when the logic of fulfillment leads to ghostly spaces in what might otherwise be lively cities. The discussion will additionally outline some of the innovative analytical tools we have developed for studying how migrants carrying out gig work are changing the city itself, while, in turn, exploring how the very urban landscapes they are central to reproducing serve to both constrain and enable how such migrant workers structure their work and non-work lives. Such tools are important not only for gaining a better understanding of the forces that shape migrants carrying out gig work and their everyday lives, but also for better understanding how shifting geographies and social relations of goods- and service-provision open and close possibilities to construct more just cities.

## **SESSION: Renewables in restless times: Uneven energy transitions I**

**24-06-2026** 08:30 - 10:10

### **Why somewhere do they vote yes and somewhere no? Geographical and contextual factors affecting results of local referenda about wind energy projects**

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Local referenda about wind energy projects can be considered a means of procedural justice, however, they often act as a tool for local or regional protest groups to block projects. In the Czech Republic, over the last 20 years (since 2005), local referendums have been held in 71 municipalities, with the majority (62%) voting against wind turbines. The paper attempts to provide some explanation as to why people vote yes in some places and no in others. Our analysis explores relationships between referendum results and the geographical and socioeconomic characteristics of municipalities, as well as the influence of political-institutional and procedural factors on the outcome. The analysis revealed significant correlations between the probability of the referendum result and the presence of existing wind turbines in the neighbouring area at the time of the elections, the size and amenities of the municipalities, but also the level of political competition in the municipality, the initiator of the petition, the voter turnout, and the subject of the decision making (or rather, how the question that is asked to residents is phrased). Our results provide important information for both politicians and, especially, developers planning new projects and seeking local community acceptance.

## **SESSION: Renewables in restless times: Uneven energy transitions I**

**24-06-2026** 08:30 - 10:10

### **Hellbent incumbents? How we understand vested interests in contested energy transitions**

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This paper takes as its starting point the assumption in energy geographies that a major obstacle to a sustainable energy transition are the well-organised incumbents that use their political leverage to defend and prolong fossil fuel extraction. How to tackle these so-called 'vested interests' range represent something of a conundrum for energy geographers, with proposed solutions including the strategic use of space, for instance Huber's (2022) proposal of radicalising the electricity sector and Malm's (2021) much-debated call for infrastructural sabotage. Other voices emphasise solidarity building and labour-led alliances mobilising around national policy objectives in mind, such as energy democracy (Sweeney 2017) or a Green New Deal (Cha et al. 2022). Yet, those workers who find themselves in the midst of this contested debate, those working in fossil fuel industries, are rarely given a meaningful place in these future geographies. Based on a longstanding research engagement with oil and gas workers and elsewhere, this paper is an introspective reflection on how my researcher involvement can offer some insights into how energy geographers can tackle this conundrum. Drawing from an ongoing book project where I use the concept of alienation to explore incumbent interests in the petroleum sector, I suggest that energy geographers need to complement questions about what workers and organisations in these industries should or shouldn't do with

questioning its own modes of knowledge production. This includes examining how utopian energy futures articulated in academic and publishing circuits often fail to resonate beyond these spaces – and in some cases intensify caricatures on both sides of a polarised public debate. This intervention is also a commentary to the conference them, as it considers how human geography – the social science discipline that before any other understood the severity of the global ecological crisis – deals with its own restlessness.

## **SESSION: Renewables in restless times: Uneven energy transitions I**

**24-06-2026** 08:30 - 10:10

### **Uneven development and everyday life on an energy periphery: farmers' experiences from the Sand Ridge, Hungary**

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In this presentation, we combine the political economy of uneven development with the concept of everyday life to understand the connection between the historical processes of uneven geographical development, the production of nature, and the experience of and resistance to shifting spatial inequalities with regards to a solar energy project. Our main research questions are as follows: How do the historical processes of uneven development and the production of nature lead to the emergence of an energy periphery? What role does the recent green transition play in this process? How do residents experience this, especially agricultural producers? We use the case of the Sand Ridge, a peripheral region in Hungary, and specifically the settlement of Inárcs, where one of the country's largest solar power plants was recently built. We employ primary and secondary data collection techniques: GIS data, literature on local and regional history, public policy documents, newspapers, and interviews with agricultural producers and other experts. Our presentation demonstrates the complex and multi-scale nature of energy peripheralisation, in which the most important factors are: climate change-induced ecological crisis, global "solar rush" and associated green grabbing, peripheral re-industrialisation, the emergence of Global China, and the authoritarian state that creates favorable conditions for investment capital. We also argue that although agricultural producers' resistance takes place within highly unequal power relations, researchers can contribute to their empowerment, for example through various participatory methods. The ideas expressed here relate to the results of the research project "Marginalised space experience in the context of uneven geographical development" (project number 138713), implemented with support from the Hungarian Ministry of Innovation and Technology via the K\_21 funding programme of the National Research, Development and Innovation Fund. Keywords: uneven development, production of nature, energy periphery, solar rush, green grabbing, everyday life

## **SESSION: Renewables in restless times: Uneven energy transitions I**

**24-06-2026** 08:30 - 10:10

### **Sun, guns and wires: Violence, infrastructure and the politics of energy democracy**

Ulrik Kohl <sup>1</sup>

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Following a popular uprising during the Covid-19 pandemic, Colombia's 2022 election of a progressive government opened a political window for advancing energy democracy in a country historically dependent on fossil fuel exports. Central to this shift is the National Program for Energy Communities, which seeks to support 20,000 urban and rural communities in gaining collective control over renewable energy systems, likely the largest initiative of its kind globally. Drawing on the participatory research tradition of Orlando Fals Borda, this paper examines the planning phase of the program from within state institutions, based on two years of embedded research. It analyses how ambitions for energy democracy and radical approaches to energy governance are shaped, translated, and at times constrained by the institutional logics of a neoliberal state. In doing so, the paper foregrounds the uneven geographies of the energy transition, where questions of infrastructure, territorial control, and corruption remain central. The analysis explores tensions between grassroots demands for energy sovereignty and top-down policy frameworks, highlighting how community-led initiatives are mediated through bureaucratic procedures, technical standards, and conceptualizations of justice. Conceptually, the paper engages with debates on energy justice and sociotechnical transitions by advancing a perspective on bottom-linked governance as a potential bridge between community initiatives and progressive state agendas. It asks under what conditions such governance arrangements can sustain transformative change, and when they risk reproducing existing power asymmetries. By situating a large-scale Global South experiment within broader debates on uneven energy transitions, the paper contributes empirically and conceptually to ongoing discussions in energy geography.

## **SESSION: Emergent Diversity in Urban Governance in an Era of Polycrisis I**

**24-06-2026** 08:30 - 10:10

### **Chinese climate statecraft: governing low-carbon transitions through state campaigns, local adaptation, and market-making**

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As the world's largest emitter of greenhouse gases, China has announced its push toward carbon neutrality. However, a more strategic design for low-carbon transition contrasts with dispersed policy implementation in cities. This article attributes the puzzle to an insufficient understanding of statecraft, which translates decarbonisation visions into urban practices. Engaging with the decentralisation–centralisation debate in authoritarian environmentalism and the contextualised understanding of neoliberal environmentalism in China, we posit that climate statecraft—through state institutions and campaigns, multi-scalar actions, and market-making—represents a direct response to the persisting tensions between central mandates and fragmented implementation. Drawing on city-level cases, we demonstrate how Chinese statecraft is shaping China's urban low-carbon transition

## **SESSION: Emergent Diversity in Urban Governance in an Era of Polycrisis I**

**24-06-2026** 08:30 - 10:10

### **Statecraft, sociotechnical transitions, and the making of China's urban waste futures**

Calvin King Lam Chung <sup>1</sup>

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Many studies have documented the renewed salience of state intervention as cities confront overlapping and compounding crises. Analyses of this shift often draw on the lens of statecraft, foregrounding how states coordinate across multiple scales and renegotiate state–market–society boundaries to pursue strategic goals in managing polycrisis. In parallel, transition studies, particularly through the Multilevel Perspective, have illuminated how processes unfolding over different temporal horizons interact to reconfigure urban systems in both social and technical ways when confronted with crises. This presentation considers the value of bringing statecraft and the Multilevel Perspective into closer conversation to analyse how urban governance is evolving around the mounting problem of waste—an increasingly central component of contemporary urban polycrisis—and how visions such as zero-waste and circular cities can be enacted in practice. It foregrounds the state as an internally differentiated actor whose strategic interventions, bureaucratic capacities, and shifting relations with markets and civil society actively shape transition pathways. Specifically, state actors with divergent interests may advance competing landscape-level visions, struggle over the ambition, pace, and direction of regime transformation, and offer uneven—at times contradictory—support to niche experiments. Drawing on examples from Chinese cities, the presentation demonstrates how this integrated framework explains the unevenness of urban waste-management transitions and the persistence of legacy regimes despite intensifying environmental pressures.

## **SESSION: Emergent Diversity in Urban Governance in an Era of Polycrisis I**

**24-06-2026** 08:30 - 10:10

### **Does Institutional Capital Matter? Differential Impacts of State Ownership on China's REITs**

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Does institutional capital enhance valuations in state-dominated markets? Using panel data on all 76 publicly traded REITs in China from June 2021 to October 2025, we show that the answer depends critically on state ownership of underlying assets. In two-way fixed effects models, institutional ownership has no significant direct effect on the premium to net asset value (PNAV). However, Mundlak correlated random effects models reveal that this null result masks substantial heterogeneity: institutional ownership has a positive baseline effect (+0.382,  $p < 0.01$ ) that is progressively attenuated by state ownership (−0.288,  $p < 0.01$ ) and by Infrastructure REIT classification (−0.162,  $p < 0.05$ ). For Infrastructure REITs which comprises of 80% of the market, the marginal effect of institutional ownership transitions from positive to negative at approximately 76% state ownership. These findings highlight that in state-dominated asset markets, institutional capital's impact on valuations is contingent on ownership structure, with important implications for China's ongoing REIT market development. Passing certain threshold of control, state ownership can crowd out the governance benefits of institutional investors, especially in infrastructure REITs.

## **SESSION: Emergent Diversity in Urban Governance in an Era of Polycrisis I**

**24-06-2026** 08:30 - 10:10

### **Negotiating the Digital Frontier: Local Stakeholder Perspectives and Multi-Scalar Governance in the Greater Bay Area**

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While many have discussed the multi-level morphology of city-regions with a focus on local fragmentation or bottom-up coalitional development, the subjective local perspectives and discourses of local stakeholders—the de facto actors of delivery—remain under-examined. This paper explores how local stakeholders shape urban governance during an era of escalating polycrisis, where state-led digital transformations intersect with local socio-economic priorities. Focusing on the Greater Bay Area in China, this study employs Q-methodology, supplemented by policy analysis and semi-structured interviews, to address how stakeholders across sectors translate the smart city-regionalism model into localised practice. The research identifies four distinct stakeholder groups, revealing a complex spatial-political imaginary that hinges on temporality and strategic orientation. By establishing a dialectical framework between top-down statecraft and bottom-up interpretation, the paper articulates how local actors respond to, and reconfigure, the state's digital governance visions. The findings suggest that regional digital governance is not a monolithic hegemonic project but a multi-scalar process characterised as adaptive and inclusive. These features allow stakeholders to balance regional integration with local priorities, and result in divergent practices regarding data sharing and socio-economic futures. Ultimately, the paper highlights the emergent diversity of governance logics in a smart city-region in the making, challenging established perspectives on authoritarian statecraft and the linearity of sustainability transitions.

## **SESSION: Emergent Diversity in Urban Governance in an Era of Polycrisis I**

**24-06-2026** 08:30 - 10:10

### **Governing Urban Green Infrastructure in an Era of Urban Polycrisis: Policy Framing in Climate Adaptation, Public Health, and Urban Planning in London**

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Urban green infrastructure (GI) is increasingly recognized as a socio-ecological solution to intersecting climate, health, and governance crises. In the United Kingdom, GI has historically been managed through statutory planning frameworks as a multifunctional policy instrument. Nevertheless, the realization of its climate adaptation and health co-benefits remains inconsistent, influenced by fragmented institutional arrangements, competing sectoral priorities, institutional inertia, and funding constraints. The central issue extends beyond policy effectiveness to include how GI is framed across policy domains, which governance logics are prioritized, and what these choices indicate about the future transformation of urban ecological governance. Using London as a case study, this research examines the framing of GI in relation to climate and health across spatial planning, climate, and health policies, and investigates opportunities to reframe these relationships for enhanced policy coherence. Employing interpretive frame-reflective policy analysis, the study analyzes 88 policy

documents from 12 Inner London boroughs and the City of London, focusing on problem definition, causal assumptions, normative commitments, and problem prescription. The findings identify dominant, secondary, marginalized, and overlooked policy frames that shape the climate adaptation and health co-benefits of GI. Furthermore, the analysis demonstrates how these framings reflect uneven power relations across sectors and governance levels, privileging certain urban priorities while limiting more integrated socio-ecological approaches. The paper concludes by considering how reframing GI governance could address policy fragmentation and promote more coherent and equitable urban responses to climate and health challenges.

**SESSION: Session I: Book authors - Blueish Entanglements and transformations: unfolding the restless geographies of more-than-wet spaces I**

**24-06-2026** 08:30 - 10:10

**Cyclone Gabrielle's transformative effects in Aotearoa New Zealand**

Gordon Winder <sup>1</sup>

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In February 2023, Cyclone Gabrielle tracked slowly across the North Island of Aotearoa New Zealand mobilising much more-than-wet materialities. Gabrielle entrained logs and forest waste with eroded material. It transformed rivers into debris-laden torrents that shunted bridges and other infrastructure aside and devastated a long-term river restoration project (Fuller, Brierley et al. 2023). Debris and silt was then discharged into the sea, only to return 'like a tsunami' according to a *Guardian* reporter (McClure 2023) when the Pacific Ocean threw much of it back onto East Coast beaches. But Gabrielle did more work than this: it reverberated through New Zealand business, communities, science and government, forcibly entangling them in overdue dialogue, including scientific reports (e.g. Harrington, Dean et al. 2023), and a Ministerial Inquiry (Parata, McCloy and Brash 2023). This paper asks whether, as blue spaces become more dynamic, they are assembling societal transformation? It explores recent efforts in New Zealand to come to terms with the new climate realities. Did the storm bring scientists into agreement on climate change action priorities, or governments, communities and businesses into action as better land managers? It finds that Cyclone Gabrielle's more-than-wet materialities had rebound effects upon climate change mitigation policies.

**SESSION: Session I: Book authors - Blueish Entanglements and transformations: unfolding the restless geographies of more-than-wet spaces I**

**24-06-2026** 08:30 - 10:10

**Timescapes, territorialisation of maritime, and (de)growth in turbulent crises: perspectives from an island**

Tarmo Pikner <sup>1</sup>

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Emergent and enduring crises generate diverse hopes and calculations around marine spaces, making oceans resonate across our senses, geopolitical strategies, and terraqueous connections. By focusing on Saaremaa Island and the Baltic Sea, this chapter examines how anticipatory practices and future consciousness can highlight the territorialisation of land-sea connections bound to the

renewable energy transition. The study demonstrates that the “landing” of offshore wind infrastructure momentarily expands possibilities for land-sea spheres, only to be subsequently narrowed by the extension of human-centred resource extraction and the rural idyll into the maritime space. The anticipated transformation of coastal landscapes is entangled with the discourse of crisis, which persistently represents the future as a means to address present security and climate challenges. Holistic approaches are required to understand the interplay of time, agency, and dynamic terrestrial relations when anticipating renewable energy landscapes and degrowth connected to blue spaces and the living afforded by the island.

**SESSION: Session I: Book authors - Blueish Entanglements and transformations: unfolding the restless geographies of more-than-wet spaces I**

**24-06-2026** 08:30 - 10:10

**Assembling an alternative seaweed moment at the margins of blue economy trajectories: Small-scale, wild harvest community transformations in Yogyakarta region, Indonesia**

Moritz Albrecht <sup>1</sup>Rijal Ramdani <sup>2</sup>, Kevin Arya Pranaja <sup>2</sup>, Julia Nur Fatonah <sup>2</sup>

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Over the past 20 years the seaweed sector has grown to become a key pillar of blue economic endeavours. It is currently undergoing global expansion and renewal processes that initiate a variety of (de/re)territorialization forces partaking in the assembling of new translocal seaweed moments. Politically contextualized towards sustainable and inclusive trajectories, critical ocean studies have voiced deficiencies concerning the blue economy's performance in relation to coastal communities and blue justice. Seaweed economies in South-East Asia have provided improved livelihoods for coastal communities yet focus on selected regions and are tied to socio-technological means such as seaweed farming for global hydrocolloid markets, leaving other localities, approaches, and communities at the margins of development. This study employs a conceptual framework of critical seaweed geographies at the intersection of assemblage thinking and blue justice considerations for studying three Indonesian small-scale seaweed harvesting groups at the margins of blue economic development. It analyses the more-than-seaweed materialities, the complex littoral entanglements, and the socio-economic frictions involved in the assembling of this alternative seaweed moment(s), and portrays the unfolding of power asymmetries, more-than-human relations, justice potentials and pitfalls as well as a conceptual discussion on relational seaweed/blueish geographies.

**SESSION: Session I: Book authors - Blueish Entanglements and transformations: unfolding the restless geographies of more-than-wet spaces I**

**24-06-2026** 08:30 - 10:10

**Just Blue Economy? Rural Development, Fisheries and Sustainability in Ireland.**

John Morrissey <sup>1</sup>Jane O'Connell <sup>1</sup>

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The Blue Economy (BE) is widely promoted as a strategic framework for ocean-based economic development, yet its coherence is undermined by persistent tensions between environmental and social sustainability imperatives and the pursuit of economic growth. Within the European Union, BE discourse remains predominantly shaped by economic performance indicators, while social sustainability principles such as inclusion, equity and justice, remain marginal to policy design and implementation. Questions about how to operationalise genuinely triple-bottom-line sustainability in BE planning have become increasingly urgent. This paper addresses these challenges through an in-depth case study of Dunmore East, a coastal community in southeast Ireland with a longstanding tradition of intergenerational fishing. The contraction of the fishing sector has produced significant socio-economic repercussions, including declining employment, reduced local revenue and heightened livelihood precarity. An extensive stakeholder engagement process was undertaken to examine the structural drivers of industry decline and to document community-level responses. The findings indicate that the sector requires profound, transformative change if it is to align with the principles of a diverse, socially inclusive and ecologically sustainable blue economy. Drawing on insights from critical ocean studies and blue humanities scholarship, the case study illuminates how the “megarhetorics” of blue growth are experienced at the community scale, revealing deep contradictions as well as spatial and scalar inequalities embedded in contemporary BE governance.

**SESSION: Session I: Book authors - Blueish Entanglements and transformations: unfolding the restless geographies of more-than-wet spaces I**

**24-06-2026** 08:30 - 10:10

**Blueish regenera(c)tions: other volumes, submerged geographies and coastal planning in Palermo's Waterfront**

Gabriella Palermo <sup>1</sup>

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This contribution presents the first findings of a research project, still ongoing, on the South Coast of Palermo (Sicily, Italy) and part of the broader dialogue of the Routledge book *Blueish entanglements and transformations* (Albrecht & Palermo, eds. 2026, forthcoming). The paper examines diverse modes of producing blueish spaces between the waterfront of the historic centre – currently shaped by redevelopment and touristification processes – and the “denied coast,” understood as a living archive bearing witness to the socio-environmental violence produced. This violence is rooted in the dumping of construction debris during the so-called “Sack of Palermo”, the criminal cementification of the city driven by mafia interests and political actors in the 1960s. Building on this field, the contribution mobilises critical ocean geographies and more-than-wet ontologies to explore two radically different approaches to blueish spatial planning. On the one hand, the use Blue Economy's actors are making of categories as fluidity and liquidity for the sake of capital accumulation through processes of touristification and urban waterfront extraction. On the other, the ways through which blueish wounds, as the *mammellone* on the South Coast of Palermo (artificial hill of wastes), can let emerge in terms of alternative future planning. Volume, fluidity and temporality thus become material entity to imagine other body-territory healing processes.

**SESSION: Between place and practice: Perspectives and understandings of, in, and through infrastructures I**

**24-06-2026** 08:30 - 10:10

**Assessing dependencies in Cross-Border Road Networks: A Network Analysis of Food Supply Infrastructure in Trøndelag and Jämtland**

Ivar Svare HOLAND <sup>1</sup>

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Food security in modern societies relies on the uninterrupted functioning of lifeline infrastructures—systems whose failure can cause cascading disruptions across supply chains. Among these, the road network plays a critical role in transporting agricultural inputs to farms, moving food products through processing and distribution stages, and ensuring access to consumer markets. In this paper, we analyse dependencies in the road systems in Trøndelag (Norway) and Jämtland (Sweden) as interconnected lifeline infrastructure that support regional food supply and production. Using graph-based network analysis implemented in GIS, we model the road systems in each region as weighted networks and determine a link-specific index that reflects how the removal of a segment affects overall network connectivity and rerouting potential. The methodology allows for a systematic assessment of how robust each regional network is to disruptions, whether caused by natural hazards, infrastructure degradation, or operational failures. The Trøndelag and Jämtland networks are first analysed independently to identify critical links within each region, then merged into a combined cross-border network to evaluate how open-border connectivity influences overall structural resilience. The comparison reveals how cross-border linkages can either enhance redundancy or create new dependencies, with implications for the reliability of food-related transport flows under different disruption scenarios. The findings contribute to understanding roads as essential lifeline infrastructure for food security, showing how even seemingly minor links can have disproportionate importance for maintaining regional supply chains. The study also demonstrates the value of network-based approaches for assessing connectivity, identifying critical vulnerabilities, and informing cross-border infrastructure planning for resilient food systems.

**SESSION: Between place and practice: Perspectives and understandings of, in, and through infrastructures I**

**24-06-2026** 08:30 - 10:10

**Restless flows: oil shale, water, and landscape as infrastructure**

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This paper examines the oil shale region of north-east Estonia (Ida-Virumaa) as a paradigmatic case of *landscape as infrastructure* (Bélanger 2016) and *infrastructure as landscape* (Strang 1996), foregrounding the entanglement of extractive industry, energy independence, water systems, and socio-political ordering. Rather than treating infrastructure as discrete technical objects (roads, pipelines, power plants), the paper conceptualises the entire oil shale landscape as a relational

system through which materials, energy, water, and people circulate. Drawing on Bélanger's (2016) expanded notion of infrastructural landscapes, I argue that mining, chemical processing, and energy production have produced a hybrid socio-ecological system in which hydrological cycles are fundamentally re-engineered. Water is not merely a resource but a central infrastructural medium: each ton of oil shale extraction requires the pumping of 10–15 tons of water, reshaping groundwater levels, redirecting surface flows, generating artificial lakes, and polluting water bodies. These interventions create a “secondary water circulation,” where industrial processes become inseparable from natural hydrology. At the same time, this infrastructural landscape is also a *sacrifice zone*, where environmental degradation and health risks are unevenly distributed in the name of energy security and economic continuity. The long-term co-production of pollution, altered ecosystems, and social dependency reveals how infrastructure operates as a politically charged spatial ordering. By bringing together landscape theory, infrastructure studies, and political ecology, the paper contributes to ongoing debates about the conceptual breadth of infrastructure. It suggests that attending to water–energy–land entanglements allow us to better understand how infrastructures are lived, perceived, and contested—not as background systems, but as the very ground of everyday life and its limits. Bélanger, P. 2016: *Landscape as Infrastructure: A Base Primer*. Abingdon: Routledge. Strang, G.L. 1996: *Infrastructure as landscape*. *Places* 10 (3): 8–15.

