



SESSION: Capital, Labor, and Supply Chains in Agro-industrial Crises I

25-06-2026 08:30 - 09:50

Promise and pitfalls of mandatory due diligence for enhancing worker power in global value chains: the case of South African wine

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Due diligence regulations (DDR) are rapidly emerging across the global North as a new approach to governing social and environmental conditions in global value chains (GVCs). Laws such as Germany's Supply Chain Due Diligence Act and the EU Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive seek to hold multinational firms legally accountable for labour violations in their supply chains. While these initiatives represent an important shift from voluntary private standards towards state-led public regulation, we know little about whether and how DDR can enhance the power of workers and civil society actors in the global South. This paper examines the extent to which DDR enhances worker power in South African wine value chains. Conceptually, it draws on the power resources approach from labour geography and GVC studies to analyse how labour organizations and civil society actors mobilize DDR as a source of power vis-à-vis capital. Empirically, the analysis is based on interviews and two case studies of transnational labour-civil society coalitions engaging with Germany's Supply Chain Due Diligence Act. The findings show that DDR is currently used primarily as a source of discursive power. Workers, trade unions and NGOs invoke due diligence laws to legitimize claims, pressure lead firms and open spaces for negotiation. In some instances, this has contributed to improved working conditions and strengthened worker organization at farm level. However, DDR's potential to operate as a transnational institutional power resource remains uneven and contingent. Its effectiveness is constrained by limited awareness of the regulations, opaque value chains and political efforts to weaken due diligence requirements. The paper concludes that DDR holds promise for enhancing worker power in GVCs, but only when supported by strong transnational coalitions, knowledge-sharing and complementary worker organizing strategies. Without these, DDR risks remaining a symbolic rather than durable mechanism for reshaping capital-labour relations.

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Challenges to Canada