## **SESSION: Between place and practice: Perspectives and understandings of, in, and through infrastructures I**

**24-06-2026** 08:30 - 10:10

### **Reallocating Urban Space: Conflicts at the Intersection of Mobility Infrastructure and Public Life**

Hoai Anh Tran <sup>1</sup>

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

Investment in transport infrastructure has long been shaped by political priorities that privilege certain user groups over others. Throughout much of the twentieth century, transport planning largely favoured motorised mobility, prioritising road expansion for private cars. In recent decades, growing sustainability concerns have redirected attention toward public transport, exemplified by the rise of bus rapid transit (BRT) systems. However, transit spaces function not only as technical infrastructures but also as vital components of urban public space, contributing to the social life and attractiveness of cities. The contemporary shift from privileging motorists to prioritising public transport continues to emphasise speed and efficiency, generating new spatial and social conflicts. These include competition over limited urban surface area, tensions between improving bus speeds and maintaining accessibility for pedestrians and cyclists, and trade-offs between functional separation and the public quality of urban space. More broadly, they reflect the persistent conflict between “spaces of flow” that serve mobility and “spaces of place” that support social life. This paper explores these tensions through an empirical study of selected bus stops and tram stops in Malmö and Lund, illustrating how the design and allocation of transit spaces shape both mobility performance and urban sociality.

**SESSION: Between place and practice: Perspectives and understandings of, in, and through infrastructures I**

24-06-2026 08:30 - 10:10

**Infrastructured bodies: Infrastructuring the worker in Africa's infrastructure scramble**

Jack Ong'iro Odeo <sup>1</sup>

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

Infrastructure-led development is back on the scene in Africa. However, infrastructure reveals little about the social conditions of its creation, including the labour that built it. Infrastructure development in much of urban Africa is rooted in colonial and racial capitalism, as well as postcolonial neoliberalism. In recent years, Chinese capital and construction companies have arguably become the primary enablers of infrastructure development in Africa. They operate within, and take advantage of, the liberalised labour regimes in which construction work is increasingly informalized. This subjects construction workers and their labouring bodies to an unrelenting process of casualisation and exploitation. Construction workers and their capacity to labour are thereby transformed into an input in a process that is more than mechanical, becoming an infrastructure of infrastructure that serves the interests of capital and politics. I examine the intertwined processes through which construction labour becomes infrastructured in the unfolding infrastructure scramble in Africa.

**SESSION: Between place and practice: Perspectives and understandings of, in, and through infrastructures I**

24-06-2026 08:30 - 10:10

**Interfacing mobilities: Perceptions of and interactions with Stockholm public transit infrastructures**

Björn Nordvall <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Stockholms universitet, Stockholm, Sweden

As in other European cities, Stockholm, Sweden's public transit infrastructure has been built up since the late 1800's and today constitutes a well-connected transit system. However, unlike other large cities, the Stockholm city center is characterized by its many near-urban green areas, residential suburbs, and its close spatial relationship to rural peripheries. These rural peripheries are themselves unique, constituted by both agricultural and forested land and the large Stockholm archipelago. Informed by its Baltic seasonal rhythms, these rural peripheries demand fundamentally different vehicles and scheduling that complement, contrast, and intersect with Stockholm's more urban transport systems. These differences in turn contract spatially significant differences in how people relate to their mobility. Based on nearly two years of ethnographic research on Stockholm metro, bus, and archipelago ferry lines, this presentation focuses on the social infrastructures of how travelers perceive, make sense of, and construct ideas about the digi-mechanical infrastructures that underpin their ability to use public transit in their everyday lives. An important aspect of this sense-making is how material screen terminals in transit flatten the perception underlying digital systems into something singular and homogeneous that confuses the relationship between digital and mechanical black boxes. This flattening of digi-mechanical infrastructures creates space for social infrastructures of speculation wherein individuals construct their own meanings about how and why the transit system works -- and in the moment of the digital glitch and/or technical error, fails -- in the way it does. In turn, these speculations about transit infrastructure function as a lens to understand cultural

norms in contemporary Swedish society, such as civic trust and compliance and the rhythms of human interaction when in transit.

## **SESSION: Geographies of unruly natures I**

**24-06-2026** 08:30 - 10:10

### **A requiem for unruly natures in the Anthropocene city: Malmö's lost *Ailanthus altissima***

Mathilda Rosengren <sup>1</sup>

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

Some years ago, several large and thriving trees in inner-city Malmö, Sweden, were cut down in quick succession by the municipality. The trees were all of the species *Ailanthus altissima*, also known as the tree of heaven. With their literal and metaphorical roots in China, the species had been a popular imperial import in 18<sup>th</sup> century Europe, adding an “exotic” touch to gardens, streets, and city parks across the continent. Once introduced in Europe, it turned out that the trees were not only easy to plant and maintain, they thrived in varied urban conditions where other ligneous species may struggle. Such resourcefulness and adaptability of the tree, however, would soon also see urban dwellers turn on them. Spreading beyond human control in the right conditions, *Ailanthus altissima*'s “weedy” or “unruly” nature has ignored urban master plans and messed with many greening intentions. In this talk, I trace the rise and demise of the trees of heaven in Malmö – from a relatively frictionless, hundred-year-long co-existence to becoming irradiated as an “invasive” species under new EU directives. Drawing on a rich source of archival material, recent newspaper articles and municipal reports, I use *Ailanthus altissima*'s increasing “urban unruliness” in the face of a rapidly changing climate to ask: Is ligneous unruliness as much a condition as a concept intimately tied to the Anthropocene? Then what does it mean when other-than-human unruliness is eradicated from the contemporary city? Conversely, could there be a gain in leaning in to and learning from those beings most adept at tackling life during drastic changes – urban, climatic, or otherwise?

## **SESSION: Geographies of unruly natures I**

**24-06-2026** 08:30 - 10:10

### **Care-full waterfront planning for wet critters**

Julia Schneider <sup>1</sup>

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

In planning and developing urban waterfronts, how might a terrestrial bias be challenged? Waterfront planning has largely neglected marine spaces and species, despite their immediate proximity to land. In some cities around the world, this is beginning to change, showing how waterfront redevelopment can present an opportunity to work towards just and caring multispecies cities, bridging a pervasive land/water divide. This paper explores two cases in two Swedish cities where interventions for wet critters, such as algae, seagrass, shrimps and fish, have been included in ongoing post-industrial harbor redevelopments. It contributes to an understanding of how actors at, or adjacent to, the municipal organizations experience and grapple with this emerging phenomenon in waterfront planning, where attention is given to wet critters beyond the urban quay. Based on interviews with actors involved in waterfront planning, mainly civil servants at the municipal level, this qualitative study illustrates possibilities and challenges of veering off well-trodden paths in a planning system made mainly for/from land and by/for humans. The cases show attempts to invite wet critters back

into the city through restoration and revitalization of polluted harbor basins, planners grappling with the transgression of an administrative and cognitive boundary between land and water, and tensions of trying something new within established frames of the municipal planning organization. Paying attention to wet critters and taking responsibility for their wellbeing in waterfront planning poses a challenge to both the anthropocentric and terrestrial nature of urban planning. Understanding more about how this kind of more-than-human care is negotiated, carried out and materialized, can provide important lessons for future care-full planning of just, multispecies cities by the ocean.

## **SESSION: Geographies of unruly natures I**

**24-06-2026** 08:30 - 10:10

### **The powers of outdoor ethics and the *allemannsrett* in environmental histories of northern Norway**

Brynhild Granås <sup>1</sup>June Anthonsen Røsbø <sup>2</sup>, Mats Hoel <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Dep. of Social Sciences, UiT The Arctic University of Norway, Tromsø, Norway

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Today's ambiguous situation of controversies and consensus regarding Norway's public access right, the *allemannsrett*, calls for critical analysis. When observing landscape disputes in northern Norway, we sense the tensions they reveal between different ways of valuing people, places, and nature. This paper explores the roles the *allemannsrett* takes on when practiced ethically in the context of evolving landscapes and transforming communities, based on ethnographic experiences in the regions of Vest-Finnmark, Lofoten, and Nord-Troms. We explore the ethics of outdoor practices through critical care perspectives, viewing care as inherent in the relations emerging from practices and more-than-human material arrangements. We approach ethical practices as matters of belonging, viewing belonging as inherently geographical. Thus, we examine how places are negotiated and what happens as contemporary mobilities bring landscapes within reach of global capitalism. The analysis reveals fragile ethical constructions underlying modern outdoor recreation and the *allemannsrett*. It shows how the seemingly neutral right drives power shifts in environmental histories, fueling unrest and uncertainty about the future among residents who call these areas home. This highlights the importance of critical public discussions about the *allemannsrett* as a historical and ethical construct and its role in rural areas otherwise marked by decline.

## **SESSION: Geographies of unruly natures I**

**24-06-2026** 08:30 - 10:10

### **Unruly Contaminations - Chemical Geographies of Bitterfeld-Wolfen**

Daniel Wolter <sup>1</sup>Jürgen Viet Anh Höpfel <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Halle (Saale), Germany

Drawing on ethnographic fieldwork in Bitterfeld-Wolfen, we examine how one of the world's largest groundwater contaminations is sensed, managed, and navigated within the ordinary affects of everyday life; embedded in a late-industrial, post-socialist town shaped by dense historical overlappings. More than 100 years of lignite mining and chemical production led to a peculiar complex of contamination: regional-scale groundwater damage consisting of several thousand chemical compounds, ranging into geological depths, and exceeding eco-toxic thresholds extensively. In intermixture with groundwater and substrata, these chemicals lead, in various ways, to measures being disrupted, control being prevented, ultimately endangering people in their everyday spaces. Here, the past has never been quite laid to rest. Chemicals, having become feral underground, lead a life of their own; constantly trying to escape technocratic attempts to rule them. Ever-shifting material dynamics in the mixture of substances cause chemical transformations underground, creating entirely new compounds and flows, the behaviour and effects of which are still largely unknown, especially to dwellers above. What was once meant as technological fix itself, now restlessly requires its very own fix (Harvey, 2005). Contamination is not merely measured; it is made — a technoscientific object produced through sensors and maps; instrumented through pumps and protection walls; encountered as everyday phenomenon through smells, gas in cellars, obtrusive infrastructures, or stories and specters of past contamination. Combining human geography with media studies and STS, we conceptualise Bitterfeld-Wolfen's groundwater situation as a phenomenon of the third nature (Böhme, 2018), in which scientific practices of knowledge production, infrastructure, and the socio-spatial entwine; blurring the lines between nature and culture. This perspective highlights how polluted environments act as archives of socio-ecological history and how sustainable futures may emerge when pollution is approached not only as a perpetual threat but as an iterative practice of remediation, negotiation, and community endurance.

## **SESSION: Geographies of race and coloniality in a contemporary polycrisis**

**24-06-2026** 08:30 - 10:10

### **The reactivation of colonial crisis narratives in Tunisia: border transgressions as a pretext for colonial invasion and border externalisation**

Jan Bienek <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University of Cambridge, Cambridge, United Kingdom

The misconception of the “unprecedented present” (Mayblin and Turner, 2020, p. 9) and an academic crisis-chasing that follows the perpetual identification of migration crises by policymakers and journalists (Cabot, 2019; Mayblin, 2021) have hindered the exploration of the longer histories of extraterritorial migration control (see Cobarrubias *et al.*, 2023). Therefore, the colonial origins of the ‘migration crisis’ itself – as a mutable but potent narrative tool that enables the spatial expansion of the (migration) control apparatus's reach – have so far received less scholarly attention. Adopting a *longue durée* approach (Braudel, 1958; Wallerstein, 2009), this paper traces the European discursive creation of migration crises from the period of the French Protectorate of Tunisia (1881–1956) to contemporary border externalisation in Tunisia (1995–2025). Through a critical synthesis of two

previously disconnected bodies of literature on colonialism (e.g. Lewis, 2013; Perkins, 2014; Joffé, 2023) and European extraterritorial migration control (e.g. Cassarino, 2014; Badalič, 2019; Strik and Robbesom, 2024) in Tunisia, as well as a close reading of primary archival material, the contemporary re-activation of a colonial crisis narrative is identified. When Frontex (2015, p. 12-13) frames the “unprecedented number of detections of illegal border-crossing” in the present moment as a “crisis situation”, it echoes France’s consul general, who referred to the “exceptional severity of the events at the border” (DDAdT, 1881, p. 10) in the 19<sup>th</sup> century as justification for the invasion of Tunisia. Although we can observe an intensification of this discursive practice in recent decades (see Huysmans, 2000; Jeandesboz and Pallister-Wilkins, 2016), the histories of the migration-crisis narrative span even further back into the past. By historicising European extraterritorial migration control in Tunisia, this paper advances the academic understanding of the uneven persistence and recurrence of colonial narrative strategies to expand racialised geographies of control.

## **SESSION: Geographies of race and coloniality in a contemporary polycrisis**

**24-06-2026** 08:30 - 10:10

### **War, Memory, and Colonial Urbanism: Sur and Dersim in the Geographies of Race and Coloniality**

Rüstü Demirkaya <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University of Geneva , Geneva, Switzerland

This paper examines how war, authoritarian governance, and memory politics jointly reproduce racialized colonial space in Kurdish regions of Turkey. Bringing Sur (Amed/Diyarbakır) and Dersim (Tunceli) into conversation, it argues that contemporary polycrisis is not only a condition of overlapping emergencies but also a mode through which coloniality is spatially renewed. The two cases illuminate interconnected dimensions of this process. In Sur, the 2015–2016 siege and subsequent reconstruction show how urban war, expropriation, and heritage-led redevelopment reworked the city through destruction, displacement, and controlled visibility. In Dersim, a longer history of militarization, administrative exceptionalism, and selective memorialization demonstrates how colonial violence endures through the regulation of landscape, architecture, and public memory. Rather than treating these as separate histories, the paper reads them as linked geographies of crisis in which militarism, neo-nationalism, neoliberal urban governance, and racialized suspicion operate across different temporalities. Sur makes visible the accelerated urban form of colonial crisis, while Dersim reveals its longer inscription in everyday space and commemorative regimes. Together, they show how crisis management becomes a political technology for reorganizing property, mobility, belonging, and historical visibility in ways that target Kurdish presence. Methodologically, the paper combines discourse analysis of official documents and reconstruction policies with field-based observations, spatial analysis, and testimonies. By connecting war, memory, and urban governance across two sites, it contributes to debates on geographies of race and coloniality by showing how colonial power is reproduced not only through spectacular violence but also through reconstruction, preservation, and the selective ordering of space.

## **SESSION: Geographies of race and coloniality in a contemporary polycrisis**

**24-06-2026** 08:30 - 10:10

### **Memories of Anticipated Futures: Interpreting Algerian Postcolonial Urban Landscapes**

Florian Janyszek <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Human Geography, Stockholm, Sweden

For my doctoral research, I am interested in how the hopes and expectations of Algerian independence and postcoloniality reverberate amongst young members of the Algerian diaspora in France in the present, and how this affects their interpretations of Algerian urban landscapes. Algerian landscapes are shaped by the remains of 132-years of settler colonialism and are contested by an omnipresent theme of revolution, liberation and anti-colonial struggle. Through this research, I attempt to contribute to understanding how young Algerian generations give meaning to *postcoloniality*, and how they come to terms with a country both defined by its colonial heritage and independence memorialisations. While memories of the Algerian War of Independence remain of great relevance even for younger generations, the state's appropriation of these memories has been increasingly critiqued as the expectations of young Algerians often remain unmet. This for instance culminated in the large-scale peaceful *Hirak* protests. The research questions I currently aim to address in my broader doctoral research are: How do young Algerian's interpretations and understandings of spaces in Algiers influence their experiences of the present and imaginations of the future? What are possible dissonances, consonances or ambivalences between state-sanctioned memories in space and of place, and young Algerian's personal memories? How does being part of the Algerian diaspora in France affect or activate interpretations of Algerian anticolonial spaces and Algeria as a postcolonial country? How do different youth positionalities influence the relations young Algerians have with Algiers as a place of anticolonialism and their own identity as an Algerian citizen (in France)?

## **SESSION: Geographies of race and coloniality in a contemporary polycrisis**

**24-06-2026** 08:30 - 10:10

### **'Wargaming': Okinawa in a simulated East Asian crisis**

Hidefumi Niishiyama <sup>1</sup>

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

This study will examine the 'wargame' exercise that was created and run by the Washington-based American think tank Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). As tensions between China and Taiwan have escalated over the past few years, CSIS, led by the senior advisor and retired marine Mark Cancian, published simulated scenarios for a Chinese invasion of Taiwan and a war between China and the United States/Taiwan/Japan. The wargaming projects the processes and results of combat, ranging from air, naval, and ground operations to the number of casualties across the countries. It also underscores, and reaffirms, the geopolitical importance of Okinawa for the United States, where its major military presence has been maintained since the end of the Second World War. Through a close reading of the wargaming, the study will explore its underlying assumptions as well as its impacts. It will draw spatial attention to forms of coloniality that manifest, and are (re)produced, in the simulated East Asian crisis.

## **SESSION: Geographies of race and coloniality in a contemporary polycrisis**

**24-06-2026** 08:30 - 10:10

### **Shifting racial formations in times of climate crisis: racial ecology and climate obstruction in the politics of the far-right in Finland**

Sonja Pietiläinen <sup>1</sup>

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

The paper analyses the connection between the climate crisis and the thriving far right by examining how race is reproduced in relation to the far right's politics of climate change. Race difference, as a politically determined category, is constantly transformed through political struggles. During the last years, the ethno-nationalist and authoritarian far-right party Finns Party (formerly known as the True Finns) has played an important role in shaping public discussion regarding ethnic homogeneity and nationhood. Furthermore, the party has become one of the loudest voices obstructing, in other words, denying and delaying, effective and socially just climate action. Building on geographical scholarship on race and racism and its connections to the climate crisis, the paper studies the reproduction of racial categorisation and hierarchisation in times of climate crisis and the surging far right. Using 24 interviews with Finns Party politicians as the empirical material, the paper shows that obstructionist arguments are co-constitutive with the process of racialisation, for instance in arguments in which moral responsibility for the climate crisis is shifted or the victims of climate change are denied. The paper shows how, through environmental determinism and populationism—or what I call racial ecology—environmental injustices caused by extraction, pollution, and other harms linked to capitalism, imperialism, and their various manifestations are explained in terms of racial difference. Different understandings of nature and ecology (territorially bounded or deterministic) inform racial differentiation and vice versa, as different politically produced inequalities (e.g., environmental degradation, pollution) become an outcome of racial characterisation.

## **SESSION: Geographies of race and coloniality in a contemporary polycrisis**

**24-06-2026** 08:30 - 10:10

### **Racialized hierarchies in the geopoliticized everyday**

Daria Tarkhova <sup>1</sup>

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

Geopolitical turmoil, including war, authoritarianism and hardening border regimes has a significant impact on the everyday. Beyond the physical location where war takes place, the mundane becomes geopoliticized. In the public discourse, Russians living in Finland have been portrayed as the 'enemies within'. The securitization has historical roots, but it was fueled by the Russian full-scale invasion in Ukraine in 2022. Ethnographic fieldwork in a peer support space shows, that racialization and securitization create significant barriers for Russian speaking people in Finland. Russian citizenship can become an issue when accessing employment or legalization of status in Finland. Furthermore, merely speaking Russian can lead to acts of discrimination, as it is associated with 'the enemy'. Nevertheless, Russian speakers remain the biggest foreign-language group in Finland, including people born in the former Soviet Union, but also people from Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Estonia and other countries. For many, Russian language remains a practice rather than a national or ethnic label. In the everyday, geopolitics create boundaries, but also transborder solidarities.

## **SESSION: Geographies of Crisis: Youth Perspectives**

**24-06-2026** 08:30 - 10:10

### **Atmospheres of precarity: imagined futures for UK university students during a 'Cost-of-Living Crisis'.**

Sophie Milnes <sup>1</sup>

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

This paper explores 'atmospheres' of crisis amongst a generation of young people navigating the English Higher Education context during a 'Cost-of-Living Crisis'. I interrogate the way in which precarity has long trajectories; not only evident in shaping the everyday lived experiences and decision-making practices of student cohorts but destabilising and diverting young people's future imaginaries. Using qualitative interview and 'life map' data with 36 undergraduate students, this paper explores how young people construct their imagined futures in uncertain socio-economic times. Findings reveal that economic precarity, interlaced with legacies of post-pandemic geographies create precarious 'atmospheres' on campus. I evidence that 'atmospheres' of crisis operate across social relationships, cohort cultures and individualised hopes, fears, aspirations and expectations in the post-university, graduate future. Indeed, I evidence in the way in which the era of polycrisis has material and 'more-than-material' impacts on young people, and how students problematically internalise the tumultuous circumstances of current UK society to reflect on their own futures as increasingly unattainable visions of success. With this paper, I invite discussion and critical conversations on 'crisis geographies' from youth perspectives: How does precarity manifest in the everyday choices and behaviours of young people? How does an uncertain future manifest in immaterial, emotional ways, impacting lifecourse aspirations, and an individualised relationship with ageing? Moreover, how do students strategize in times of instability? How do they reconstruct visions their imagined futures to feel more secure? This paper contributes to contemporary geographical scholarship, exploring the ways in national and international processes of external change impact young people personally.

## **SESSION: Geographies of Crisis: Youth Perspectives**

**24-06-2026** 08:30 - 10:10

### **Young Lives, Climate Change and Everyday Crises**

Kathy Reilly <sup>1</sup>Frances Fahy <sup>1</sup>, Bronagh Dillon <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University of Galway, Galway, Ireland

Reflecting on focus group data from the CCC-CATAPULT (Challenging the Climate Crisis: Children's Agency to Tackle Policy Underpinned by Learning for Transformation) project conducted in Bristol (UK), Galway (Ireland), Genoa (Italy) and Tampere (Finland), this paper examines young people's perceptions and experiences of the climate crisis in a period shaped by wider political and geopolitical uncertainty. CCC-CATAPULT employed a co-productive, mixed-methods design (survey, focus groups, interviews and narrative workshops), with young people involved in shaping research questions, interpreting findings and considering dissemination strategies. Drawing on focus group data, the paper develops three interrelated themes. First, it considers young people's experiences of climate change education. Second, it explores perceptions of trust and responsibility for addressing climate change, particularly how young people situate institutions, governments and international

actors within multi-scalar governance arrangements during periods of political instability. Third, it examines youth climate activism as articulated by participants, considering how it is shaped by both climate-related concerns and the wider social and political conditions of the early 2020s. The paper contributes to youth geographies by offering empirically grounded insight into how climate change is understood in relation to intersecting contemporary crises, and how these conditions shape young people's engagements with education, responsibility and collective action.

## **SESSION: Geographies of Crisis: Youth Perspectives**

**24-06-2026** 08:30 - 10:10

### **Self-sufficiency skills fostering youth adaptation to the climate crisis**

Anssi Huoponen <sup>1</sup>Moritz Albrecht <sup>1</sup>, Annika Manni <sup>2</sup>, Maija Halonen <sup>1</sup>, Linda Lundmark <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University of Eastern Finland, Joensuu, Finland

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Adapting to the climate crisis demands that young people learn new skills to support sustainability and enhance resilience. Older generations have traditional self-sufficiency skills such as growing one's own food, preservation, and wild-food use. These skills can strengthen youth climate adaptation. However, these practices are disappearing as populations age. The NORDSKILLS project studies how collaborative learning and hands-on self-sufficiency practices support youth adaptation to climate change in the northern regions of Finland and Sweden. The project includes a three-year pilot of eco-clubs where pupils engage in farm-to-fork practices, food preservation, regenerative aquaculture, and wild-food use in three different schools in Finland and Sweden. By utilizing an ethnographic approach and interviews, the study examines the development of practical skills, and how young people navigate climate-related uncertainty in their everyday lives. This presentation presents the preliminary findings from the initial phase of the NORDSKILLS project eco-clubs and provides new knowledge to understand which pedagogical strategies best promote youth resilience in the era of climate crisis and how the practices of self-sufficiency can be learned through community-based learning methods.

## **SESSION: Homelessness, restless circulation, and the production of value and vulnerabilities**

**24-06-2026** 08:30 - 10:10

### **Planning for housing at the speed of a 'green' mega-project**

Moa Hedström <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Umea University, Umeå, Sweden

This article examines housing planning in a small municipality in northern Sweden, in the wake of the rapid establishment and subsequent bankruptcy of the 'green' mega-project Northvolt. Drawing on interviews and participatory observations, it explores how accelerated industrial growth, population shifts, differing expectations and uneven private real estate interest created tensions between the pace of market-driven transformation and the slower rhythms of democratic planning. The study highlights how the municipality, perceived as 'left behind,' was compelled to prioritize rapid growth, assuming significant risks through public housing interventions while compromising long-term social sustainability goals. Findings show that aligning planning with the volatile tempo of capital-driven projects produces precarious, unsustainable housing outcomes, from temporary barracks to

segregated rental stock, which may undermine inclusive community building. The article argues for shifting focus from linear, time-driven notions of development toward spatio-temporal configurations that enable municipalities to regain steering capacity. By recognizing multiple trajectories of place, democratic institutions can open alternatives beyond the binary of being 'before' or 'behind' in development.

**SESSION: Homelessness, restless circulation, and the production of value and vulnerabilities**

**24-06-2026** 08:30 - 10:10

**Restless by design: Enforced circulation, state abandonment, and the un-homely nation**

Sarah Philipson Isaac <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Stockholm School of Economics , Stockholm, Sweden

Drawing on four years of ethnographic research with people seeking asylum in Sweden, this paper examines how state practices of dispersal, encampment, and enforced circulation produce *restless temporalities*: racially differentiated rhythms of waiting, interruption, and forced movement central to the reproduction of racial capitalism at the borders of the welfare state. Against the post-2015 institutionalisation of temporariness and deportability in Swedish asylum legislation, the paper argues that state abandonment operates not through absence but through active spatial interventions — rendering national space *un-homely* through the perpetual dismantling of temporal horizons and social relations. The analysis centres on two sites through which these temporalities are materially enforced and economically exploited. State asylum accommodations, peripheralised, subcontracted to a billion-dollar private industry, and designed to foreclose any semblance of settlement, immobilise bodies whilst keeping them in unceasing circulation between camps, regions, and border regimes. This hypermobility-through-dispersal erodes social relations, deepens deportability, and produces a structurally vulnerable workforce exploitable in informal labour markets. Makeshift camps emerge as the dichotomous counterpart: sites of precarity but also of counter-visibility and solidarity that resist the state's politics of dispersal by forcing co-presence in national space, until their violent eviction, and the systematic confiscation of residents' basic infrastructures, reinstates active neglect as a governing logic. The paper concludes by situating these restless geographies within a broader continuum of dispossession. Across racialised and marginalised populations, active neglect and spatial displacement operate through the same political-economic logic: not the failure of protection but its productive inversion, generating value from precarity through commodified housing, disposable labour, and the carceral management of those rendered surplus to the racial-capitalist order.

**SESSION: Homelessness, restless circulation, and the production of value and vulnerabilities**

**24-06-2026** 08:30 - 10:10

**From restless circulation to static isolation: Rethinking ontological security in women's pathways out of homelessness**

Joshua Levy <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Chalmers Tekniska Högskola, Gothenburg, Sweden

This paper examines what happens when the restless circulation that often characterises women's experiences of homelessness is brought to an end through the provision of long-term independent housing such as Housing First (HF). Drawing on interviews and audio diaries recorded by women in Gothenburg, the paper explores the lived experiences and social relations of women at different stages of homelessness and transition into independent housing. While HF can provide crucial material stability, the findings suggest that independent housing may also produce new forms of spatial and social isolation. After periods of precarious mobility in which supportive relations are both forged and lost, the move into single-occupancy housing can disrupt existing social networks while offering few opportunities to build new ones. These findings invite a reconsideration of the ubiquity of scattered, single-occupier housing as the default solution for women exiting homelessness. The paper argues for a broader range of long-term housing models, including women-only housing with shared communal spaces that can support everyday social relations. The argument is developed through a re-reading of Anthony Giddens' concept of ontological security. While widely used in housing studies to explain the stabilising effects of home, its application has often implicitly assumed solitary dwelling. Reinterpreting ontological security through the experiences of women leaving homelessness highlights the fundamental role of community and social relations in producing a sense of security, a dimension that remains systematically overlooked in dominant housing interventions.

## **SESSION: Homelessness, restless circulation, and the production of value and vulnerabilities**

**24-06-2026** 08:30 - 10:10

### **Spinning around in circles of vulnerability: How poverty management for women in homelessness fails in providing stable futures for the most unsafe**

Kristina Grange <sup>1</sup>

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

This paper is based on interviews and audio diaries with women who are living in homelessness in Gothenburg, Sweden. It shows how circulation is a recurring experience in their lives. Many describe how violence pushed them into an initial, insecure situation of movement between temporary arrangements. At the time of the interviews, most had experienced years of repeated evictions and expulsions, creating highly precarious conditions. In this context, violence continues to shape their lives, both within municipal accommodations and during periods when they must manage homelessness on their own. Methodologically, the study highlights waiting and acceleration as key phenomena shaping both participants' lives and the research process. Waiting has caused suffering and psychological and physical deterioration for the women, while also creating opportunities for researchers to build relationships and gather data. Who can afford to wait is closely tied to social position, as is whose time is valued and who is denied knowledge about their future. Many participants felt unheard and lacked clear information about how long they could stay in temporary housing or what would happen next. Some had come to accept waiting as inevitable, while others described extreme disorientation, at times in combination with acceleration, which for some had led to thoughts of suicide. Although participants and researchers had unequal control over their present and future, moments of shared understanding and empathy emerged during interviews. Theoretically, the study engages with literature on circularity and temporality, arguing that state governance often prioritizes a poverty management by which cycles of instability get reinforced. Daily life for people in homelessness becomes focused on reproducing daily existence, leading to temporal and spatial dispossession, where individuals lose both a stable present and a foreseeable future. In such contexts, bureaucratic care systems tend to manage the consequences of homelessness rather than resolve it.

## **SESSION: Resistance against autocratization and authoritarianism**

**24-06-2026** 08:30 - 10:10

### **The Tech State and the rise of the brologarchy**

Pablo Fuentenebro <sup>1</sup>

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

From mass deportations to extrajudicial killings, Trump's second term in office has been characterized by a total disregard for the rule of law, more representative of an authoritarian regime than that of a democratic state (Jarret et al. 2025). A central element to this story has been the role played by techno-billionaires in shaping US domestic and foreign policy: from Elon Musk's 'success' shutting down USAID as head of DOGE (Demirjian et al. 2025) to the multibillion contracts signed between tech companies and the US Department of Defense, among others, promoting the use of AI and digital infrastructures (Bria 2025). Along with these, the so-called 'brologarchy' has been using its immense wealth and power to advance their personal interests and agendas (Harrington 2024). From repopulating the United States with (white) babies (Donegan 2025), to the development of 'start-up' cities across the globe (Samuel 2025) or colonizing outer space (Becker 2025). Building on recent debates on the rise of the brologarchy (Harrington 2024), 'Big Tech authoritarianism' (Akbari 2025) and 'technofascism' (Coeckelbergh 2026), this paper examines the expansion of the brologarchs' agendas outside the United States, and their influence on governments across the world. As countries rush to increase their military spending, all while cutting back on social provisions, there is a real need for citizens to uphold democratic principles and defy authoritarianism. How can we resist the rise of techno-authoritarianism? What tools and instruments do we have at our disposal?

## **SESSION: Resistance against autocratization and authoritarianism**

**24-06-2026** 08:30 - 10:10

### **Constraining Labour Resistance: Discursive Delegitimation of Trade Unions in Tunisia's Autocratization**

Selma Sofia Forfod Yssen <sup>1</sup>

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

Organised labour resistance to the contemporary wave of autocratization has so far received little academic attention. This paper examines the Tunisian trade union's ambiguous role in autocratization and explores how the regime's discursive practices have shaped and constrained labour agency. The focus is on the Tunisian trade union movement and its shifting strategies in response to ongoing autocratization. Although it played a decisive pro-democratic role during the 2010–2011 revolution for democracy and dignity, the movement has not become a strong force against autocratization today. The union has shifted from an initial position of conditional support for the regime towards a more oppositional stance, but mobilisation efforts have had limited impact. The paper argues that the discursive practices used to legitimise autocratization condition the character and power of organised labour resistance. It examines a specific subtype of populism used by President Kais Saied, characterised by a narrative that depicts the revolution as hijacked by intermediate structures and parties. In this way, the regime defines political parties, civil society organisations, and trade unions

as both elitist and anti-democratic. This narrative was initially used to attack and delegitimise the parties that governed Tunisia after the revolution and later to portray trade unions as defenders of a system benefiting a privileged class rather than the people. The paper analyses how these discursive developments shaped UGTT's responses to autocratization and contributed to delegitimising the movement. Lastly, this subtype of populism is understood in relation to Tunisia's political economy, especially its segmented labour market, divided between unionised, relatively secure workers in the formal sector and the precarious unemployed and underemployed at the margins. As such, the paper contends that the nature and effectiveness of populist narratives constraining resistance can only be understood by situating them within their particular structural conditions.

## **SESSION: Resistance against autocratization and authoritarianism**

**24-06-2026** 08:30 - 10:10

### **Withdrawal, Consolidation, Tacticalism: A New Model for Resisting Rampant Authoritarianism and Racism in the Age of Injustice**

Gill Nick <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University of Exeter, EXETER, United Kingdom

This paper distils a wide range of geographical insights from critical studies of marginality, migration, coloniality, queerness, anarchism, resistance and social movements into a clear and accessible new framework to support the survival and development of liberal groups under authoritarian threat. Illustrating the discussion with insights from a decade of empirical work on sanctuary practices, the paper outlines three sets of emerging possibilities that reveal the contours of a range of spaces and imperatives of resistance in authoritarian times. The first, *withdrawal*, revolves around necessary retreat and disengagement as a form of survival, emphasising fugitivity and self-preservation. While regrettable, it is possible to retreat strategically, subtly and in ways that are expensive to authoritarian groups. The second, *consolidation*, requires recognising and acting to protect and develop valuable data, mental and physical health, human resources, infrastructure and networks both in the present and future. This set of possibilities emphasises the depths of the everyday, including corporeal and psycho-geographical practices of self-care, pointing to new spaces of prosaic resistance characterised by novel forms of communication, nurturing and connection. The third set involves concerted, targeted action against the weaknesses of the adversary. Drawing on De Certeau's notion of tactics, this requires deep understanding of i) the adversary and their directions of development, and ii) oneself and one's network to determine what capacities one can access to concertedly frustrate the opponent. Overall, this paper uses geographical insights to construct a new model for how liberal, progressive groups can tactically respond to authoritarianisation. de Certeau, Michel. 1984. *The Practice of Everyday Life*. Translated by Steven Rendall. Berkeley: University of California

## **SESSION: Resistance against autocratization and authoritarianism**

**24-06-2026** 08:30 - 10:10

### **Rethinking revolutions in the age of autocratization: The aims, means and spatialities of the federal democratic revolution in Myanmar**

Kristian Stokke <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Sociology and Human Geography, University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway

Across the globe, political trajectories are increasingly shaped by the turbulent intersection between elite-driven autocratization and democratic struggles from below. Revolutionary movements are becoming more common, underscoring the need for renewed contextual analyses and theorization of their aims, strategies, and spatialities. Contemporary “small r” revolutions are generally understood as unarmed, cross-class, networked mobilizations that target regimes rather than states, seeking to remove unpopular leaders, fight corruption and strengthen human rights. Yet these mobilizations raise critical questions about their political effectiveness, as many episodes of mass civil resistance have stalled or yielded only modest gains. Against this backdrop, Myanmar’s federal democratic revolution stands out for its durability and effectiveness despite military repression. This paper argues that the key to this puzzle lies in recognizing that the federal democratic revolution is neither a “small r” revolution nor a “Big R” revolution, but a hybridized form that defies and transcends this binary distinction. Substantively, the Burmese revolution reimagines political goals in explicit contrast to two dominant projects: the military’s reconfigured authoritarianism – combining repression, transactional ceasefires, and a quasi-civilian façade – and the reformist agenda of gradual democratic transition pursued by political parties, civil society organizations, and international donors during the previous political opening. The on-going revolution rejects both and represents a convergence of longstanding postcolonial struggles for a federal state and a democratic regime. Strategically, the revolution challenges prevailing models as a multifaceted yet coordinated assemblage of actors, interests, and tactics. Its complex spatialities decisively shape its trajectories and effectiveness. It is this coming together of a relational resistance assemblage, despite enduring divisions and tensions, that underpins the endurance and effectiveness of Myanmar’s federal democratic revolution. The paper distills key contextual and theoretical lessons from the Burmese case and calls for greater attention to the political geographies of contemporary authoritarianism and resistance.

## **SESSION: Urban geopolitics: Patterns, Shifts, and the Restless Nature of Cities**

**24-06-2026** 08:30 - 10:10

### **Home Activism: Reclaiming Agency and Psycho-Spatial Resilience in Restless Cities**

Shelly Cohen <sup>1,2</sup> Sigal Eden Almogi <sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Ben-Gurion University, Be'er Sheva, Israel

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<sup>3</sup> Ben-Gurion University, Beer Sheva, Israel

Contemporary urban and housing environments are shaped by constant change. "Home Activism" refers to people's active responses to these environments, while "Home Resilience" means regaining stability and agency when home is disrupted. Displacement and confinement involve losing stable shelter, facing shifting conditions, repeated movement, and long waits. This paper examines how individuals in crisis—ranging from home confinement during pandemics to displacement after disasters—navigate the “in-between” using “Home Activism.” We define "Home Activism" as a key response to "frozen time" and "ambiguous loss," in which the home is physically gone but remains psychologically present. In temporary dwellings, or other "heterotopic spaces," residents often experience major disruptions to daily life. Our study brings together human geography, architecture, and psychology. We explore how people regain control and make their homes resilient when the "protective shell" collapses. We use personal interviews and participants' photographs to compare spatial practices. "Home Resilience" entails recognizing the emergence of the "uncanny" within the familiar. As a result, the home becomes threatening, and the established routines dissolve. The research then shifts to how residents regain agency, using creative spatial strategies to make the uncanny familiar again and restore a sense of security and identity. By studying how residents

reorganize their apartments and personalize temporary homes, we show how "Home Activism" helps them move from passive endurance to active agency and Home Resilience.

**SESSION: Urban geopolitics: Patterns, Shifts, and the Restless Nature of Cities**

24-06-2026 08:30 - 10:10

**Between Grandeur and Ground-level: The Scalar Politics and Lived Realities of Post-Socialist Urban Regeneration in Pécs**

András Trócsányi <sup>1</sup>Judit Timar <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University of Pécs, Faculty of Sciences, Pécs, Hungary

<sup>2</sup> ELTE Centre for Economic and Regional Studies, Institute for Regional Studies, Békéscsaba, Hungary

This presentation interrogates the friction between state-driven prestige projects and the socio-spatial fabric of a post-socialist city. Taking the Zsolnay Cultural Quarter – a flagship development project of the Pécs (Hungary) 2010 European Capital of Culture programme – as its focal point, the study explores how a community-led vision for brownfield renewal was transmuted into a protracted, 'patchwork' urban intervention, and sporadic gentrification coupled with the worsening of social problems and conflicts in slums. The project's implementation has been marred by temporal lags, political turbulence, and the complexities of navigating supranational (EU) funding frameworks within an inexperienced local management context. In this uncertain environment, private capital and local communities remained on the sidelines and played only a limited role; the investment evolved into a multi-scalar state project, driven by central and supranational funding. While existing evaluations over the past 15 years have prioritised macro-economic metrics, financing structures, and physical aesthetics, this research shifts the gaze toward the micro-scale of the 'everyday'. Through the conceptual lenses of uneven development, marginalisation, and lived experience, we examine how this renewal has resonated within its immediate residential environment. The research employs a mixed-methods approach, combining extensive field surveys to document physical transformations in the built environment with in-depth interviews to capture the nuanced perspectives of the quarter's residents. The paper argues that the 'success' of such prestige investments is decoupled from the expectations and lived experiences of the local community. The findings reveal a cityscape of disconnected renewal, where the architectural spectacle of the 'Cultural Capital' sharply contrasts with the persistent vulnerabilities and socio-economic exclusion prevalent in the surrounding urban fabric. Results of the *'Marginalised Space Experience in the Context of Uneven Geographical Development'* research project (No. 138713), financed by the Ministry of Innovation and Technology, Hungary, National Research, Development and Innovation Fund.

**SESSION: Urban geopolitics: Patterns, Shifts, and the Restless Nature of Cities**

24-06-2026 08:30 - 10:10

**Frontier Urbanism and Post-war Reconstruction: Urban Geopolitics amid Shifting Sovereignty**

Gruia Badescu <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University of Konstanz, Konstanz, Germany

This paper examines how urban reconstruction operates as a geopolitical practice in cities shaped by shifting borders, political ruptures, and contested sovereignties. It conceptualizes rebuilding as a form of frontier urbanism: a spatial practice through which states, international actors, and local agents seek to stabilize territory, reconfigure populations, and produce new narratives of belonging in contexts of geopolitical uncertainty. The paper develops this framework through an analysis of Rijeka/Fiume and Sarajevo in the aftermath of contested border formations and new configurations of sovereignty, before discussing its contemporary implications for current conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East. In Rijeka, several changes of sovereignty and borders in the twentieth century generated a layered urban landscape in which post-1945 reconstruction as part of Yugoslavia involved not only repairing wartime damage but also the selective demolition and reconfiguration of the built environment as sovereignty was still in flux. In Sarajevo, the post-1995 reconstruction following the Dayton Agreement unfolded within a fragmented sovereignty structure, where local and international actors reshaped space through territorial practices of differentiation and frontier-making. Building on these urban situations and on debates in political geography and international relations, the paper argues that frontier urbanism is closely tied to the ontological security of states and political actors, understood as the need to stabilize identity and continuity in moments of rupture. In such contexts, urban space becomes a key medium through which borders are rendered meaningful, presence is asserted, and new political realities are naturalized. The paper then turns to the debates about reconstruction processes in Mariupol under Russian occupation and Gaza, examining them as sites of projected frontier urbanism. By interrogating the relationship between reconstruction and shifting sovereignty, the paper suggests that cities at shifting frontiers are laboratories where the spatial foundations of political order are continuously produced, negotiated, and contested.

## **SESSION: (Re)bordering the State: Multi-Level Governance and the Politics of Migration Management**

**24-06-2026** 10:30 - 12:10

### **Refugees, Hospitality and Host-Guest Experiences**

Kirsten Simonsen <sup>1</sup>Lasse Koefoed <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Roskilde University, Roskilde, Denmark

**Refugees, Hospitality and Host-Guest Experiences** Our paper starts from an interest in the question on Asylum – as a historical, normative notion of protection and as a legal and political practice. As a first approximation Nanda Oudejans (2020) asks the question ‘What is asylum?’ and answers ‘More than protection, less than citizenship.’ In our case, we approach the reception through the concept of hospitality. It underlines how refugees are located at the edge or maybe rather nowhere, since the edge is no place to be. Hospitality is an ethical practice or ‘a spatial relational practice with affective dimensions’ (Bulley 2017) – it is performed within a triangle of ethics, power and space. This paradoxical practice has a temporal or historical side as well – that is, a continuous inconstancy of the reception of refugees. We will illustrate that, first by way of the development in Denmark during the last 10 years, from the arrival of primarily Syrian refugees around 2015 (the so-called refugee crisis) and the Ukrainian ones after 2022. Secondly, we will show how this inconstancy is (as showed by Hannah Arendt) part of longer historical construction of ‘the figure of the refugee’. Finally, we will illustrate the host-guest experiences of some of the (around 80.000) Ukrainian refugees arrived to Denmark during the last four years. This will be illustrated by interviews performed

in a middle-sized Danish town (Vordingborg) about the practices and (good or bad) experiences gained in the encounters with institutions (municipalities, work places, schools etc), private actors (chauffeurs, neighbours, colleagues, communities), language schools etc. Lasse Koefoed, Associated Professor Kirsten Simonsen, Professor Emerita both Roskilde University, Denmark

**SESSION: (Re)bordering the State: Multi-Level Governance and the Politics of Migration Management**

**24-06-2026** 10:30 - 12:10

**"Hotel living isn't normal life": Unpacking inter-governmental responses in Scotland to the war in Ukraine**

Dan Fisher <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University of Glasgow, Glasgow, United Kingdom

Forced migration research focused on contingent and carceral accommodation is predominantly concerned with governments' attempts to contain and constrain people to such spaces. Yet in the context of the emergency evacuation of people from Ukraine to Scotland – during which the Scottish Government commissioned two cruise ships and multiple hotels across the country – governmental efforts were instead focused on moving people out of such accommodation (with limited success). Though met with surprise by Scottish Government officials, their challenge was reminiscent of that previously faced by the UK Government in their attempts to find homes for those resettled under the Afghans Relocations and Assistance Policy. This paper encourages forced migration scholars to attend to the governance of evacuation and resettlement procedures in the Global North. It questions governments' logic when, in contrast to asylum policies, they seek to genuinely provide care and humanitarian assistance. In particular, it seeks to examine the interactions between different levels of government during humanitarian crises, what lessons are learned from asylum and resettlement, and how local geography and refugee agency affect the implementation of government policy locally. Through this inquiry, the paper addresses gaps in multi-level governance frameworks, which include a lack of attention to power dynamics at multiple scales and as well as the agency of forced migrants to force policy adaptation. Situated in Scotland, this paper draws on interviews with government officials concerning the emergency evacuation of people from Ukraine. Scotland represents a unique context for the study of refugee governance due to its complex policy landscape; where the Scottish Government has published three refugee integration strategies, local authorities have experience of delivering humanitarian protection programmes and where immigration policy is a reserved matter for the Westminster Parliament.

**SESSION: (Re)bordering the State: Multi-Level Governance and the Politics of Migration Management**

**24-06-2026** 10:30 - 12:10

**The scalar politics of asylum reception in the European Union: A geographical critique of multilevel governance approaches**

Lorenzo Vianelli <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy

Originally developed within debates on EU integration, the concept of multilevel governance (MLG) has gained considerable traction in migration and asylum studies over the past decade. Its appeal lies in the way it problematises state-centric accounts of migration policy, foregrounding the role of subnational and local actors in policymaking and implementation, the complex vertical interactions between levels of government, and the forms of horizontal cooperation between public institutions and third sector organisations. Yet, MLG has also attracted persistent criticism, directed at the concept's analytical vagueness, its tendency towards depoliticisation, and its normative underpinnings – the implicit assumption that dispersing authority across multiple levels of government constitutes good governance. This paper argues that there is a further, largely overlooked weakness, characterising the analytical framework of MLG. Despite resting on a specific scalar imaginary, scholarship that adopts or critically engages with MLG has largely left the question of geographical scale unexamined. The result has been the reproduction of a hierarchical and reductive understanding of scales as pre-existing, nested levels of government through which power flows – more or less smoothly depending on institutional arrangements and coordination mechanisms – rather than as politically constructed, contested, and historically produced spatial formations. Drawing on critical geographical scale theory and taking asylum reception in the EU as its empirical focus, the paper identifies three fundamental weaknesses in MLG-informed approaches to this field. The first is the neglect of the scalar politics of reception within the EU. The second is the reproduction of methodological nationalism. The third is the treatment of the local as a pre-given spatial container in which reception is merely implemented. In response to these weaknesses, the paper proposes replacing the MLG framework with a multi-scalar approach that takes seriously the constructed, overlapping, and interpenetrating character of scales.

## **SESSION: (Re)bordering the State: Multi-Level Governance and the Politics of Migration Management**

**24-06-2026** 10:30 - 12:10

### **Revealed regional attractiveness, mobility regimes, and the implicit rebordering of Europe's left-behind regions**

Milad Malekzadeh <sup>1</sup>Tuomas Väisänen <sup>1</sup>, Olle Järv <sup>1</sup>

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

The twin transition, shaped by digitalisation and the greening of economies, is reconfiguring the factors that make regions attractive for living, working, studying, and investing. This presentation examines how these shifts are reflected in regional mobility patterns across Europe and asks what they reveal about emerging forms of functional bordering between regions. Drawing on the MOBIL-TWIN project, we conceptualise revealed attractiveness through observed long-term, short-term, and circular mobility flows, including migration, student mobility, commuting, and cross-border circulation. Rather than treating regions as fixed containers of opportunity, our approach shows how mobility systems position them in changing functional roles, such as Low Mobility, All-Out Senders, Attractive, Super Attractive hubs. A central insight is that regions with similar structural conditions can occupy very different positions within European mobility systems, and that these positions may shift over time. This matters for migration governance because mobility flows distribute costs, opportunities, and dependencies unevenly across regions, while the institutions managing them often operate at different territorial scales. Although the analysis does not focus directly on formal asylum or immigration policy, it speaks to the wider politics of migration and mobility management by showing how mobility regimes implicitly produce functional borders within Europe. These borders are shaped not only by state boundaries, but also by the interaction of labour market dynamics, educational

opportunities, accessibility, and regional development trajectories. By foregrounding inter-regional and region-to-national asymmetries, the presentation contributes to discussions on multi-level governance and highlights why policies addressing regional inequality must take mobility-based forms of rebordering seriously.

**SESSION: OPEN SESSION 4 - Tourism, land, property**

**24-06-2026** 10:30 - 12:10

**Stewards of Their Land: Landowner Perspectives on Public Right of Access in Times of Overtourism**

Anna Dóra Sæþórsdóttir <sup>1</sup>Edda R. H. Waage <sup>2</sup>

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

<sup>2</sup> University of Iceland, REykjavík, Iceland

In Iceland, the public right of access grants broad freedom to traverse private land, historically sustained by low-intensity use and norms of mutual respect. Over the past decade, rapid tourism growth has placed substantial pressure on this system, particularly in rural areas where many natural attractions are located on privately owned land. This chapter examines how overtourism reshapes the public right of access under fragmented governance and market-driven tourism development. Drawing on common-pool resource theory and the concept of accumulation by dispossession, it shows how open access, combined with commercial tourism, externalizes costs onto landowners while concentrating benefits elsewhere. Based on semi-structured interviews with landowners at twelve sites, four responses emerge: remaining in agriculture while bearing tourism's costs; collaborating with third-party managers; developing tourism services and fee-based access to regain control; and the entry of external investors who frame their involvement as stewardship yet operate within logics of commodification. Across these pathways, landowners report intrusion into personal life, environmental degradation, safety risks, financial burdens, and social strain. While most support the principle of public access, they argue that overtourism has fundamentally altered the context in which it operates. Without clearer legal frameworks and fairer cost-sharing, the public right of access risks becoming commodified under market logics.

**SESSION: OPEN SESSION 4 - Tourism, land, property**

**24-06-2026** 10:30 - 12:10

**Living with the past: rethinking landscape inertia through private forestry**

Oscar Jacobsson <sup>1</sup>Katarina Haugen <sup>1</sup>, Marie Stenseke <sup>1</sup>

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

This paper develops the concept of *landscape inertia* to explain how past developments continue to shape present-day land use and constrain possibilities for change. Although the idea of inertia is

implicit in much landscape research, it remains undertheorized. We address this gap through an empirical study of private forest ownership in south-west Sweden, using forestry as a particularly revealing case because forest landscapes are formed through long temporal cycles, intergenerational stewardship, and enduring material and institutional legacies. The paper combines qualitative interviews with 24 small-scale private forest owners across three contrasting landscape contexts with landscape-historical analysis based on cadastral maps, economic maps, and written archival sources. Building on earlier work on landscape inertia, we further develop the concept by integrating Hägerstrand's processual understanding of landscape with Braudel's notion of differentiated temporal rhythms. This allows us to conceptualize landscape inertia not as simple persistence, but as an emergent and relational effect produced through the interaction of multiple processes operating at different spatial and temporal scales. Empirically, we identify four overlapping expressions of landscape inertia: *topographical*, *institutional*, *social-relational*, and *policy-related*. In the case of private forestry, these include enduring site conditions such as wetlands and slopes; historically produced property structures and forest stand compositions; intergenerational attachments, obligations, and stewardship ideals; and the mismatch between long forest rotation periods and short-term shifts in policy and markets. Inertia becomes particularly strong where several such layers coincide, narrowing the range of forest management options perceived as practical, legitimate, or desirable. We argue that understanding landscape change requires attention not only to drivers of transformation but also to the historically produced frictions that unevenly resist change. Landscape inertia offers a framework for analyzing how continuity and change coexist, and how present-day landscape practices are shaped by the accumulated, interacting legacies of the past.

#### **SESSION: OPEN SESSION 4 - Tourism, land, property**

**24-06-2026** 10:30 - 12:10

#### **Facades of the City: law, private property, and the redesign of urban landscape in Curitiba, Brazil**

Ana Cláudia Milani e Silva <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> UFPR, Curitiba, Brazil

This work investigates the role of private owners in the redesign of the urban landscape, drawing on a case study of a landscape requalification program in Curitiba (Brazil) known as *Rosto da Cidade*. As a mode of representing the world, landscape is deeply shaped by legal meanings and legal categories such as property. Law conditions who may or may not intervene in the landscape, thereby shaping both its material and symbolic dimensions. In many cases, the law grants private owners the power to redesign the landscape, which may reveal collectivized forms of property or, alternatively, reinforce an exclusionary logic that reduces the landscape to a static visual unit possessed by the gaze of its observer. Launched in 2018, the *Rosto da Cidade* program seeks to revitalize the city's historic center by painting facades with anti-graffiti resin, and was regulated by Municipal Law No. 15.388/19, with a focus on combating visual pollution, graffiti, and urban degradation. The law authorizes the Municipality to carry out painting, cleaning, and repair services, while also supplying paint and anti-graffiti resin to owners of private properties deemed to be of "Relevant Interest for Landscape Recovery". Situated within the field of critical legal geography, this research examines the relationship between law and private owners within the scope of this public policy, as well as its impact on the redesign of Curitiba's landscape — particularly given that 116 of the 146 properties included in the program were privately owned. The central hypothesis is that the enactment of the program into municipal law was essential to securing owner participation and attracting private capital investment, and that the landscape produced by the program was oriented toward drawing in investors and consumers, thereby aligning itself with exclusionary narratives and spatial practices.

**SESSION: OPEN SESSION 4 - Tourism, land, property**

**24-06-2026** 10:30 - 12:10

**'Arctification' in tourism and beyond tourism: emerging evidence from Yukon, Canada.**

Patrick Brouder <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Thompson Rivers University, Kamloops, Canada

'Arctification' in tourism has emerged in the literature over the last decade and has been featured in approximately two dozen peer reviewed publications, many of which have emerged from the Nordic realm. While the term itself is not exclusive to tourism, tourism is at the vanguard of processes of Arctification, as placemaking strategies often, and increasingly, co-opt Arctic terminology and imagery for their own ends. In Canada, terms like 'the North', 'True North', and 'Boreal' hold a strong place in the collective imaginary and so there may be less openness to broader processes of Arctification in Canada. That said, in northern tourism in Canada there is a clear desire to utilise the 'Arctic' as a promotional tool for tourism in a more openly defined 'North'. In broader policy discourse, the Arctic has also seen a resurgence as a result of a renewed geopolitical focus on the region that is as familiar to Nordic observers as it is to Canadians. This presentation examines the geographies of Arctification in Canada's Yukon - a territory of almost half a million square kilometres with a population of under 50,000. Three areas are examined: 1. prevalence of basic incidences of Arctification in tourism in Canada's north, both nominal and descriptive 2. strength of discourses of Arctification in Canada's north, and the role tourism plays in serving or challenging these discourses 3. change in the physical and social geographies of Canada's north, with implications for 'Arctic' tourism. The presentation concludes with an assessment of Arctification as a transferable concept from the Nordic realm to northern Canada, the usefulness of Arctification for framing of north to north dialogue and discovery, and the role that tourism may continue to play as a vanguard vector for Arctification. Note: presentation is supported by a SSHRC (of Canada) Insight Development Grant.

**SESSION: OPEN SESSION 4 - Tourism, land, property**

**24-06-2026** 10:30 - 12:10

**Intergenerational liveability and cultural tourism in Cardiff: From a child-friendly city to age-friendly public spaces**

Ana Gonçalves <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> CEG, Associated Laboratory TERRA, IGOT-ULisboa, ESHTe, Lisbon, Portugal

This presentation explores the intersection between urban liveability, cultural tourism, and inclusive urban planning through an intergenerational lens. It treats intergenerationality both as an analytical framework and as a practical governance challenge: how can cities design and manage public space so that everyday comfort, access, and belonging are supported across the life cycle (including children, students, families, working-age residents, older adults, and visitors) without reducing liveability to a single "target group" agenda? The rationale is that intergenerational liveability can function as a shared planning baseline that strengthens cultural authenticity, broadens citizen participation, and supports more sustainable cultural tourism. Cardiff (Wales, UK) is used as an illustrative case study because its planning and cultural policy priorities have been aligned with

walkability, safety and access to green and blue spaces, as well as cultural spaces, while also being recognised as a child-friendly city. The presentation draws on the “Child Friendly Cardiff” strategy as evidence of institutional mechanisms for including under-represented voices in city-making, mechanisms that can be extended to older residents and other groups. It also engages with Cardiff Council’s “Livable City Report” to examine how play and recreation spaces, inclusive transport, and intergenerational community initiatives are framed as infrastructures of cohesion and everyday wellbeing. The analysis situates Cardiff within European quality-of-life benchmarking and notes its visibility in senior liveability frameworks, highlighting both the value and limits of index-based narratives for understanding lived experience. Rather than presenting rankings as an endpoint, the presentation questions what spatial priorities and governance arrangements make intergenerational liveability achievable, and where tensions emerge when visitor economies and place-marketing goals intensify pressure on housing, mobility, and public space. This presentation proposes a transferable approach to assessing “intergenerational liveability” that combines policy analysis with place-based indicators and attention to whose voices should matter in urban planning.

**SESSION: OPEN SESSION 5 - Race, ethnicity, integration, policing**

**24-06-2026** 10:30 - 12:10

**The Police Conception of History and Geography**

Dragan Kusevski <sup>1</sup>

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

The paper explores the notion of the police as producers of spatial imaginaries. Sweden, as many other countries in the last couple of decades, has taken a tough-on-crime turn from its previous penal policy which was considered exceptionally liberal. The hardline approach has been justified with its ostensible ability to tackle the society’s so-called “parallel structures” – a label often used to refer to organized crime or gang crime. These parallel structures tend to be conflated with particular geographical places to which the police pay special attention and publish a list of them every other year. The paper analyses four memoir books written by Swedish police officers, all published within the last five years, in order to get insight into the narratives and imaginaries which these books promulgate. The results show contradictory and frustrated police perspectives that frame crime in racialized, territorial, and moralistic terms. This, I argue, creates a narrative that precludes addressing the root causes of the crime problem – namely, racialized capitalist operation – in a more structural way.

**SESSION: OPEN SESSION 5 - Race, ethnicity, integration, policing**

**24-06-2026** 10:30 - 12:10

**Sharing a neighbourhood, but living life apart: residential ethnic segregation and ‘layered’ activity spaces in the city of Uppsala**

Sara Forsberg <sup>1</sup> Samaneh Khaef <sup>2</sup>

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

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

Why does ethnic residential segregation persist in cities that are small, physically accessible, and lack clearly defined stigmatised zones? Drawing on 18 map-based qualitative interviews with residents in Uppsala, Sweden, a medium-sized city reachable by bike within half an hour, we show how ethnically stratified knowledge of the city shapes housing choice sets in ways that cannot be reduced to income, housing supply, or overt discrimination. Using pre-printed maps of the full municipality to trace how participants perceive, avoid, and imagine different parts of the city in relation to one another. This method reveals how housing search is embedded in broader spatial imaginaries, shaped by biographical layers, social networks, and everyday mobility, rather than grounded in objective knowledge. The analysis identifies five interrelated mechanisms through which perceptions translate into residential sorting. First, layered biographies transmit place-knowledge intergenerationally. Second, social ties structure uneven activity spaces: dense local kinship networks provide support but reinforce spatial concentration, while geographically dispersed networks expose residents to a wider urban geography. Third, mobility resources — particularly car access — expand perceived reach, yet do not automatically produce integration, as certain areas remain symbolically excluded even when physically accessible. Fourth, anticipated discrimination and feelings of non-belonging lead participants to self-exclude from neighbourhoods perceived as socially closed. Fifth, the analysis foregrounds the concepts of *blind spots* and *eye-opening moments*, which means areas that remain unknown or unimagined until a contingent encounter suddenly makes them visible as possible places to live. Taken together, these findings show that ethnic residential segregation is reproduced not only through residential outcomes but through the daily practices, perceptions, and constraints that structure housing search long before any formal choice is made. The paper contributes a qualitative, perception-centred account of social sorting and complicates policy approaches focused narrowly on neighbourhood-level social or tenure mix.

## **SESSION: OPEN SESSION 5 - Race, ethnicity, integration, policing**

**24-06-2026** 10:30 - 12:10

### **Does Swedish language acquisition pay off for labour market integration? A geographical perspective**

Samaneh Khaef <sup>1</sup>

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

This study examines the impact of acquiring Swedish language skills through participation at *Swedish for Immigrants* (SFI) program on immigrants' integration into the labor market and how such effects vary across regions. Using Swedish register data and focusing on all foreign-born individuals aged 16 and older who arrived between 2000 and 2012 and following them over a ten-year period, the analysis employs propensity score matching, to account for selection bias, and cox proportional hazards models to estimate time to first employment. Results show that participation in SFI significantly accelerates labor market entry: participants are 15 percent more likely to obtain their first job than non-participants. Geographical context further conditions these effects. SFI participation offers the greatest payoff in metropolitan and larger city regions, where employment tends to require language proficiency, but has weaker effects in small towns and sparsely populated areas dominated by low-skill occupations. These findings highlight the **geographical component** of language payoffs and underscore that immigrants benefit from language acquisition differently depending on where they live. By integrating spatial perspectives, this study contributes to the understanding of where language acquisition via SFI most effectively promotes immigrants' economic integration in Sweden.

## **SESSION: Emergent Diversity in Urban Governance in an Era of Polycrisis II**

**24-06-2026** 10:30 - 12:10

### **Rethinking urban entrepreneurialism in an era of polycrisis: a grounded view from China**

Fulong Wu <sup>1</sup>Fangzhu Zhang <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University College London, London, United Kingdom

This presentation reflects on a recent European Research Council (ERC) funded project, ChinaUrban (Rethinking China's Model of Urban Governance). China's urban governance demonstrates perplexing and contradictory features. Despite market-oriented reform, the role of the state remains salient. What is the logic behind governing urban China? Chinese scholars provide a grounded view. A forthcoming edited book emerged from this project (*Rethinking Urban Entrepreneurialism*) challenges the conventional understanding of urban entrepreneurialism and argues that Chinese urban governance comprises two interrelated aspects: entrepreneurial governance and innovative statecraft. The first refers to the deployment of market-based approaches to urban development, and the second refers to versatile techniques. Urban entrepreneurialism encompasses both market-oriented approaches and administrative innovations. The state upholds its strategic and extra-economic objectives by deploying and mobilising the market and society. Urban entrepreneurialism also demonstrates a strong state intentionality rather than following the market logic. By examining entrepreneurial urban development and governance experiments, it paints a comprehensive picture of contemporary urban governance in China. It transcends the binary view of authoritarianism versus urban entrepreneurialism, showcasing a wide spectrum of entrepreneurial and managerial governance features. To rethink urban entrepreneurialism, the book suggests that it extends public-private partnerships into a broader form of statecraft known as 'state entrepreneurialism'. Our grounded study allows us to rethink the influential theoretical paradigm of 'urban entrepreneurialism', originally developed amid the crisis of the post-industrial and post-Fordist transition. Now, the world is again in a polycrisis. What is the feature of new urban governance? Our conclusion is that we need to view urban entrepreneurialism as a particular form of statecraft. This particular form has undergone a transformation. Despite the diversity of urban governance across the world, the era of polycrisis will see a common trend towards 'strategic statization'.

## **SESSION: Emergent Diversity in Urban Governance in an Era of Polycrisis II**

**24-06-2026** 10:30 - 12:10

### **The statist form of entrepreneurialism in financing urban ecological spaces in China**

Deng Handuo <sup>1</sup>Fulong Wu <sup>1</sup>, Fangzhu Zhang <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University College London, London, United Kingdom

This paper proposes that in the dynamics of state-led financialisation and resurgent statism in global urban development, urban entrepreneurialism can mutate into statist forms. We examine this through an analysis of Chinese local governments, focusing on how they deploy financial and asset-making techniques of urban spaces in response to recentralised environmental regulations and declining land revenues. Drawing on the case of Chengdu's mixed-use ecological spaces, we show how local state actors orchestrate the financial circuits. First, municipal governments and their market agents reduce dependence on land revenues by mobilising state capital to finance greenway development. Second, municipal and district governments increasingly manage ecological spaces and amenities as income-

generating assets. These practices preserve state ownership and position state capital as the primary driver of development. We conclude that statist *forms* of entrepreneurialism are highly sensitive to the territorial configuration of financial operations and the varied business models of state-led urban development.

## **SESSION: Emergent Diversity in Urban Governance in an Era of Polycrisis II**

**24-06-2026** 10:30 - 12:10

### **Unpacking the Assemblage of managerialism and entrepreneurialism in urban governance: What hollowed out the ‘success’ of shantytown redevelopment in China’s county-level cities?**

Xiaoxia Zhang <sup>1</sup> Reinout Kleinhans <sup>1</sup>, Lei Qu <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Delft University of Technology, Delft, Netherlands

While post-2012 Chinese urban governance is often characterised by a managerial turn amid recentralisation and polycrisis, this paper highlights emerging governance diversity. Conceptually, drawing on an Assemblage-based framework, we develop a typology of eight managerialism–entrepreneurialism relations to capture their full dialectic—from co-enabling and partial erosion to mutual undermining. Empirically, prompted by China’s 2024 historic debt-resolution package, which exposed 2-trillion-yuan latent liabilities tied to past shantytown redevelopment projects (SRPs) in inland lower-tier cities, we revisit shantytown redevelopment, a national housing initiative once celebrated as a flagship welfare success but now recognised as a source of fiscal risk. Specifically, we examine an SRP in Lufeng, a county-level city in southwest China, to show how a managerial–entrepreneurial assemblage manufactured the project’s initial ‘success’—rapid relocation, visible spatial transformation, and strong political recognition—through (1) mutual instrumentalisation between welfare and accumulation imperatives, (2) multi-directional discursive reframing that legitimised mandate-stretching practices, and (3) administrative exceptionalism that accelerated delivery. Yet these mechanisms did not resolve the inherent divergence between managerial redistributive commitments and growth-oriented entrepreneurial scripts. Instead, they merely deferred and provisionally stabilised it through unsustainable means. Over time, the unresolved tensions re-emerged as debt exposure, socio-spatial disembeddedness, and erosion of routine governing capacity, hollowing out the project’s ‘success’. This research posits that county-level statecraft—especially in resource-constrained settings—often lacks the capacity to let either managerialism or entrepreneurialism fully prevail. Instead, it forges fragile managerialism–entrepreneurialism assemblages that can navigate immediate mandates while embedding crises, offering a critical lens on contemporary governance.

## **SESSION: Emergent Diversity in Urban Governance in an Era of Polycrisis II**

**24-06-2026** 10:30 - 12:10

### **Reasserting the state centrality in China, a case study of Nanjing Biotech and Pharmaceutical Valley**

Sumu Lin <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University College London, London, United Kingdom

Ploycrises, including 2008 global financial crisis, successive COVID-19 pandemic and climate change, have shaken previous undisputed and hegemonic status of neoliberalism in global economy and governance. In the context, an emerging global phenomenon of a more visible role of the state as promoter, supervisor and owner of capital has marked the rise of new state capitalism, transforming global governance. Although the relationship between the governance of China and state capitalism has long been debated by the academia, this paper argues that China does not simply represent a variant of new state capitalism. Rather than embedding the state within the market, China demonstrates a model of governance in which the state governs through the market, mobilizing the market as an instrument for pursuing strategic and territorial objectives. By critically deploying new state capitalism framework, this paper utilizes state capital and statism as analytical framework by situating them under China's state entrepreneurialism. The paper examines the financing and governance of urban development in China, focusing on the transformation of the financing model of urban development in post land-based finance period. By taking Nanjing Biotech and Pharmaceutical Valley (NBPV) as a case study, the paper analyzes how the state supervises, guides and participates in the market through a combination of land-based finance, financial instruments like Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs), and government guidance investment funds (GGIFs). The paper finds that the financing of NBPV is actively constituted by the state through state capital and statist coordination. In the process, the state plays the role simultaneously as supervisor, planner and investor. The governance of NBPV reveals a state entrepreneurial model in which the market is selectively constructed, disciplined, and mobilized to serve developmental and strategic objectives. As a result, the paper demonstrates how the Chinese state reasserts its centrality by governing through the market.

## **SESSION: Renewables in restless times: Uneven energy transitions II**

**24-06-2026** 10:30 - 12:10

### **Hydropower and soil carbon of flooded reservoir soils in a subarctic environment**

Susanne Claudia Möckel <sup>1</sup>Theresa Bonatatzky <sup>2</sup>, Utra Mankasingh <sup>3</sup>, Ivan R.C. Alvarez <sup>2</sup>, Egill Erlendsson <sup>2</sup>

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

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<sup>3</sup> Agricultural University of Iceland, Reykjavík, Iceland

Hydropower plays a key role in renewable energy transitions, and reservoirs for electricity production comprise the largest share of artificial water bodies worldwide. However, reservoir creation leads to extensive landscape transformation, including the inundation of soils and vegetation and associated biogeochemical changes. While hydropower is generally considered a low-carbon energy source, emissions from reservoirs can in some cases exceed those of fossil fuel-based energy production, particularly where carbon-rich soils and biomass are submerged. In Iceland, where hydropower accounts for over two thirds of electricity production and continues to expand, landscapes ranging from sparsely vegetated mineral soils to continuously vegetated heathlands and wetlands have been inundated by reservoirs. The Blöndulón reservoir in northern Iceland belongs to those where large areas of heathlands and wetlands on carbon-rich soils were submerged. Previous work in the area has shown an increase in carbon stocks in the flooded soils due to inputs from drowned vegetation and redistribution of soil organic matter. Here, we address key uncertainties regarding the stability of this carbon following soil exposure due to annual water level fluctuations or future decommissioning. We compared carbon losses in flooded and nearby non-flooded soils by measuring carbon mineralization using incubations at three temperatures. Flooded soils showed higher carbon losses, particularly at lower temperatures, likely driven by increased organic carbon content, altered substrate

quality, and reduced mineral protection. Our findings indicate an increased vulnerability of reservoir soils upon exposure, even under cool conditions. Thereby, they emphasize the importance of accounting for long-term effects of inundation on soils when evaluating the environmental implications of hydropower as part of renewable energy transitions.

## **SESSION: Renewables in restless times: Uneven energy transitions II**

**24-06-2026** 10:30 - 12:10

### **Beyond Access: How Households in Rural Communities Experience Energy from Mini-Grids in Sierra Leone**

Foday Sheku Dumbuya <sup>1</sup>

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

The UN Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG 7), which aims for 'access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy services', was adopted in 2015 to achieve universal access to electricity and clean cooking by 2030. Eleven years into its implementation, reaching universal access seems increasingly unlikely. **More research is needed on the obstacles to achieving universal energy access.** Current energy access studies are heavily focused on infrastructure availability and are concerned with simple binary access determination. The complex socio-cultural and lived experiences of energy systems that affect households' full utilisation of energy services have often been overlooked. Few studies investigate post-access experiences, particularly through a social science and human geography lens. The talk will present a PhD project in progress, focused on rural Sierra Leone. The country has been implementing a major rural electrification initiative with solar PV mini-grids as a prominent technological option. Well over 100 mini-grids have already been installed in remote communities, and many more are underway. The study aims to examine how people use, experience, interpret, and integrate energy from mini-grids into their everyday lives. The research will elucidate the social and cultural barriers to energy consumption. How do rural households in Sierra Leone experience and navigate energy access beyond physical infrastructure availability? What does access to energy through mini-grids mean to rural households, and what socio-cultural and economic activities are shaped by energy access? How has access to electricity influenced fuel-stacking practices and cooking behaviours among households in rural communities? To what extent are rural solar mini-grids operationally sustainable, and how do regulatory structure, financing models, and local community practices influence their long-term sustainability? Such questions will be central to the study. The results can inform the effectiveness of future programs and policies.

## **SESSION: Renewables in restless times: Uneven energy transitions II**

**24-06-2026** 10:30 - 12:10

### **Energy landscape identity – burden or opportunity? The case of Šoštanj valley**

Tadej Bevk <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University of Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia

The shift to renewable energy is often framed as a feasible and justified transition pathway in coal-mining and other fossil-fuel-dependent regions. These landscapes, frequently labelled as “degraded”, are commonly prioritised for new energy developments. Landscape impact assessments similarly tend to support the siting of renewable infrastructure within existing energy landscapes. From a rational planning perspective, transitioning from fossil-fuel facilities to renewable energy systems in such “carbonscapes” appears both logical and efficient. However, this approach risks reproducing past patterns of peripheral exploitation and the uneven distribution of environmental and social burdens. The designation of places as “energy landscapes” is rarely questioned: does it represent an opportunity for local communities, or a burden that reinforces existing inequalities? This paper explores these questions through a case study of the Šoštanj Valley in Slovenia. The area hosts the country’s largest coal-fired power plant and an associated coal mine, and has recently been proposed as the site for what would be Europe’s largest floating solar power plant. The proposal has triggered intense debate over the future of energy infrastructure and regional landscape development. Decades of coal extraction have reshaped the valley through village relocations, the creation of artificial lakes, environmental degradation, allegations of corruption, and limited public participation in decision-making. These processes have produced complex historical legacies that continue, both latently and explicitly, to shape contemporary development debates. Drawing on the experience of conducting a landscape impact assessment for the proposed solar power plant, the presentation reflects on the challenges of engaging in contexts characterised by low trust and uneven power relations. It further reflects on how external experts enter such debates, and what role expert knowledge plays in contested energy transitions.

## **SESSION: Renewables in restless times: Uneven energy transitions II**

**24-06-2026** 10:30 - 12:10

### **Shiny, happy people? Energy, ethics and insularity**

Karl Benediktsson <sup>1</sup>

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

In this talk I will take you on a guided tour around the small island state of Atlantis. The Atlantians are a nation of shiny, happy people. They are blessed with an abundance of renewable energy from several sources and often present their country as a model for the world in the ongoing transition from fossil fuels to renewables. Energy is undeniably one of several factors that have played a part in catapulting the nation into the stratosphere of mass consumption. The country has won countless medals (albeit often silver) in the World Happiness Olympics and has also topped many a global list of energy production and use per capita. But success can bring certain nervousness, as many psychologists have confirmed. Atlantians are nervous about the fate of their rather special landscapes, in which they have taken great pride, especially after hordes of tourists started to descend on the island. They are also nervous about their own global responsibility in these restless times. Should the people of Atlantis add their bit towards efforts to save the world’s environment from ruin by selflessly offering their renewable energy to global corporations looking to locate their data centres and gigafactories in their landscapes? Or is it more ethical to insulate the already insular country from the energy markets of the world? From Badia Ketsua, the capital of Atlantis, we will travel around the island, take a look at some of its landscapes from an energy point of view, and contemplate the trilemma of energy, ethics and insularity that the Atlantians face.

**SESSION: Blueish Entanglements and transformations: unfolding the restless geographies of more-than-wet spaces II**

24-06-2026 10:30 - 12:10

**Too much and too little: Singapore's contradictory relationship with (sea) water**

Alicia Gutting <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, Singapore

Singapore, a low-lying island city-state, faces sea-level rise and intensified coastal flooding due to climate change. In response, the government has initiated extensive coastal protection measures, including barriers, shoreline elevation, and reinforced seawalls. These interventions transform coastal ecologies, redistribute risk, and intensify spatial pressures within an already dense urban environment. At the same time, Singapore pursues water self-sufficiency through desalination and recycled water technologies. Drawing on the hydrosocial cycle and the social construction of the ocean as analytical frameworks, I conceptualise Singapore's ocean governance through three interconnected modes of use: the ocean as a resource, as a sink, and as a threat. As a resource, the sea provides water for desalination to secure long-term water independence. As a sink, it receives treated wastewater, brine discharge, and the ecological consequences of coastal engineering. As a threat, it is framed as a source of flooding that requires large-scale protective intervention. These uses are deeply entangled and constitute a structural contradiction. The same marine environment defended against rising waters is simultaneously relied upon for freshwater production and infrastructural discharge. Efforts to secure the nation from the sea intensify technological and ecological dependence on it. I analyse how protection, extraction, and disposal intersect, asking which transformations and burdens become visible or obscured when climate adaptation and water security are pursued together within a confined coastal space.

**SESSION: Blueish Entanglements and transformations: unfolding the restless geographies of more-than-wet spaces II**

24-06-2026 10:30 - 12:10

**Abyssal DisEntanglements: Unsettling the Military-Industrial Complex From the Deep Seafloor**

Erica Borg <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University College London, London, United Kingdom

The deep seafloor occupies a contradictory position in the current ecological crisis. On the one hand, abyssal spaces appear in dominant discourse as promising resource frontiers. On the other hand, they are perceived as essential "ecosystem service providers" under threat from human impact. Within the UN Ocean Decade, seafloor mapping is presented as essential to upcoming waves of blue industrialisation as a foundation for economic expansion and ecological management. This presentation contextualises contemporary efforts within the history of seafloor mapping as an imperial project since the 1840s. I focus on three overlapping technological regimes of seafloor sensing: from line-and-sink technology to early submarine acoustics, to today's multibeam bathymetry. I show how these increasingly capital-intensive regimes have been synonymous with the consolidation of the military-industrial complex. I then turn to anti-imperial perspectives to ask what unsettling potentials emerge when thinking *with* the deep sea as an archive of struggle? What forms of turbulence resurface when we situate assemblages like the Sairdron Surveyor not as neutral tools, but as part

of geopolitical ecologies of dispossession and violence? I propose an “abyssal” perspective on deep-sea mapping that shifts the focus from ecological monitoring and management to reparations and abolition for systemic violence that starts on land.

**SESSION: Blueish Entanglements and transformations: unfolding the restless geographies of more-than-wet spaces II**

**24-06-2026** 10:30 - 12:10

**Assembling marine governance through conservation: Territorialization processes and the politics of the 30x30 in Costa Rica**

Alexa Obando <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Helmholtz Institute for Functional Marine Biodiversity (HIFMB) and Alfred-Wegener-Institute (AWI), Oldenburg, Germany

The 30 x 30 Initiative is a global campaign to protect 30% of the oceans by 2030 through a worldwide network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). While Costa Rica is widely celebrated as a conservation success—particularly for expanding MPAs to meet the 30% target—such narratives obscure deep tensions, inequalities, and contestations in coastal communities and fishing sectors. Drawing on ethnographic research in coastal communities in Puntarenas, participation in international and national conservation forums (including the UN Ocean Conference in Nice), and archival analysis, this paper asks how marine governance becomes a space in which particular relations to the sea are stabilized, legitimized, and enforced. Mobilizing assemblage thinking, I conceptualize marine governance as a configuration of heterogeneous human and non-human actors, discourses, infrastructures, and institutional practices. From this perspective, the ocean is not a neutral medium but a relational and material force through which power, legitimacy, and authority circulate across scales. Analyzing three interconnected conservation projects, I show how governance processes territorialize and deterritorialize actors, reinforcing dominant conservation imaginaries while marginalizing alternative ways of knowing, inhabiting, and relating to the sea. Ultimately, the paper demonstrates how global conservation commitments are assembled and contested through situated marine geographies and political economies.

**SESSION: Blueish Entanglements and transformations: unfolding the restless geographies of more-than-wet spaces II**

**24-06-2026** 10:30 - 12:10

**Hydro-Social Politics of Sustainability: Discursive Constructs and Material Outcomes in Finnish Water Governance**

Venla Isomäki <sup>1</sup> Mirjami Lantto-Klein <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Aalto University, Espoo, Finland

Approaching water governance as a question of sustainability, this paper considers two Nordic rivers, Kokemäenjoki and Tornionjoki, through critical discourse analysis. While the latter is currently subjected to restoration measures in a large EU-funded TRIWA LIFE river restoration project, the former recently got Finland’s first exception permit to the EU’s Natura 2000-network, which means allowing significant harm to a formerly projected Natura 2000 site for overriding public interest. While

both rivers are governed through the same institutional structures, they differ significantly regarding built environment, history, and pressure of use, providing a fruitful comparison for studying and understanding current hydro-social assemblages of water governance, particularly as they relate to sustainability efforts. To understand current dominating discourses in water governance, this paper explores: How is the water governance of rivers Kokemäenjoki and Tornionjoki discursively constructed? And further, how are these discourses materialized (or not)? Through analysis of key governance documents and news articles, we propose that understanding the material-semiotic (infra)structures that either hinder or enable sustainable water governance can help create pathways for sustainability transitions.

## **SESSION: Blueish Entanglements and transformations: unfolding the restless geographies of more-than-wet spaces II**

**24-06-2026** 10:30 - 12:10

### **Re-storying the sea: Scottish coastal storytelling and the selkie**

John McKetta <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

The selkie — a supernatural being, part-seal and part-human — has totemic status in Scottish storytelling communities, with the oldest printed accounts dating back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century. As a threshold-inhabiting creature that explicitly challenges and transgresses culturally-reinforced binaries — human/animal, land/sea, surfaces/depths, living/dead — the folkloric selkie has become a conceptual embodiment of key sociocultural issues impacting blue ecotones in contemporary Scotland. Oral storytelling represents a particularly adaptive form of cultural expression, with audiences and storytellers cooperatively applying new textures, tonalities, values, and morals to the tales in real time (Zipes 1997). Significantly, selkie tales have been widely adapted and memetically restructured to address a broad range of sociocultural topics, ranging from explorations of the violence underlying rigidly reinforced gender norms to themes of more-than-human kinship, mourning, and healing through a watery manifestation of posthuman decentering. This paper explores how structural, tonal, and narrative evolutions within contemporary Scottish selkie tales might reflect and reinforce shifting ecological concerns among audiences and storytellers alike. The paper examines this topic through archival, experiential, and interview-based research, building conceptually upon recent scholarship within blue humanities, animal geographies, folklore studies, and Scottish cultural studies. In particular, the paper explores how narrative and tonal changes in Scottish selkie tales pertain to: i) More-than-human kinship and biopolitics — reframing rigid species binaries as watery, relational spectrums, embracing “the quivering tension of the in-between” (Neimanis 2012). ii) The transition from liminality to marginality — how threshold-crossing marine bodies, geographies, and identities are subjected to objectification, erasure, and carnivalization (Alaimo 2008; Shields 2013). iii) The grey seal as pest, poltergeist, and posterchild — how the seal’s historically transgressive relationship with human settlements has resulted in centuries of cultural fascination and distrust, including wide-scale culls and ongoing debates over the “killability” of seals (Lambert 2002; Haraway 2008).

**SESSION: Between place and practice: Perspectives and understandings of, in, and through infrastructures II**

24-06-2026 10:30 - 12:10

**Geopolitics of (un)built environments: from infrastructural (de)territorialisation to the (de)territorialisation of infrastructure**

Vesa Väättänen <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University of Lapland, Rovaniemi, Finland

The relation between infrastructure and geopolitics is often approached through the prism of territorialisation and deterritorialisation. In terms of territorialisation, infrastructure is treated as a component through which political, economic and social control is established and exerted over a territorial space. The geopolitics of deterritorialization, in turn, becomes manifest in the growing importance of cross-border flows enabled by infrastructure projects. My key contention is that such an emphasis on what I call *infrastructural (de)territorialisation* misdirects our attention when it comes to the geopolitics of infrastructure in the Anthropocene. This is because the geopolitical character of infrastructure is expressed through a human-centric, and often state-centric emphasis on political struggles concerning, and power relations feeding into specific infrastructure projects. I argue that by recasting the notion of territory to include the socio-material relations of co-dependence on which infrastructures *themselves* rely, it becomes possible to foreground the *(de)territorialisation of infrastructure* and the inherently geopolitical character of this process from a more-than-human viewpoint. By drawing on assemblage thinking I outline an approach that envisions infrastructure as coextensive with its territory, which itself is an ever-becoming relational assemblage. Consequently, I suggest that geopolitics can be located in the process of (dis)assembling the territories of infrastructure, which underlines both the imaginative/affective and material aspects of built environments that are, were, or may (never) be.

**SESSION: Between place and practice: Perspectives and understandings of, in, and through infrastructures II**

24-06-2026 10:30 - 12:10

**Social infrastructure as a matter of concern**

Lucia Lo <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> York University, Toronto, Canada

I agree with the session organizers that the term infrastructure in current research carries varied meanings which can be confusing. I prefer understanding infrastructure through the conventional lens, but in lieu of the common imagination of infrastructure as planned physical constructs for logistic purposes, I work with the notion of social infrastructure construed as policies, resources, and services rendered by organizations (physical, informational, visible, invisible) that support people's participation in productive social, economic activities, and that facilitates interactions and connections for the purpose of enhancing/improving quality of life. Given its broad nature, social infrastructure can encompass a wide range of social-related concepts, experiences, phenomena, organizations, and power dynamics. My research focuses on the infrastructure of social care, specifically defining SI to include both physical and knowledge-based structures and examining how its provisioning can improve the social economic conditions of the vulnerable in rapidly transitioning suburban spaces.

Guided by the vulnerable society and the social inclusion literatures, I will talk about a project that engaged census data, GIS, surveys and focus groups to understand the compatibility between the need and the supply of services for the vulnerable in one of Canada's fastest growing low-density and car-oriented suburbs. Identifying the determinants of service utilization and spatial equity issues in service provision helps reach a better understanding of the geographies of vulnerability. Project findings also debunk the myth that vulnerability does not exist in suburbs and enhance decision-making with respect to social service development as a tool to promote a socially just society.

**SESSION: Between place and practice: Perspectives and understandings of, in, and through infrastructures II**

**24-06-2026** 10:30 - 12:10

**Protecting Paradise: Understanding Conflicting, Contested, and Negotiated Environmental Justice & Privilege through Climate Adaptation Infrastructure**

Emilia Ganslandt <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Lund University Centre for Sustainability Studies (LUCSUS), Lund University, Lund, Sweden

In high-income countries, such as Sweden, living on the coast is often considered a privilege and an aspiration, unattainable to many. However, with climate change coastal living is becoming increasingly precarious and coastal residents and their homes are progressively vulnerable to environmental impacts such as sea-level rise, coastal erosion, and storm surges. To remedy this, climate adaptation strategies such as sea walls are utilized to protect these communities. Yet not all communities receive adaptation, raising questions of both justice and privilege, such as who climate adaptation should protect and how. Physical adaptation infrastructures, such as sea walls, can also become sites where environmental justice and privilege, in all its conflicting and contradictory forms, is illuminated, contested, and negotiated. This study examines environmental justice and privilege through the construction of an embankment infrastructure in Skanör-Falsterbo, Southern Sweden. It then discusses how through this infrastructure we can better understand how adaptation is experienced, understood, and contested locally. Drawing on 19 semi-structured interviews with residents of Skanör-Falsterbo, it highlights tensions around what it means to receive protection and why those who have been afforded such infrastructures may still resist or contest it. By unpacking local perspectives of climate adaptation in an affluent coastal context, this research offers insights into the complexities of climate adaptation solutions and technical solutions to climate change. It demonstrates how adaptation infrastructures, such as sea walls, are political, contextual, and contested practices and contribute to broader debates on climate adaptation and environmental justice.

**SESSION: Between place and practice: Perspectives and understandings of, in, and through infrastructures II**

**24-06-2026** 10:30 - 12:10

**Infrastructures of Belonging: How Municipal and Community Initiatives Shape Students Everyday Experiences in Kristiansand, Norway**

Moses Agyemang <sup>1</sup>

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

Everyday life for children in urban neighbourhoods is shaped not only by schools and families, but also by the often-invisible infrastructures that organise their social and spatial worlds. This paper explores how students sense of belonging is created and experienced through the interplay of municipal programs, community initiatives, and educational spaces. The study focuses on two local schools, Tønderskjold Gate skole and Wilds Minne skole, and the surrounding community programmes that students encounter daily in Lund, Kvadraturen Northeast and Eg, Kristiansand. Drawing on relational understandings of infrastructure (Brian Larkin; Susan Leigh Star), this study frames schools, youth clubs, NGO activities, and municipal projects as social and material infrastructures of belonging. These infrastructures provide the structures, spaces, and opportunities through which children engage, participate, and feel recognised or, in some cases, excluded. Redevelopment projects, such as the transformation of Wild Minnes Skole, further illustrate how material changes in the built environment interact with social practices to shape students everyday experiences. Empirically, the paper draws on qualitative interviews with municipal actors, community organisations, and families, complemented by observations of local initiatives. The analysis highlights the ways in which participation is unevenly distributed and how infrastructural arrangements, both material and social, can reproduce or challenge inequalities. By paying attention to students experiences of engagement, recognition, and inclusion, this study shows how belonging is not limited to classrooms but emerges through the broader networks of people, places, and programmes. Ultimately, this paper contributes to debates on infrastructure by demonstrating how relational, social, and material systems are experienced in daily life and how they shape opportunities for students to feel connected, recognised, and valued. It positions students belonging as an outcome of intertwined infrastructures that are at once material, social, and political, revealing the everyday work that supports inclusion in urban neighbourhoods.

## **SESSION: Geographies of unruly natures II**

**24-06-2026** 10:30 - 12:10

### **Weird Geographies Acknowledging unruly Earthly Entanglements through Weird Fiction(s)**

Michael Haldrup <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Roskilde University, Roskilde, Denmark

*When we have learnt the true nature of our being as earth-dependent and have learnt both to cherish the earth and go beyond it without damage, it may be time for us to try to leave for the stars – but not before.* Val Plumwood It has become commonplace for proponents of eco-philosophy, -feminism and planetary thinking to call for more emotional, affective and speculative engagements with place. As Haraway famously suggests, our planetary polycrisis calls for storytelling for Earthly survival; a suggestion that also calls for new forms of Earth-Writing and geographical knowledgeproduction. While also Haraways own Camille stories (that form part of her seminal work on "Staying with the Trouble" (2016)) in line with the general trend in especially feminist eco-philosophy stress relationality, care and symbiosis, she also point to the need also of including "tentacular" and non-anthropocentric stories of Earth's unruly natures; stories allowing for chaos, inhospitability and even hostility among Earth and humans. This presentation takes its outset in 'weird' storytelling's potential for enabling such unruly geographies and -stories . Centering on the Danish island of Møn and a series of environmental artwork by, and conversations-on-the move with, environmental land-artist G. Jagunov (b. 1984) it will draw on the work of prolific (yet partly forgotten) writer of weird fiction Algernon Blackwood (1869-1951) as a way of exploring ways of human connectivity with mythology, geology and a planet beyond human conception and control. In doing this, the presentation will consider 'weirding' as a strategy for opening up conversations allowing us (as a species) to come to terms with living a planetary life in which humans and human interests are not at the centre, but part of a complex of unruly, earthly entanglements.

## **SESSION: Geographies of unruly natures II**

**24-06-2026** 10:30 - 12:10

### **An abundance of elsewheres. A convivial geography of the Alpine-Himalayan orogeny**

Edward Huijbens <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Wageningen University, Wageningen, Netherlands

This paper details how to make sense of the ways in which each of us is an imbricate convivial part of the planet and its cycles. It is premised on a relational ontology whereby life is seen as abundantly unfolding from the cusp of these cycles. To make sense of this generative abundance the paper recounts a journey of exploration along the Alpine-Himalayan orogeny, using public transport as much as possible. The narration reveals how our bodily rhythms and desires mesh with that of folding and buckling tectonic plates in the mountain ranges and the cycles of hydrological erosion grinding away at them. At the centre are thus mountains and rivers but also people encountered on a journey making sense of life as movement generative of abundance. Through the journey, the planet gets animated by people, premised on the moral principle of human sanctity and dignity. An abundance of elsewheres is thereby a pluralistic rediscovery of conviviality and mutual aid in time of accelerating consumerism propelled by individualism fed by social media, private automobility and the rendering of land as object of tourism desire. The aim of the paper is extending these desires to the Earth itself to enable caring for and seeing the Earth as mutual constituent part of this dynamic albeit of wildly different timescales to be apprehended through a journey.

## **SESSION: Geographies of unruly natures II**

**24-06-2026** 10:30 - 12:10

### **Between the peatlands and the sea: in search of new narratives for river commoning in Northern Netherlands**

Elen-Maarja Trell <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University of Groningen, Groningen, Netherlands

Despite their crucial importance for humans and nature, rivers around the world are mismanaged, contaminated, blocked by dams, depleted for irrigation, and canalized for transportation. However, promising alternatives challenging the status quo are also increasingly sought for and created. Nature organizations, river communities, activists and social movements, among others, develop new ideas and practices of river co-governance, attempting to create new narratives and imagine different futures for the river commons. This research project explores what commoning river governance or in other words redesigning governance arrangements to serve the common good, understood in terms of (radical) democracy, solidarity and sustainable ecological relationships, would look like in the nature- and water-storage area the Onlanden, next to the city of Groningen (The Netherlands). It focuses on the ongoing process, opportunities and challenges, for developing a new, regenerative, narrative around the Eelder-, Peizer- and Reitdiep rivers connecting the peatlands in the Province of Drenthe to the UNESCO World Heritage site, the Wadden Sea. The project is an ongoing collaboration between the University of Groningen, Foundation for Nature in the Onlanden and the Nature and Environment Federation Drenthe centered around collecting and sharing regenerative stories in the region and creating a network of collective learning in order to identify promising and

more caring ways for living with water in general and rivers in particular. The project addresses questions aimed at breaking away from dominant ways of ordering natures, including: which existing narratives are standing in the way of a regenerative and adaptive future in the Onlanden? What could alternative narratives that help challenge the path-dependent water- and land-use management solutions in the area look like? Finally, what kind of a community is needed to better care for the river commons and how can governmental bodies enable the emergence of such a community?

**SESSION: Restless ecologies: Vegetal flux in a world of change I**

**24-06-2026** 10:30 - 12:10

**On knowing and not knowing plants: vegetal intimacy, agency and irreducibility in natural textile dyeing**

Laura Pottinger <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University of Manchester, Manchester, United Kingdom

There is growing interest in the idea of 'vegetal intimacy' in geography and related disciplines (e.g. Calkins and Alkan, 2025; Pitt, 2024), with scholars theorising proximity, familiarity and collaboration within a diverse array of people-plant relationships. Intimacy, too, is an enduring interest of craft practitioners and theorists, particularly those concerned with the skilled, embodied and affective interactions that develop between material and maker. While readily connoting qualities of love, care, bodily closeness and emotional connection, intimacy can also underpin violent, extractive and indifferent more-than-human relationships. This paper explores the varied intimacies developing between people, plants and place within the creative practice of natural textile dyeing. It shares early findings from a six-year ethnographic study exploring slow making and botanical dyeing with creative practitioners in the North of England, drawing on interviews with artists and amateur dyers, and autoethnographic reflections. Natural dyeing is a slow, immersive craft that usually involves gathering plants and bringing them into intimate, domestic spaces, where they are prepared, cooked and steeped to extract colour. To source materials, dyers must explore local environments, look carefully at plants and respond to the changing seasons. Dyers' accounts suggest that as a result, they develop deep interest in the intrinsic properties of plants, and a desire to know and work with plants on their terms. The paper examines the cultivation of these creative, vegetal intimacies against a backdrop of social and ecological change, while critically reflecting on tensions between plants' status as materials - resources from which to extract colour - and the hopeful ideal of plants as leaders and collaborators in creative practice.

**SESSION: Restless ecologies: Vegetal flux in a world of change I**

**24-06-2026** 10:30 - 12:10

**Back to the garden: cultivating the past in changing landscapes**

Alicia Skog <sup>1</sup>

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

Gardens are places with complex and diverse meaning for individuals and social-ecological landscapes. In recent years, gardens have increasingly entered debates on environmental management and been understood as important places for human engagement with local

ecosystems, biodiversity and alternative food production. As such, gardens are often explored as crucial parts of future sustainable landscapes. This paper contributes to these discussions by exploring how gardens not only speak to the future, but also to the past. Based on interviews with hobby gardeners in Sweden and analysis of garden handbooks and memoirs, this paper investigates how ideas of history, change, and heritage are mobilized in the moral geographies of desirable human-nature relations. Gardeners encounter and negotiate different histories, including both facts and myths, through plants, design, objects and practices. This contributes both to an enchantment of place and to critical understandings of a garden's relations across time and space. An important finding is that gardeners invoke virtues and traditions from past garden cultures – stretching from ancient times and old farming societies, to the workers' housing movement, cottage gardens and urban war gardens in Sweden and beyond – that they find necessary to confront contemporary and future social-ecological challenges. A recurring narrative is that increased self-sufficiency through private food cultivation is both necessary for sustainable development and a way to connect to and care for a heritage. In dialogue with literature on heritage and nostalgia, the paper argues that these informal and normative conceptualizations of the past ought to be taken seriously as they reflect complex desires, fears and ideologies in the present. It also positions gardens not as private escapes but as places where people negotiate existential and political issues of time, crisis, uncertainty, stability and change.

## **SESSION: Restless ecologies: Vegetal flux in a world of change I**

**24-06-2026** 10:30 - 12:10

### **Renaturing the Urban: Reconfiguring Old and New Socionatures**

Marco Tononi <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University of Bergamo, Bergamo, Italy

Building on Matthew Gandy's categorisation of urban ecologies—systemic, observational, political, and pluriversal—this contribution focuses on the latter to explore the dynamic and unsettled configurations of urban nature in times of climate change. While systemic approaches emphasise metabolic flows and technical solutions, observational perspectives identify situated forms of nature, and political ecology foregrounds collective action and discursive production, the pluriversal perspective opens up to multiple human and more-than-human voices. Drawing on the concepts of hybridity between human and non-human actors (Whatmore) and socionature (Swyngedouw), the paper investigates processes of renaturalisation as sites of “restless natures” within contemporary cities. It analyses how new socio-ecological relationships emerge in Northern Italian urban contexts, particularly within suburban and transitional landscapes shaped by climate-oriented interventions. Focusing on areas such as former mining sites and post-industrial landscapes, the contribution examines how renaturalisation produces novel ecologies, reconfiguring interactions between humans and other-than-human entities. These spaces are interpreted as unstable and evolving socio-natural assemblages, where ecological restoration, urban transformation, and climate policies intersect, generating new forms of urban nature that challenge fixed and traditional understandings of the urban environment.

## **SESSION: Restless ecologies: Vegetal flux in a world of change I**

**24-06-2026** 10:30 - 12:10

### **Restless Vegetal Infrastructures: Tick Ecologies, Heterotopias and the Politics of Urban Change**

Madeleine Bonow <sup>1</sup>Patrik Dinnéztz <sup>1</sup>, Thérèse Janzén <sup>1</sup>, Shafqat Ahmad <sup>1</sup>, Mona Petersson <sup>1</sup>,  
Monika Hammer <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Södertörn University, Huddinge, Sweden

Ecosystems are not defined by stability but by continual development in which old and new interactions knit the web of life. This dynamic clash is especially visible in urban habitats, not as environmental catastrophes but as living laboratories where biodiversity processes such as succession, island biogeography and the intermediate disturbance hypothesis can be observed. Here, ticks and tick borne disease dynamics serve as a lens to examine how vegetal infrastructures shape relations across urban heterotopias cemeteries, parks, gardens, roundabouts and threshold zones such as verges and boundaries. These places, culturally coded as sites of continuity, tidiness or retreat, simultaneously generate shifting microhabitats that sustain interactions from pollination in gardens to the circulation of tick borne pathogens. Leaf litter, shrub layers, meadow margins and unmanaged edges create microclimatic refugia enabling ticks, hosts and companion species to persist. Rather than viewing changes in species composition as disruptions, we frame them as expressions of vegetal flux: ordinary processes of assembling, disassembling and reconfiguring possibilities of belonging. As climates shift and novel ecological communities emerge, urban green spaces become arenas where ideas of “normal” or desirable nature are negotiated, revealing tensions around biodiversity, human safety, management and justice. Our approach integrates tick sampling and pathogen screening, vegetation structure surveys, spatial analyses of edge density and host corridors, and interviews with gardeners, cemetery staff and residents. Findings show that small vegetative adjustments meadow conversion, understory continuity or leaf litter retention can enhance biodiversity while potentially increasing human–tick encounters. Rather than pursuing static or “vector proof” landscapes, we propose a politics of situated care: seasonal, place specific plant designs and social practices that embrace the restless, transitional nature of urban ecosystems. Ticks illuminate frictions of change; plants anchor provisional solidarities in a world that is never still.

## **SESSION: The Challenge of Applying Post-Foundational Geographies**

**24-06-2026** 10:30 - 12:10

### **Ungrounding Problems of Race and Value: A Postfoundational Inquiry into the Racial Wealth Gap**

Coleman Allums <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Allegheny College, Meadville, United States

The Racial Wealth Gap (RWG) has become one of the most recognizable vectors by which the inequalities and exclusions of contemporary racial capitalism are communicated to and within broader publics in the United States. In general, it describes a persistent difference in the wealth held by white and Black communities. Recently, there has been a significant policy push at multiple scales to shrink the RWG, including interventions such as baby bonds, postal banking, and homeownership programs. The question of homeownership in particular has occupied scholars and practitioners alike, leading to a significant literature linking land tenure, property values, and real estate practices to the RWG. This paper deploys a post-foundational approach to this RWG literature; specifically, it activates the post-foundational practice of [un]grounding, which offers us a way to question those terms that function as the unquestioned and unquestionable foundations or grounds from which subjects are authorized, problems are posed and solved, spaces are reproduced, and politics are licensed. Working through the case of local white secession movements in the Atlanta, Georgia (USA), metropolitan area, I argue that the RWG literature misunderstands the racially uneven geography of property value as accidental to the functioning of the real estate market, rather than productive of it—indeed, as recent geographic scholarship demonstrates, wealth is co-constitutive with 'the gap' per se. Even modest or symbolic threats to this differential production of value are regularly met with forceful instantiations of defensive or exclusionary localism that attempt to preempt modifications to the status quo. More broadly, a post-foundational approach allows us to see how the operationalization of 'wealth' under the RWG problematic concedes far too much to racial capitalist framings of social reproduction, exchange, accumulation, justice, and human being; it allows us to begin to imagine alternative forms and spaces of reparation outside the immediately administrable.

## **SESSION: The Challenge of Applying Post-Foundational Geographies**

**24-06-2026** 10:30 - 12:10

### **Post-Foundational Geography and the Politics of Local Energy Governance: A Case Study of Post-Nuclear-Accident Fukushima**

Hayato Koga <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Hitotsubashi University, Tokyo, Japan

While post-foundational thinking has increasingly informed geographical debates, how this mode of thought contributes to debates on energy governance remains underexplored. In this presentation, I explore its value through the issue of the decentralisation of energy governance. Scholars and policymakers have placed growing emphasis on the role of local energy governance, such as energy communities, in achieving decarbonisation in a fair and just manner, in contrast to earlier centralised forms of energy governance. However, their primary focus is on the multiplication and scaling up of such local practices across the energy system, often overlooking their political potential. In contrast to this somewhat depoliticised imaginary, post-foundational thinking, which attends to disruptive political

sequences, directs our attention to the multifaceted political contestation surrounding local energy governance and offers alternative imaginaries. I foreground the value of such imaginaries by examining local energy practices in post-nuclear-accident Fukushima. Drawing on semi-structured interviews and oral histories with practitioners in the area, I demonstrate that energy communities have contributed to reweaving everyday life and social relations damaged by the nuclear accident, while also restoring dignity to local residents who had been positioned as a 'constitutive outside' within the historical structures of energy governance in Japan.

## **SESSION: The Challenge of Applying Post-Foundational Geographies**

**24-06-2026** 10:30 - 12:10

### **Everyday democracy**

Mustafa Dikeç <sup>1</sup>

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

The aim in this paper is to develop a notion of “everyday democracy” and to propose a research agenda for studying it, especially in urban contexts. Everyday democracy is about attentiveness to everyday practices of equality, agency, and political capacity. It is not conceived as a threshold concept, an all-or-nothing affair, but rather as a continuous dynamic in political life, occurring to various extent and degrees in particular times and particular places. In this understanding of everyday democracy, the power of democracy – the power to bring about change – derives from people’s capacity to act. Everyday democracy is about where, when and how this capacity turns into action, what forms action takes, and how action is entangled with the practices, dynamics, and conventions of everyday life. It does not, however, put a premium on the magnitude, spectacularity, rarity, or effectiveness of action. Everyday democracy is also about understanding instances where action is stifled, sidelined, or rendered futile. Everyday democracy is not centred on formal institutions and procedures, but on embodied practices in specific sites around specific issues. This is not to deny the importance of formal political institutions and processes; as Arendt recognised, democratic politics needs the security and stability granted by them, but it is not limited to them. The emphasis here is on practices that are outside the formalized and institutionalised settings, though not necessarily unrelated to them. The focus is on practices that foster inclusion, empower citizens in their political capacities, and allow them to engage with one another through practices oriented towards, but not necessarily resulting in, collective agenda-setting, will formation or decision making.

## **SESSION: The Challenge of Applying Post-Foundational Geographies**

**24-06-2026** 10:30 - 12:10

### **From Rupture to Reproduction: Researching the Reproductive Political**

MATINA KAPSALI <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University of manchester, Manchester, United Kingdom

Post-foundational political geography has developed a rich conceptual vocabulary for understanding the contingency of the social and the possibility for political change through moments of dissensus and rupture. Empirically, however, much of this work has gravitated toward spectacular events such as protests, uprisings, and occupations, where the instability of the social order becomes most

tangible. This focus raises an important question: how can post-foundational geography attend to forms of political practice that unfold not through rupture but through the slower, everyday labours that sustain or even disrupt collective life? This paper introduces the concept of the reproductive political to foreground forms of political practice embedded in care, maintenance, and interdependence. Drawing on feminist geographical discussions on urban social reproduction and care, I argue that practices of care, mutual aid, and everyday survival can reconfigure what counts as political, foregrounding everyday politicisation as a crucial terrain of political contestation. However, these processes often remain difficult to capture through conventional approaches to studying the political. The paper explores the methodological and ethical challenges of researching the reproductive political. Reflecting on qualitative research with migrant women engaged in everyday practices of urban solidarity and togetherness, I discuss three challenges for post-foundational research: the visibility of mundane political practices, the embodied and affective relations through which care is organised, and the implications of researcher positionality when studying intimate infrastructures of social reproduction. By bringing feminist methodological insights into dialogue with post-foundational geography, the paper contributes to debates on how the political can be empirically studied beyond moments of rupture highlighting the importance of reproduction, care, and everyday relational practices in the making of urban political life.

## **SESSION: The Challenge of Applying Post-Foundational Geographies**

**24-06-2026** 10:30 - 12:10

### **The Post-Political in an Age of Disagreement**

Joe Blakey <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The University of Manchester, Manchester, United Kingdom

This paper's title is intended to be a contradiction in terms. The early 2010s post-political critique was characterised as a move towards consensus: where political disagreements are not resolved but rather displaced, managed, or rendered invisible. Aided by appeals to expertise, necessity, and the appearance of all-inclusivity, such consensus is nonetheless invariably partial, leaving voices uncounted and neutralising potential political disputes. Yet, in the latter half of the 2020s, one might argue that we are presently in an age of disagreement: marked by rising polarisation, Francis Fukuyama's claim of the 'return of history', the collapse of various consensuses around climate, health, and even neoliberalism, competing regimes of truth, and a growing distrust of institutions that once arbitrated consensus. In such a context, the idea that we still inhabit a post-political moment might appear increasingly tenuous. Yet, this paper argues that we remain in a post-political condition, and that it has consolidated new ways of managing and structuring disagreement. To this end, it distinguishes between the post-political as a concept and the empirical conditions associated with it, which have since transformed. It ultimately argues that the assumption that we have moved beyond the post-political is perhaps its ultimate success.

**SESSION: Geographies of death revisited in times of change and crisis: deathscapes, social change, politics and environment**

24-06-2026 10:30 - 12:10

**Post-Volcanic Deathscapes And Consolationscapes On The Island Of Heimaey, Iceland.**

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

<sup>2</sup> University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen, United Kingdom

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

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

The Eldfell eruption on the island of Heimaey, Iceland, occurred without warning on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January 1973, and forced the emergency evacuation of more than 5,000 people to the mainland. As the eruption progressed, volcanic ash and lava covered the town of Vestmannaeyjabær, resulting in the permanent loss of more than 400 buildings. Many islanders chose to return to Heimaey after the eruption ended and the town was reclaimed from the ashes. Today, the 1973 lavas are cooled and solidified to rock, covered in masses of purple lupins. However, hiding amongst the flowers are clusters of “gravestones” for lost homes and businesses, and wooden signs that direct walkers along roads now buried deep beneath the lavas. Less than a kilometre away, hidden within the 1973 lavas, is the garden Gaujulundur, created in the 1980s to reclaim land from the volcano. We suggest that the community here has unknowingly created a post-volcanic deathscape where the missing district, its people and culture, are remembered and commemorated. While Gaujulundur represents the development of a post-volcanic consolationcape that commemorates the strength and determination needed to reestablish the community on Heimaey, despite the trauma and loss faced during the eruption.

**SESSION: Geographies of death revisited in times of change and crisis: deathscapes, social change, politics and environment**

24-06-2026 10:30 - 12:10

**Temporalities of finitude and the metabolic geographies of carbon burial**

Cameron Byron <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Helmholtz Institute for Functional Marine Bioersivity, Oldenburg, Germany

Climatic ‘tipping points’ have been broadly understood as a point in which a numerically defined threshold - 1.5 degrees of global average warming, for example - is crossed. They have been applied and taken up to signal precise moments of catastrophic and largely irreversible change to natural systems, leading to events such as extinctions – with oceanic ‘dead zones,’ being one example. This presentation looks how a specific response to such forms of environmental collapse, carbon *burial*, reformulates our relationship with deep time and the *sedimented capacities* of how we discursively have come to make sense of planetary finitude and death. By thinking closely with non-linear relations between death and deep-time, this presentation argues that carbon burial reveals distinct forms of how the materiality of the geological develops not just as an object and mode of politics, but a manipulation of broader geosocial histories, in which the very practices that *bury* histories and near-distant futures of toxicity and death rewrite our relationship with deep-time. This presentation therefore frames the notion of carbon burial as a way to think about the metabolic nature of

responding to tipping points and the practices of 'giving life back' through metabolic politics and alterations, asking us to think about relations between death and temporality more broadly through the earth's deep-time.

**SESSION: Geographies of death revisited in times of change and crisis: deathscapes, social change, politics and environment**

**24-06-2026** 10:30 - 12:10

**Just another commodity? A geography of post-mortal mobilities and their evolution in France**

Pierre Louer--Saingeorgie <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Sorbonne University, Paris, France

Caught up in flows that are more or less diffuse across space and time, the dead are far from being immobile 'objects' detached from economic, political, and social dynamics. On the contrary, in many Western countries, post-mortal mobilities are taking on increasingly complex trajectories, driven by a variety of factors. Some stem from the explicit wishes of the deceased or their loved ones (display of the body in a funeral home, rise of cremation and scattering of ashes), while others are more imposed (the territorial network or even saturation of facilities such as funeral homes or crematoriums). As part of the theme of changing social and cultural practices, this presentation draws on immersive fieldwork conducted in France with funeral industry professionals (working in morgues, forensic institutes, funeral homes, crematoriums, and cemeteries) between 2025 and 2026, particularly in the Paris region, Finistère, and Réunion. The central focus is to trace the evolution of the postmortem trajectories followed by the deceased, from the place of death to the place of burial, based on field research (approximately 80 interviews and nearly six months of immersion) and national data (INSEE, CNOF). The analysis compares the handling of the deceased across different geographical contexts: urban areas (the Paris, Brest, and Saint Denis de la Réunion urban areas), rural areas (Monts d'Arrée, Léon), and peripheral areas characterized by insularity (Ouessant, Molène, Batz –islands with a few hundred inhabitants) or high mountains (the cirques of Mafate and Cilaos). How did the shift from the traditional triptych of spaces traversed by the dead (home, church, cemetery) to a multitude of spaces manifest itself? Finally, through a moral geography of post-mortal mobilities, the study examines the inherent issues raised by these movements: to what extent do logistical considerations take precedence over the social or spiritual support of the deceased?

**SESSION: Geographies of death revisited in times of change and crisis: deathscapes, social change, politics and environment**

**24-06-2026** 10:30 - 12:10

**Restless graves: making new space for the dead in Japan**

Anne Allison <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Duke University, Durham, United States

Being buried in family plots where kin routinely visited on holidays and special anniversaries was once customary in Japan. But due to a number of factors—a high aging population aggregated in the city with declines in marriage and birthrates—family-based sociality is diminishing today. As more

Japanese become socially solo, this, too, becomes the condition of death: what some scholars have called the country's era of "dead without family." Signs of deceased lacking the requisite kin to care for them proliferate in stories of lonely death, abandoned urns on trains, and ancestral graves standing "empty." Yet new trends in mortuary practice are booming today that rejiggle both the sociological contours of mortuary care and the geographical emplacement of the dead. Through the lens of one such trend—the "closing of family graves" (*hakajimai*) in the countryside and the "reinterment of the remains" (*kaiso*) in high-rise urban columbarium where they are guaranteed "care" by non-familial staff—the essay examines the social, geographical, and ontological implications of Japan's reimagined necro-scape.

**SESSION: Geographies of death revisited in times of change and crisis: deathscapes, social change, politics and environment**

**24-06-2026** 10:30 - 12:10

**Negotiating the environmental imperative for sustainable deathscapes in the context of complex multicultural societies, climate and ecological crises**

Avril Maddrell <sup>1</sup>Katie McClymont <sup>2</sup>, Eugene Mohareb <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University of Reading , Reading, United Kingdom

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At a time characterised by mobilities, political change, environmental crises and war, attention to material, embodied and virtual deathscapes offer critical geographical perspectives on the spaces, practices and politics of human and non-human precarity and death. This paper focuses on the environmental imperative for sustainable funerary practices in cemeteries and crematoria in an era of climate and biodiversity crises. It identifies a) potential green space, biodiversity gains, and ecosystem services in the management of cemeteries (McClymont and Sinnott 2021; Rae 2021; Skar et al 2018); and goes on to identify b) sustainability-related information needs for funerary service users; and c) to reflect on socio-economic and cultural barriers to carbon footprint reducing and other sustainable funerary practices (Kmec et al 2026; Mathijssen 2025). In the latter, critical attention is paid to intersectional religious identity and associated required funerary practices. Existing majority cemeteries-crematoria norms in west European contexts can be experienced as infrastructural and necropolitical violence (Maddrell et al 2021), how then best to facilitate sustainable funerary practices and sites in relation to varying cultural practices, religious and secular obligations in multicultural societies?

**SESSION: Who keeps transit moving? Agency, power and spatiotemporal dimensions of public transport work in the Global North**

**24-06-2026** 10:30 - 12:10

**Temporal design of smoothness: rhythm analyses of tram drivers' labour**

Robert Osman <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic

Public transport is frequently conceptualised as public space, yet it is less commonly understood as public time. For both passengers and drivers, the smoothness of the journey is intertwined with

specific chrononormative expectations of rhythmic repetition. This paper explores the temporal architecture of the journey. Drawing on twenty interviews with public transport drivers in Brno, Czech Republic, the study presents rhythm analyses of both 'normal' and 'abnormal' journeys. Attention is directed towards how the polyrhythmicity of a tram driver's operation is composed during routine service, and what rhythmic shifts occur during unforeseen disruptions (accidents, mechanical failures, etc.). The routine operation is rhythmised by a regular cycle: monitoring traffic, braking, approaching the platform cautiously, stopping at the designated mark, opening the doors, observing passengers boarding, checking the schedule, ensuring the door area is clear, closing the doors, inspecting the platform, announcing the departure and accelerating. In contrast, extraordinary situations disrupt this rhythmicity, challenge chrononormative expectations, and require entirely different sets of activities from the driver. Depending on the scenario, these include self-assessment of health, securing the vehicle, checking the well-being of other parties and passengers, identifying involved individuals, evaluating the situation, contacting dispatch, documenting the scene, and informing passengers. Such moments place extreme demands on the driver. Findings suggest that while drivers are well-trained for the chrononormative rhythmicity of the journey, they often lack experience with the rhythmicity of emergencies. Consequently, the paper highlights two distinct rhythmicities of tram drivers' labour: one associated with smoothness and the other with managing interruptions. The study emphasises that labour within the context of moving infrastructure is not merely about spatial design, but fundamentally about temporal design.

## **SESSION: Who keeps transit moving? Agency, power and spatiotemporal dimensions of public transport work in the Global North**

**24-06-2026** 10:30 - 12:10

### **How do bus drivers experience their working conditions and opportunities for agency? A national survey study of bus drivers in Swedish public transport**

Jonas Ihlström<sup>1</sup> Chiara Vitrano<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Swedish national road and transport research institute, Linköping, Sweden

Public transport (PT) operators in Europe are struggling to recruit and retain bus drivers, making attention to working conditions increasingly urgent. The strict spatiotemporal organisation of the job, which structures drivers' daily rhythms through timetables, minute-based schedules, and operational guidelines, constrains but does not fully determine drivers' agency (i.e. their capacity to decide and act). How drivers navigate these conditions, and the degree of autonomy they can exert within them, is central to how they perceive and assess their working environment. The presentation summarises results from a 2025 survey targeting bus drivers working in PT across Sweden. The questionnaire covered, among other aspects, perceptions of opportunities for agency, job satisfaction, working hours, workload, and future prospects. It also collected background information (e.g. years of experience and type of bus company), as well as socio-demographic variables. A total of 849 bus drivers responded. We present results from (1) a descriptive analysis, showing that limited autonomy and low influence, especially regarding decision-making and scheduling, are common among drivers. (2) a regression analysis, examining factors associated with the intention to quit. The strongest predictors are low occupational pride, dissatisfaction with working hours, and limited autonomy (agency). (3) a qualitative thematic analysis of open-ended responses focusing on agency. Some respondents argue that the structure of bus operations leaves little room for independent decisions and others do not want more decision-making power due to the risk of being blamed. Those who want to have more autonomy wish for more trust and respect from their organisation; greater control over working hours; less surveillance and more meaningful involvement in the development of new technologies. The results contribute to a better understanding of how the spatiotemporalities of PT condition bus drivers' agency and, consequently, their perceived working conditions.

**SESSION: Who keeps transit moving? Agency, power and spatiotemporal dimensions of public transport work in the Global North**

24-06-2026 10:30 - 12:10

**Unpacking the bus driver shortage in Lombardy (Italy): Socio-spatial perspectives on actors, working conditions and occupational crisis.**

Francesca Lacqua <sup>1</sup>Matteo Colleoni <sup>1</sup>, Simone Caiello <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University of Milano-Bicocca , Milan, Italy

Public transport (PT) is undergoing a decisive transformation, driven by the crucial role in the sustainable transition, becoming relevant in international policies and strategies, despite the COVID-19 pandemic's negative impact on public transport demand. At the same time, the sector is marked by a growing bus driver shortage crisis that, despite the relevance in operators' agendas and in public debate, remains underexplored by scientific literature. This proposal answers the interest for a better understanding of the *Working conditions and everyday experiences of PT workers*, by focusing on the ongoing *bus driver shortage wave* in Lombardy region (Italy), while also addressing the lack of knowledge from the of Mobility and Urban Studies perspective. Part of a broader multi-method research project developed by the Department of Sociology and Social Research at Unimib in collaboration with the 6 PT agencies in Lombardy, this proposal presents preliminary findings from the qualitative fieldwork, combining tools such as multi-sited and mobile ethnography, participant observation, and in-depth interviews. The analysis provides a deeper understanding of the current occupational crisis through the voices of the key actors involved: these include PT agencies, companies, training bodies, trade unions, and workers. It unpacks the roles and relations between them, as well as the representations of the crisis and the response strategies. It also focuses on the lived experiences of drivers, highlighting challenging, expectations, routines, and workplace cultures transformations. In addition, the territorial perspective captures how the phenomenon is articulated and varies across different socio-spatial settings and service configurations in a region such as Lombardy, where geographical diversity and complex mobility patterns are coupled with a highly articulated governance and operational structure, with six transport agencies regulating a system composed of more than 30 companies, varying in history, territorial vocation, and size, including micro local operators and international players.

**SESSION: Who keeps transit moving? Agency, power and spatiotemporal dimensions of public transport work in the Global North**

24-06-2026 10:30 - 12:10

**From resilience to reworking: a historical analysis of agency and temporalities in Swedish bus drivers' work 1966-1991**

Jens Alm <sup>1</sup>Chiara Vitrano <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The Swedish National Road and Transport Research Institute, Lund, Sweden

In few other professions is the concept of time as central as it is in bus driving. Punctuality and detailed scheduling of activities constitute an integral part of bus drivers' everyday work, and prior research shows that drivers experience time pressure and limited agency over working time and events. However, while previous research mostly examines bus drivers and temporality in the era of New Public Management and public procurement, this paper zooms in on an earlier period, when Swedish local authorities held route concession monopolies in urban settings and acted as employers for PT workers. To explore bus drivers' experiences of different temporal aspects and how various

form of individual and collective agency materialized in Norrköping, Sweden between 1966 and 1991, we turn to Katz's three Rs' of agency: *resilience*, *reworking* and *resistance*. This framework has been further developed in labour geography to describe how workers and/or trade union representatives cope with, engage with and/or resist employer pressures. Inspired by Katz's framework and drawing on archival materials including meeting minutes, staff and union magazines, the study not only speaks to recent debates on mobile work but also goes into dialogue with labour geography. It demonstrates that while the introduction of NPM and procurement have intensified time pressure, bus drivers and the union have experienced increased time pressure since (at least) the 1960s. While individual agency and coping strategies of *resilience* largely characterize the earlier period of the study, we show how labour market developments in mid-1970s made collective agency of *reworking* more apparent in the 1980s. This shift is illustrated by the union's growing influence over various aspects of time and its role in recalibrating power relations with management.

## **SESSION: Labour geographies in the Nordic peripheries**

**24-06-2026** 16:10 - 17:30

### **Bringing labour geography into food system transitions: the case of the wild berry industry**

Charlotta Hedberg <sup>1</sup>Nils Pettersson <sup>1</sup>, Linn Axelsson <sup>2</sup>

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

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

After decades of precarious work conditions and serious exploitation of migrant workers, the wild berry industry in Sweden is now at the crossroads of transition. Serious critique on the role of labour from human rights organisations, media and research, together with a new, strict implementation of rules from the side of authorities, have resulted in dramatically decreasing volumes of migrant workers from Thailand to Sweden. It thus seems apparent that a substantial transformation is needed for the industry to survive and to take a sustainable, desirable direction. The interdisciplinary research field of sustainability transitions investigates thorough transformation processes, aiming for the phasing out of undesired trends in society and the institutionalization of sustainable alternatives. Research on food system transitions has primarily dealt with issues of sustainable production, dietary shifts, fair and localized rather than global value chains, and how systems are governed. The recent call for just sustainability transitions (JUSTRA), urging for aspects of morality and radical transitions, has allowed for increased emphasis also on aspects of labour justice in food system transitions research. In this presentation, we are adding findings from labour geography to this discussion, primarily taking into consideration the role of workers, and the role that contextual dimensions are playing, in sustainable food systems. The presentation highlights how the Swedish wild berry industry is intersected with a low-wage migration industry, or labour regime, where the "social innovation" of cheap labour long has been the fundamental business model. However, faced with external pressures, the industry is now searching for sustainable alternatives on how to deal with labour. We present a range of alternatives, which primarily diverge between actors searching for change within the current regime, and actors searching for alternative, more radical transformations of labour in the wild berry industry.

## **SESSION: Labour geographies in the Nordic peripheries**

**24-06-2026** 16:10 - 17:30

### **Transnational care networks: migrants in Iceland negotiating elderly care across borders**

Anna Wojtyńska <sup>1</sup>Unnur Dís Skaptadóttir <sup>1</sup>, Valdís Björt Guðmundsdóttir <sup>1</sup>

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

Transnational labour market relies on mobile and flexible workers. In many host countries, including Iceland, migrant workers are perceived as a solution to local shortages in specific sectors of the labour market. Concurrently, leaving for work abroad compromises migrants' care responsibilities towards their aging parents. How do migrant workers in Iceland navigate between their local work obligations and their transnational care responsibilities, especially in times of crisis when the need for hands on care becomes greater? The mobility rhetoric in Iceland is shaped by an assumed temporality of migrants, reflected in the view of them as functional and controllable, somehow better suited for hard, often physically exhausting low-paid work, and the unquestioned priority of the employment of Icelanders over foreigners. Additionally, labour migrants have reported feeling "invisible" as workers and without a voice in the formation of welfare policies that would adequately accommodate their needs as mobile population. Migrants in Iceland may therefore be experiencing multiple work precarities simultaneously. One based on their status as a foreign worker in Iceland and a second one relating to the strain –emotional and financial –and the uncertainty associated with performing care across borders. This paper presents preliminary results from an international project delving into the largely unexplored territory of transnational elderly care within the Baltic-Nordic region. By examining the perspectives of migrants from Lithuania, Sweden, and Ukraine, residing in Iceland, we aim to shed light on the diverse challenges they face in caring for ageing relatives in their origin countries. The paper highlights the emotional, practical, and financial strains associated with transnational caregiving –especially in a country located at the periphery of Europe –emphasizing the need for greater understanding and support for migrant families by uncovering what policies and support mechanisms are in place (or lacking) to address the needs of transnational caregivers.

## **SESSION: Labour geographies in the Nordic peripheries**

**24-06-2026** 16:10 - 17:30

### **Industrial meal production and the peripheral workers of the welfare state**

Julia Lagerman <sup>1</sup>Susanna Heldt Cassel <sup>1</sup>

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

The geographies of food cooked and served for the welfare sector are marked by invisible labour. In Swedish industrial areas and other secluded places, there are hidden mega restaurants in anonymous brick buildings, where women and men of different ages, from different backgrounds, cook thousands of litres of pea soup and fill thousands of tubs with meatballs that travel on conveyor belts, through large machines. The restaurants are owned by global mega-corporations, and their customers are Swedish regions, municipalities, and authorities. The dinner guests include hospital patients, home care users, school students, and inmates in detention centres and migration detention centres. Who cooks all that food, where is it cooked, and how does the hidden production of the welfare sector's vital meals take place? In this paper, we present findings from a study of large-scale meal production in a Swedish urban peripheral workplace. Drawing primarily on working participant

observations in the kitchen, we show the labour processes, working conditions, and division of labour behind meal production for welfare sectors. We then discuss the role of industrial meal production for welfare sectors in regional and global labour markets, as well as the geographic conditions shaping the sector in Sweden today, encouraging discussions of potential connections or comparisons with regions within Sweden and across the Nordic countries. Our paper seeks to inspire critical engagement with the concepts of peripheralization, intersectionality and social reproduction related to work and workers in the meal industry.

## **SESSION: Labour geographies in the Nordic peripheries**

**24-06-2026** 16:10 - 17:30

### **Shaping a green industry? Labour agency and the problem of emergence in offshore wind**

Ingrid Andrea Holland <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The Fafo Institute for Labour and Social Research, Oslo, Norway

The rapid expansion of offshore wind is central to contemporary green industrial strategies and is frequently framed as an opportunity to build new, sustainable industries. In countries such as Norway, this development is expected to draw on existing infrastructures, capabilities and labour from the petroleum sector. While debates on just transitions emphasise the importance of worker representation, existing approaches often assume relatively stable institutional contexts within which labour agency unfolds. This paper argues that such assumptions are ill-suited to emerging industries, where institutional arrangements, production models and value chains remain unsettled. Under these conditions, the question is not only how unions act within constraints, but how both constraints and possibilities for action are themselves in formation. The paper therefore reconsiders labour agency as contingent, relational and emergent, rather than as a fixed capacity exercised within given structures. Drawing on labour geography, the paper develops a conceptual approach to analysing trade union agency in processes of industrial formation. Empirically, it is informed by an ongoing qualitative study of trade unions' engagement with offshore wind development in Norway, based on interviews and document analysis. Rather than presenting completed findings, the paper uses early empirical insights to explore how evolving state strategies, industrial dynamics and competing priorities across and within unions shape the scope and direction of labour agency. By putting forward emergence as a central analytical problem, the paper contributes to debates on how to theorise worker agency in the context of green industrial transitions.

**SESSION: Resilience for whom? Tourism, vulnerability, and adaptation in Nordic and global settings**

24-06-2026 16:10 - 17:30

**Spring reverb at edge of the Arctic. Community resilience, social thresholds and sense of belonging during Aldrei fór ég suður festival in Ísafjörður**

Daniela DESPERATI <sup>1</sup>

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

This contribution examines the **dialectical relationship** between community resilience and the socio-spatial pressures generated by the *Aldrei fór ég suður* music festival in Ísafjörður, Iceland. Drawing upon ethnographic fieldwork, participant observation, and interviews, the study investigates how permanent inhabitants of the fjord face the tension between the vibrancy of new cultural encounters in a usually remote place, and the eventual psychological fatigue resulting from extreme overcrowding. The study applies and interprets the concept of **resilience implied in the festival's name** (Bubbi Morthens song "I Never Went South" as a local anthem of regional pride and resistance against the relocation to Reykjavík area imposed by socio-economic changes) as a discursive tool for understanding resident resilience in relation to a potentially impactful event such as a music festival. Each year, the community of Ísafjörður actively engages with the event suggesting that the sense of belonging may act against the temporarily alienating impacts of the festival and the treat of place commodification. The research has a double objective. First is to understand how music and place-based narratives serve as mediation tools for inhabitants to reclaim their environment during periods of hyper-visibility and hyper-tourism. Second, to evaluate the role of volunteering and their place attachment in negotiating the festival's potential under a post-growth tourism lens.

**SESSION: Resilience for whom? Tourism, vulnerability, and adaptation in Nordic and global settings**

24-06-2026 16:10 - 17:30

**Uncertainty, adaptation, and uneven resilience: rural tourism and the future of peripheral communities in Iceland**

Iris Halldorsdottir <sup>1</sup>

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

Tourism has become a key pillar of economic activity in many rural areas of Iceland and is often presented as a pathway to regional development and renewal. Yet such narratives can obscure the uneven conditions in which tourism operates and shift attention away from who is expected to carry the burden of adaptation. Drawing on qualitative interviews with tourism entrepreneurs in rural Iceland, this paper examines how uncertainty, adaptation, and resilience are experienced and negotiated in everyday business practice. The findings show that uncertainty is not only an external disruption but an embedded feature of the operating environment, shaped by seasonality, weather dependence, transport constraints, limited infrastructure, and fluctuating demand. While participants describe strong adaptive capacities, creative problem-solving, and informal collaboration, these responses also suggest that in this context, much of the burden of adjustment falls on small operators and peripheral communities. In this sense, resilience appears not simply as recovery or stability, but as ongoing adaptive work carried out under uneven structural conditions. The paper argues that tourism should not be treated as an automatic route to rural resilience. Instead, it calls attention to the

political and institutional conditions that shape vulnerability and determine who is expected to absorb risk, adapt, and keep tourism functioning. By focusing on rural Iceland, the paper contributes to wider debates on fairer and more ecologically viable tourism futures in Nordic and global settings.

**SESSION: Resilience for whom? Tourism, vulnerability, and adaptation in Nordic and global settings**

**24-06-2026** 16:10 - 17:30

**Stop, drop and scroll: Guiding tourists through fire, smoke and closures**

Billy Collins <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Thompson Rivers University, KAMLOOPS, Canada

Wildfire is the quick trigger of climate change – it starts suddenly and moves fast. It also trends towards tourism's high-season, significantly disrupting the visitor experience and planned itinerary. Such is the case in *Beautiful British Columbia*, a global destination that relies heavily on the tourism economy. And the engine of that economy is primarily the natural environment. As a result of climate change and the corresponding longer, drier, and more incident-prone summer season, industry and government have had to collaborate to develop a robust toolkit to respond to this new normal. Protocols, communications, regulations, closures, messaging and policy are some of the methods being employed to keep travelers informed, safe and remain - hopefully - inbound.

**SESSION: Restless Knowledge - Geographical Thinking in Nordic Education**

**24-06-2026** 16:10 - 17:30

**Geography as school subject in the Nordic countries Denmark, Sweden, Finland and Norway**

Per Jarle Sætre <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Høgskulen på Vestlandet, Sogndal, Norway

This article examines how the school subject geography appears in Nordic textbooks for lower secondary school. Textbooks are central teaching materials in education. Although ICT has been used more than before, textbooks are still important in the teaching at many schools. The purpose of this article is to show how the subject of geography is structured in textbooks in the Nordic countries: Norway, Sweden, Denmark, and Finland. The article addresses eight textbook series from the Nordics: three Norwegian, two Swedish, two Danish, and one Finnish textbook series.

**SESSION: Restless Knowledge - Geographical Thinking in Nordic Education**

**24-06-2026** 16:10 - 17:30

**Students' competencies in reading and interpreting maps and diagrams: Findings from a digital learning game and the Finnish matriculation examination in geography**

Panu Lammi <sup>1</sup>Helka Hirvonen <sup>2</sup>, Kristian Kiili <sup>2</sup>, Muukkonen Petteri <sup>1</sup>

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

<sup>2</sup> University of Tampere, Tampere, Finland

Maps and diagrams are powerful forms of visual media that people increasingly encounter in their studies, working lives, and everyday contexts—for example, in news, social media, various applications, and map services. With digitalization, almost anyone can produce maps and diagrams—even artificial intelligence. As powerful visual media, these can easily mislead readers, either unintentionally or intentionally, thereby influencing their views and opinions. This is why, in the contemporary era of mass media and AI, it is essential to equip young people with sufficient skills to critically read, interpret, and analyze these key forms of geographical information. In this presentation, we introduce findings on lower and upper secondary students' skills in reading and interpreting maps and diagrams. Our first dataset consists of data from a learning game, in which lower secondary students ( $n = 2,100$ ) across Finland played our self-developed digital learning game *Mediawatch*. In the game, players attempted to avoid being misled while interpreting various manipulated maps and diagrams, such as maps with flipped color scales and diagrams with manipulated axis ranges or directions. In addition, we analyzed upper secondary students' responses to two questions measuring map and diagram reading competencies in the Finnish national matriculation examination in geography ( $n = 600$  responses). Both datasets include Finnish- and Swedish-speaking students. The results from the learning game data suggest that many lower secondary students were able to find information from maps and diagrams, but they could be easily misled by manipulated visualizations. Based on the matriculation exam responses, upper secondary students were also able to find basic information from maps and diagrams, but their analytical skills, as well as their ability to accurately describe the purposes of visual elements in maps, were rather superficial for many students.

## **SESSION: Restless Knowledge - Geographical Thinking in Nordic Education**

**24-06-2026** 16:10 - 17:30

### **Geography education in Norwegian cultural landscapes: fieldwork, resource use and sustainability**

Kristine Fjordheim <sup>1</sup>

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

This presentation focuses on a restored farm-land flower meadow at Slettebakken in Bergen, Norway, which is used in geography teaching for university college students. Until around 1960, the area formed part of a larger hay meadow associated with farm management; it was subsequently converted into a lawn as part of large-scale post-war housing development, and since 2019 has gradually been restored through the reintroduction of traditional meadow species and annual mowing. Visits to this local cultural landscape open up opportunities for geographical thinking and powerful knowledge through lectures, simple field investigations, and scything in accordance with historical traditions. Through lectures and fieldwork in this meadow, students can gain access to disciplinary concepts and knowledge that enable them to understand relationships between nature, land use, politics, management, and historical change. Attention is given to how geographical concepts such as place, change, and nature–society relations can be used to analyse landscapes as historically and socially produced. The hay meadow can be read as a landscape with several historical layers: as a productive landscape associated with farming and resource use, as a lawn landscape shaped by post-war housing policy and ideals of modernisation, and as a restored mown meadow marked by contemporary concerns with biodiversity, cultural heritage, and sustainability. In this way, the field site can contribute to geographical Bildung and to knowledge-based and critical teaching about resource use and sustainability.

## **SESSION: Restless Knowledge - Geographical Thinking in Nordic Education**

**24-06-2026** 16:10 - 17:30

### **Thinking Nordic – representation of Norden in Geography Textbooks in Norwegian School History**

Erlend Eidsvik <sup>1</sup>

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

The Nordic region as a political idea resembles a sine wave stretched across time. Scandinavianism and Nordic regionalism surface at irregular intervals — as an imagined community, as a political idea, as a shared historical heritage. Textbooks in geography, in the school system reflect this to some degree; at the very least, we can observe shifts in emphasis across different geographical scales in textbooks throughout history. The relationship between cosine and tangent is a complicated one, but despite this curvilinear mathematical metaphor, the concrete work presented here is grounded rather in an interest in Nordic historical-geographical-political movements, combined with observations from textbook studies of how the Nordic region and Nordic identity are represented in educational materials. The article attempts to trace several (sine) lines in the representation of the Nordic region in Norwegian textbooks, from the Folk School Act of the late 19th century to today's renewed national curriculum. What values and political ideals are conveyed, at what scales do these representations operate (region, nation, state), and what possible explanations underlie the oscillations? The paper will apply different approaches and conceptualizations of geographical thinking as lenses to understand and analyse the different representations of the Nordic.

## **SESSION: Temporalities of Finance: Disruptions, Relocations, and Strategic Delay**

**24-06-2026** 16:10 - 17:30

### **Now but also in the Future – The Temporal Contradictions of Social Finance in Swedish Housing and Urban Policy**

Defne Kadioglu <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Nordic Urban Political Economy Network, Malmö, Sweden

In this presentation I will discuss social impact and social sustainability finance in the context of the changing Swedish welfare state with a particular focus on housing and neighbourhood development. Drawing on emerging discussions around the increasing involvement of global investors in housing and social policy and urban planning arrangements in order to diversify portfolios and sustain rentier models (Wijburg 2025; Kadioglu & Listerborn 2025; Waldon & Wijburg 2025; Urfels & Grander 2026), I debate how the temporal contradictions between private financial markets and the realms of the welfare state are problematized, negotiated and ignored within the wider 'ecosystem' of impact and ESG-investing. I draw on participatory observations at impact conferences and interviews within the Swedish housing, public and financial sector. My suggestion is that a multitude of different narratives, actors (financial and non-financial) and forms of organizations needs to be assembled to sustain the proposition of impact and ESG-investing as solution to social challenges. This presentation is part of a larger research project funded by FORMAS (2024-01453), being conducted together with Mats Fred (Lund University).

## **SESSION: Temporalities of Finance: Disruptions, Relocations, and Strategic Delay**

**24-06-2026** 16:10 - 17:30

### **Are AML regulations a threat to financial stability?**

Rybski Robert <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University of Warsaw, Warszawa, Poland

**Are AML regulations a threat to financial stability?** Abstract<sup>[1]</sup> The modern world of finance is full of contradictions, which are increasing in number all the time. Following the global financial crisis of 2008, a large number of new regulations have been introduced across a growing number of areas. However, this raises the obvious question of which of these regulations should prevail. For example, should financial stability rules take precedence over AML/CFT rules? This is not a theoretical dilemma. In the recent bankruptcy case of Credit Suisse regulators somehow ignored the fact that AML/CFT rules were behind the turmoil at Credit Suisse. This paper begins by analysing the Credit Suisse case. It then discusses why financial stability might be more important than AML regulations. A mirrored discussion then follows, examining why AML regulations might be superior to financial stability. Finally, this paper argues that AML/CFT rules are not oriented towards financial stability, and that this regulatory choice is not necessarily a bad one. [1] This work was supported by the National Science Centre, Poland within the project “Beware financial stability - reverse engineering of legal threats in the areas of technology, climate and anti-money laundering” (2023/51/D/HS5/00077).

## **SESSION: Temporalities of Finance: Disruptions, Relocations, and Strategic Delay**

**24-06-2026** 16:10 - 17:30

### **Are crypto firms too big to fail?**

Rybski Robert <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University of Warsaw, Warszawa, Poland

**Are crypto firms too big to fail?**<sup>[1]</sup> Abstract The financial sector is growing, but the expansion of crypto firms is much faster. This growth has attracted disproportionate public attention given that the value of aggregated crypto assets is still lower than that of traditional finance. A late regulatory offensive tries to catch up with the crypto firms development in the European Union (MICA Regulation) or to a narrower extent in the United States (GENIUS Act and the incoming CLARITY Act). However, as crypto firms grow in significance, the question arises as to whether they have already become too big to go bankrupt. If the answer is yes, should they be bailed out with taxpayer money, or should the cost be socialised by other crypto firms? This article argues that the existing regulatory framework lacks clear guidance on whether, and under what conditions, crypto firms will be saved from bankruptcy, and who will bear the cost of that operation. [1] This work is supported by the National Science Centre, Poland within the project “Beware financial stability - reverse engineering of legal threats in the areas of technology, climate and anti-money laundering” (2023/51/D/HS5/00077).

## **SESSION: Temporalities of Finance: Disruptions, Relocations, and Strategic Delay**

**24-06-2026** 16:10 - 17:30

### **Temporalities of Finance: Case of Cooperative Banks in Poland**

Tom Hashimoto <sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Vilnius University, Vilnius, Lithuania

<sup>2</sup> SGH Warsaw School of Economics, Warsaw, Poland

This paper investigates the 'temporalities' of finance through the case of cooperative banks in Poland, challenging the dominant association of finance with speed, immediacy, and technological acceleration. While global financial centres are often analysed through high-frequency transactions and rapid capital mobility, cooperative banks operate according to markedly different temporal logics: slow intermediation, enduring client relationships, and locally embedded decision-making. Building on research on Poland's uneven financial landscape, the paper situates cooperative banks within a hierarchy dominated by Warsaw yet sustained by a dense network of regional and local financial institutions. Drawing on descriptive statistics, transaction data, and expert interviews, it examines how these banks mediate financial flows between local economies and national or international circuits of capital. In doing so, it reveals that financialisation is not only spatially uneven but also temporally differentiated. Conceptually, the paper positions cooperative banks as sites of temporal friction. They embody forms of strategic delay and institutional continuity rooted in post-socialist transformation, standing in tension with accelerating pressures from digitalisation, regulatory change, and the reorganisation of labour through remote work. Rather than being residual or backward, these slower temporalities are shown to be constitutive of the financial system itself, stabilising and anchoring broader networks of financial activity. By foregrounding these dynamics, the paper argues that the geographies of finance must be understood as a coexistence of asynchronous temporal regimes. In this view, cooperative banks are not peripheral to global finance but integral to its reproduction, revealing how delay, persistence, and locality continue to shape financial systems in an era ostensibly defined by speed.

## **SESSION: Teaching Geography and Geoinformatics in the Era of AI and Large Language Models**

**24-06-2026** 16:10 - 17:30

### **LLM-Assisted Assessment in GIS Education: An Empirical Exploration of a Controversial Question**

Kamyar Hasanzadeh <sup>1</sup>Anna Saarinen <sup>1</sup>

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Large language models (LLMs) are rapidly entering higher education, raising fundamental questions about teaching, learning, and assessment. While much of the debate has focused on student use, a more controversial and less openly discussed issue has emerged among instructors: can these new tools responsibly support grading? This question is particularly pressing in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) education, where assessment involves evaluating not only technical correctness, but also spatial reasoning, methodological choices, interpretation, and visual communication. These characteristics make grading inherently time-consuming, cognitively demanding, and difficult to standardize, especially in larger classes where consistency and depth of feedback can become

challenging to maintain. In this study, we examine the potential role of LLMs in supporting assessment within GIS courses. We adopt a comparative approach in which grading is conducted both manually and with LLM assistance across multiple master-level courses representing different pedagogical contexts. Using shared, rubric-based evaluation criteria, we analyze how LLM-supported workflows engage with diverse forms of student work, how they shape feedback and grading practices, and how their evaluations align with and compare to manual instructor grading. Rather than focusing solely on performance metrics, we use this empirical setting to reflect on broader questions: What aspects of GIS assessment are amenable to LLM support? Where do tensions emerge between automated interpretation and disciplinary judgment? And how might such tools reshape the role of the instructor in evaluation processes? We argue for a constrained and transparent approach in which LLMs are positioned not as autonomous graders, but as rubric-guided interpreters that support structured assessment practices. In this framing, instructors remain central to judgment, while LLMs contribute to consistency, scalability, and feedback generation. The research outlines practical considerations and research directions for integrating LLMs into GIS education in ways that preserve pedagogical integrity while engaging with emerging technological possibilities.

## **SESSION: Teaching Geography and Geoinformatics in the Era of AI and Large Language Models**

**24-06-2026** 16:10 - 17:30

### **AI-Supported Exploration of Plate Tectonics and Landforms Using Google Earth and Copilot**

Per Schubert <sup>1</sup>

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

This presentation reports on a small-scale intervention case study examining how an AI-supported learning activity, integrating Google Earth and Copilot, can strengthen teacher students' understanding of plate tectonics and associated landforms, as well as their ability to adapt such activities for secondary school teaching. During the intervention, participants engage in a virtual fieldwork task in which they explore tectonic processes and landforms using Google Earth, with Copilot providing guidance, explanations, formative diagnostic assessments, and opportunities for deeper inquiry. After completing the activity, the students evaluate their own learning process and redesign the task for grade 9 learners. Their reflections and redesigned activities form the empirical basis for analyzing how AI-supported virtual fieldwork can shape both conceptual learning and pedagogical reasoning. The study illustrates how AI-enhanced virtual fieldwork can help teachers develop their technological pedagogical content knowledge by highlighting both opportunities and challenges of incorporating Google Earth and Copilot into teacher education and school teaching. The study offers insight into how AI tools can assist learners' work with complex spatial data, support sense-making, and stimulate reflection on disciplinary content. At the same time, it reveals tensions associated with the integration of AI in teaching, including issues of accuracy, over-reliance, and the need for critical evaluation of AI-generated explanations. More broadly, the study contributes to ongoing discussions about meaningful and responsible use of AI in education and calls attention to key pedagogical considerations for emerging digital tools.

## **SESSION: Teaching Geography and Geoinformatics in the Era of AI and Large Language Models**

**24-06-2026** 16:10 - 17:30

### **Geospatial Education in Iceland: Mapping Skills Supply, Demand, and Development Pathways**

Benjamin David Hennig <sup>1</sup>Emmanuel Pagneux <sup>2</sup>, Tómas Halldórsson Alexander <sup>3</sup>, Gro BM Pedersen <sup>4</sup>

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

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<sup>3</sup> Land and Forest, Reykjavik, Iceland

<sup>4</sup> Icelandic Meteorological Office, Reykjavik, Iceland

Geospatial technologies have become increasingly important because they support data-driven decision-making, resource management, emergency response, and a wide range of applications across public and private sectors. In many European countries this has been met with the development of advanced GIS and remote sensing curricula. In Iceland, however, the situation remains different. The national teaching landscape in GIS and remote sensing is fragmented and lacks a complete, coordinated curriculum that would be needed in such a confined educational environment. This paper presents findings from a national government-funded collaborative scoping project aimed at strengthening geospatial education at the higher education level in Iceland. Its purpose was to examine current provision, engage stakeholders, and map available resources in order to formulate recommendations that strengthen the learning experience of students and professionals in these fields. The project includes a systematic review of the supply of skills in the higher education and training sector, both in Iceland and abroad, alongside an assessment of labour market demand, with particular attention to overlaps, gaps, and areas for improvement. Although centred on the Icelandic context, the project speaks to wider Nordic and European discussions about how geography, geoinformatics, and spatial data science education should evolve in a period of rapid technological change. In particular, the mapping of existing provision creates a basis for reflecting on how curricula can respond to emerging expectations around digital, analytical, and critical competences, including those increasingly shaped by AI and large language models. In this respect, the project's findings are relevant to ongoing debates about the future balance between conceptual understanding, practical and technical skills, and the capacity to critically engage with new tools and forms of knowledge production. Such debates are particularly relevant across the Nordic countries with their relatively small and often also dispersed higher education systems.

## **SESSION: Workshop: Trans-Inclusive Fieldwork Workshop: Guidance, Gaps, and New Pathways**

**24-06-2026** 16:10 - 17:30

### **Trans-Inclusive Fieldwork Workshop: Guidance, Gaps, and New Pathways**

Martin Zebracki <sup>1</sup>Robin Hayward <sup>2</sup>, Tilen Kolar <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University of Leeds, Leeds, United Kingdom

<sup>2</sup> Independent Researcher, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

In a “restless” world, the rights and safety of minoritarian populations, including LGBTQ+ people, face mounting challenges that bear directly on researchers’ realities of designing and conducting safe and inclusive fieldwork. This workshop provides an interactive discussion of guidance developed on fieldwork practices that are safe and inclusive for LGBTQ+ researchers, with a new bespoke focus on trans people. With the support of Research England Enhancing Research Culture funding, we have

collaboratively developed this guidance drawing from workshops with peer researchers, with a view to publishing it at our free-to-access Leeds Inclusive Fieldwork Hub ([inclusivefieldwork.leeds.ac.uk](http://inclusivefieldwork.leeds.ac.uk)) after the conference. We will discuss key gaps in scholarship, as well as in existing relevant guidance resources, regarding how trans safety and inclusivity intersects with fieldwork design and execution, and how new guidance may fill this need and outline pathways for future research. We seek to push beyond a one-way presentation of our resources through offering a semi-structured discussion with the audience, inviting participants to share their experiences and insights – although attending solely as a listener would be equally welcome. This would help to shape priorities in the finalisation of our guidance and for where to go next with future work on enhancing trans-inclusive fieldwork. Please note that we will seek consent from the audience to use their perspectives to inform the ongoing guidance development. No preparation is required and everyone is welcome. We strongly encourage LGBTQ+ allies to join us. For any queries, please contact Martin Zebracki at [M.M.Zebracki \[AT\] leeds.ac.uk](mailto:M.M.Zebracki@leeds.ac.uk).

### **SESSION: Documentary: FIRE, WATER, EARTH, AIR – Climate Change in the Nordic Region Through Film**

**24-06-2026** 16:10 - 17:30

#### **Documentary: FIRE, WATER, EARTH, AIR – Climate Change in the Nordic Region Through Film**

Rico Kongsager <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Danish Institute for International Studies, Copenhagen, Denmark

This session offers a screening of the documentary ***FIRE, WATER, EARTH, AIR***, a cinematic outcome of the **CliCNord research project**, which investigates climate change impacts and adaptation strategies in Nordic communities. Directed by **Phie Ambo** (DK) with co-directors Ewa Cederstam (SE), Rógvi Rasmussen (FE), and Janne Lindgren (NO), the film brings together four local film crews to portray how climate change is experienced across Denmark, Sweden, Norway, and the Faroe Islands. Through the elemental framing of fire, water, earth, and air, the documentary captures the lived realities of unprecedented wildfires, floods, landslides, and storms. It features passionate individuals, retired emergency responders, children, politicians, and scientists, weaving together personal narratives with scientific insights from the CliCNord project. The result is a powerful and hopeful portrayal of how people in small communities are adapting to a rapidly changing world—and how research can be translated into concrete, locally relevant solutions. The session will begin with a short introduction by **Rico Kongsager**, project leader of CliCNord, who will provide context on the research behind the film and the collaborative process that shaped its development. Following the full screening of the documentary, the session will conclude with a brief moderated discussion on the role of film and visual storytelling in climate research. This closing dialogue will reflect on how documentaries can contribute to climate research and public engagement, and foster dialogue between researchers, communities, and policymakers. By showcasing ***FIRE, WATER, EARTH, AIR***, this session aims to spark interdisciplinary reflection on the power of storytelling in geography and climate studies, and to highlight the potential of creative collaborations in research dissemination. **Format:-** Introduction by Rico Kongsager (CliCNord)-- Full screening of ***FIRE, WATER, EARTH, AIR*** - see *trailer*- Short closing discussion on documentaries in research

**SESSION: Book presentation: Second edition of a Routledge Handbook of Local and Regional Development**

24-06-2026 16:10 - 17:30

**Book presentation: Second edition of a Routledge Handbook of Local and Regional Development**

Nadir Kinossian <sup>1</sup>Margaret Cowell <sup>2</sup>, Ashima Sood <sup>3</sup>, Max Rousseau <sup>4</sup>, Thilo Lang <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography, Leipzig, Germany

<sup>2</sup> Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, United States

<sup>3</sup> Anant National University, Ahmedabad, India

<sup>4</sup> Université de Lyon, Lyon, France

**Session organiser:** Nadir Kinossian, Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography, Germany  
The global financial crash of 2008 indicates the end of the era of relative economic stability, globalisation-induced growth and market expansionism. The financial crisis was followed by a series of crises (Covid-19 pandemic, migration, wars, cost of living, intensifying climate change) contributing to the environment of geo-economic and geo-political uncertainties. These changes have affected countries, regions, communities, and households worldwide, often disproportionately affecting the most disadvantaged places and groups. Persistent geographical inequalities, growing scepticism about political institutions, discontent, and loss of hope have manifested in the phenomena of 'left behind places' - with specific geographical patterns and repercussions for political systems and the people governed by them. This panel presents the second edition of a Handbook of Local and Regional Development (Routledge 2027). With 50-plus chapters, the handbook offers reflections on the implications of polycrisis for local and regional development. During the panel, the editorial team will address the following topics:- A critical review of the current conceptual approaches to local and regional development;- Rethinking of key concepts, assumptions, and values connected to development;- Reflections upon the politics and policy of local and regional development in diverse geographical and political contexts.- Perspectives from localities and regions that appear in the shade of economic growth and prosperity.- Experiences of working on a handbook project from idea to implementation.

**Presentations:** 1) Presenting the second edition: Local and Regional Development in the times of polycrisis Max Rousseau, Université de Lyon, Lyon, France <max.rousseau@cirad.fr> (presenting author); Co-authors: Cowell, Margaret; Sood, Ashima; Lang, Thilo; Kinossian, Nadir 2) 'Cross-sectoral transition metrics in positive energy districts' Siddharth Sareen, Fridtjof Nansen Institute, Norway ssareen@fni.no (presenting author) 3) Statecraft in China's party-state regionalism Weikai Wang, University of Liverpool, UK <weikai.wang@liverpool.ac.uk> (presenting author); Co-author: Fulong Wu, University College London, UK 4) New trajectories for local and regional change? Green growth vs degrowth John Cox, Glasgow University, UK <John.Cox@glasgow.ac.uk> (presenting author); co-author: David Waite, Glasgow University, UK

## **SESSION: Emergent Diversity in Urban Governance in an Era of Polycrisis III**

**24-06-2026** 16:10 - 17:30

### **Co-Producing Alternative Consumption Spaces: Creative Youth in Experimental Community Governance in Shanghai**

Jingyi Qin <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University College of London, London, United Kingdom

Amid post-pandemic economic slowdown, fiscal austerity, and rising youth precarity, China's major cities have seen the rise of alternative consumption spaces that combine retail with low-cost cultural programs. Often embedded within existing community infrastructure, these venues are co-produced by creative youth and other local actors, offering insights into how urban regeneration can occur outside purely state-led or market-driven models. This paper examines an experiment at the Xinhua Community Development Center in Shanghai, where a social organization and creative youth jointly run a "consumption cooperative" that integrates value-driven goods, modular spatial governance, and place-based revitalization. The study asks: How are new consumption spaces produced through the alternative practices of creative youth? It adopts a bottom-up lens beyond state-centric and market-led accounts of Chinese community development. Methodologically, it draws on four months of fieldwork, including semi-structured interviews with organizers and young entrepreneurs; participant observation as consumer and event initiators; and digital trace analysis of social media posts. Findings show that young creatives, who are initiated by a mid-level social organization, exercise everyday autonomy by re-purposing institutional resources for self-initiated projects, while their affective and low-cost labor is also mobilized to revive assets under austerity. Within a nuanced actor network, youth occupy multiple positions, such as entrepreneurs, consumers, and prosumers, while the social organization mediates between grassroots initiatives, market actors, and subdistrict governance expectations. Over time, youth visibility increases as the organization's public role recedes, signaling a subtle shift in local governance. The paper contributes empirically by documenting youth-led place-making in urban China, and conceptually by linking Chinese community governance to wider debates on hybrid urban governance, everyday experimentation, and the politics of urban transformation.

## **SESSION: Emergent Diversity in Urban Governance in an Era of Polycrisis III**

**24-06-2026** 16:10 - 17:30

### **How Social Organisations Exercise Agency under State Entrepreneurialism in China**

Yining Liu <sup>1</sup>Fangzhu Zhang <sup>1</sup>, Fulong Wu <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University College London, London, United Kingdom

This paper examines how social organisations exercise agency within China's urban governance through the lens of state entrepreneurialism. Conceptualising agency as relational and interpretive, the paper shows how social organisations translate state agendas into concrete community practices in ways that simultaneously enable organisational development and reinforce governance objectives. Drawing on a case study of the Chuangzhi Community Garden in Shanghai, the paper demonstrates how agency is exercised through alignment and non-scripted experimentation within the broader governance paradigm. Rather than framing state–society relations as a binary of resistance or as a fixed model of state-led co-production, the analysis shows how social organisations navigate

governance incentives to develop projects that are both socially viable and politically productive for the state. By tracing three interrelated dimensions of organisational intention and practice within a single project, the paper contributes to debates on state–society relations in China by showing how social agency extends state capacity, and by offering an interpretive explanation of how governance capacity and legitimacy are produced through socially embedded practices.

### **SESSION: Emergent Diversity in Urban Governance in an Era of Polycrisis III**

**24-06-2026** 16:10 - 17:30

#### **Tactics in Transition: The Translation and Institutionalisation of Tactical Urbanism in China**

Qianyuan Chen <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University College London, London, United Kingdom

This study examines the socio-spatial politics of tactical urbanism in the context of China's transition from expansion-driven development toward community-centered urban regeneration. In response to escalating fiscal constraints and the polycrisis of over-expansion, national policies have pivoted from large-scale development toward everyday urban experiences, as exemplified by the "complete communities" initiative. This shift provides fertile ground for tactical urbanism. Its temporality, flexibility, and low cost perfectly align with state agendas navigating economic limits while promoting socio-environmental benefits. Unlike Western contexts where tactical urbanism remains primarily a bottom-up, citizen-led practice, in China, these interventions are increasingly translated into policy-aligned instruments, such as micro-regeneration (微更新) and the community planner (社区规划师) system. Embedded within formal governance, these practices fundamentally reshape institutional logic. Focusing on selected Chinese communities, this study traces how non-permanent interventions interact with state, power, and community resident under the imperatives of people-oriented policies. It investigates why some interventions become institutionalized, scaled, and sustained, while others remain informal or decline. Through qualitative case studies combining field observation, policy document analysis, and stakeholder interviews, this research examines the underlying governance mechanisms. Ultimately, this study reconceptualizes tactical urbanism as a governance-embedded practice that aligns flexible interventions with broader complete-community objectives. By highlighting the interplay between tactical practices and institutional frameworks, it contributes to a mechanism-based understanding of how adaptive urbanism advances socio-spatial outcomes within contemporary Chinese governance transformations.

### **SESSION: Emergent Diversity in Urban Governance in an Era of Polycrisis III**

**24-06-2026** 16:10 - 17:30

#### **Governing Culture-Led Regeneration: Statecraft and Culture as an Asset in Shougang Industrial Park**

Sherry Liu <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University College London, London, United Kingdom

Rapid urban transformation in Beijing unfolds amid a conjunctural polycrisis characterised by a real estate downturn, weakening land-based finance, and a slow post-COVID recovery in consumption.

While economic theories of cultural capital conceptualise culture as a stock of assets capable of generating cultural and economic value, less attention has been paid to how culture is governed and mobilised as a strategic asset under conditions of economic uncertainty. Using the case of Shougang Industrial Park, this study examines how the state and state-owned enterprises leverage cultural resources within a reconfigured mode of urban statecraft, in which culture is deployed to secure long-term economic value, legitimise large-scale intervention, and condition land development. Rather than functioning solely as commodities, cultural assets enable deferred value capture through phased development, long-term leasing, establishment of dedicated investment funds and the attraction of innovative industries. Further decision-making authority and financial risk are borne primarily by state-owned actors, reflecting the political obligations embedded within culture-led regeneration. Subsequently, demonstrating how cultural interventions serve both political and economic objectives. Building on theories of cultural capital, this paper conceptualises these practices as a process of “cultural assetisation”, highlighting how entrepreneurial imperatives of growth and land valorisation are recalibrated through managerial forms of statecraft oriented towards risk management, political obligation, and territorial logic of urban governance. It further contributes to debates in urban political economy by demonstrating how culture is governed as an asset under economic uncertainty.

## **SESSION: Restless ecologies: Vegetal flux in a world of change II**

**24-06-2026** 16:10 - 17:30

### **Undoing the landscape: conceptualizing the anti-landscape of invasive alien trees**

Tonje Sommarset <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> NTNU, Trondheim, Norway

Inherent in invasive plant management are questions of landscape, morality, and negotiations about where species belong. Moreover, the presence of invasive trees in culturally significant landscapes critically challenges established views on landscape qualities and which futures management efforts should aim towards realizing. By utilizing the concept of anti-landscape, which denotes landscapes that have ceased to function as societal and environmental infrastructure, the article aims to explore how moral ideas about landscapes and their envisioned opposite, the anti-landscape, shape perceptions of invasive vegetation. Empirically, the article draws upon the case of 20<sup>th</sup> century afforestation efforts in the otherwise treeless coastal landscapes of Norway, followed by present-day environmental focus on invasive alien tree removal and heathland restoration. Though seemingly opposites, both the historical afforestation plans and the present-day initiatives to eradicate the invasive alien trees, can be analyzed through the theoretical lenses of anti-landscape and moral landscapes. Within both the planting and the eradication practices, the analysis finds moral narratives of restoring landscapes lost and narrating future possibilities of better, more liveable landscapes. Normative ideas present in the material, furthermore, center around societal visions of taking action against environmental degradation as well as addressing societal and economic challenges through landscape management and development. The article therefore argues that ideas of anti-landscapes carry inherent questions of morality, normativity and practice, which can help illuminate why certain landscapes, and certain invasive plants, become sites of conflicting societal needs in times of transition.

## **SESSION: Restless ecologies: Vegetal flux in a world of change II**

**24-06-2026** 16:10 - 17:30

## **Monsters in the Garden: Japanese Knotweed and the Limits of Control**

Maja Lagerqvist <sup>1</sup>

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

Few plants have stirred as much unease as Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*). Brought to Europe from East Asia in the late 19th century as a garden plant, it has since become a symbol of disorder –feared, legislated against, and relentlessly fought. Initially admired for its beauty and vigor, over time, it was recast as an intrusive and unwanted presence, first as a weed, later as a “monster plant” within the ominous, and media triggered, discourse of “invasive alien species”. Focusing on the Swedish context, this presentation examines representations of the plant in daily press coverage from the late 19th century, tracing how its meanings have shifted and what these transformations reveal about society and its attempts to manage and make sense of nature. Rather than merely identifying knotweed as a monster –media does that clearly– the study traces the transition into that framing and explores what narratives of fears, monstrosity and invasiveness may signify and do. Drawing on monster theory and critical theory, the analysis explores how the plant spurs reactions by its unruly vitality, refusal to die or stay put, defiance of order and categories by shapeshifting between good/bad, belonging/ non-belonging, cultivated/feral and its embodiment of contemporary ecological, economic, and xenophobic anxieties. The plant exposes the fragility of the belief that nature can be fully contained and ordered through knowledge, classification, and control: what we sought to dominate now exceed and haunts and shape us in return. Monsters are our creations, mirroring what we fear. Knotweed is a certainly one of our own makings. Imported, planted, cherished, then vilified and targeted, all in the pursuit of beauty, commerce, and order. By tracing this transformation, the presentation explores what the making of such vegetal monsters reveals about society’s fraught attempts to order a green world that refuses to obey.

## **SESSION: Restless ecologies: Vegetal flux in a world of change II**

**24-06-2026** 16:10 - 17:30

### **Telling time and multiple temporalities with trees – or how to disestablish an Arboretum**

Gunhild Setten <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Norges teknisk-naturvitenskapelige universitet, Trondheim, Norway

In June 2024, and with 12 against 3 votes, Trondheim city council decided to disestablish what was known as Lippe’s Arboretum located in Bymarka, the peri-urban woods to the west of the city. The primary justification for logging was, according to the City council, to conserve Bymarka as a whole. It was argued that because of a changing climate, numerous foreign trees, such as the West American Hemlock, are posing increasing threats to local [bio]diversity. Logging was completed in late winter 2025 and marked the formal – and controversial – end of the Arboretum. The eradication of foreign trees in Bymarka is but one of a, by now, huge number of examples across the globe of disputed species and, by implication, (local) landscape politics. A lot has thus been said already about the complexity, costs and paradoxes of current species management and control. Somewhat less has been said about the multiple temporalities that lead entangled lives in landscapes where species composition is disputed. In this contribution I understand the logging in Bymarka as order and control measures, and I use the unmaking of the Arboretum to problematise notions of time, temporality, the past and, by implication, the future. More specifically, I engage time and temporality in three distinct, yet entangled and partly chronological ways, that is, through ‘interruption’, ‘intervention’ and ‘interval’ respectively. I suggest that these multiple temporalities help in disentangling the (paradoxical) landscape that the City council deems a correct landscape sometime in the future. They also help to shed light on some future challenges that any species’ deep cultural ecologies represent and are frequently denied

## **SESSION: Restless ecologies: Vegetal flux in a world of change II**

**24-06-2026 16:10 - 17:30**

### **Cultivating resistance with weeds; Figuring new 'Countrymen' in Indigenous worlds**

Jennifer Atchison <sup>1</sup>Bernadette Simon <sup>2</sup>, Le-Anne Bannan <sup>1</sup>

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

<sup>2</sup> Marralam Community, Northern Territory, Australia

The survival of Indigenous people in the modern settler-colonial state is a carefully choreographed response to increasing intensities and reconfigurations of oppression, and discursive and physical violence. Here we consider how places and practices of Indigenous resistance to settler colonial occupation are cultivated with the more-than-human world, specifically how plants figured as weeds by contemporary environmental governance are positioned and have agency in Indigenous worlds. Drawing on collaborative research with Marralam Community and Gajerrong Country in the Northern Territory, Australia, we illustrate how Indigenous people continue to resist and carve out their own agenda in the face of social and economic marginalization and rapid development pressure, with a focus on relationships with weeds. Dominant environmental and biosecurity narratives of weeds as threats and a singular focus on their management or removal highlight them as objects of control, or as risky newcomers. This overlooks the contingent and affective politics in which Indigenous relations with weeds may develop. Illustrated through fieldwork encounters between Gajerrong people and settler pastoralists and weeds, we offer a counter argument that as part of Country, weeds become awkward allies. Weeds may be problematic, but also facilitate access to Country, help to perform good neighbourliness when desirable, or signal discontent. Cultivating resistance with weeds, Gajerrong people offer new modalities and directions for decolonizing purist ecologies and development hegemonies, where surprising histories are brought to light; where discourses of loss, alienation, threat and/or enclosure can be re-narrated; and where justice is in focus.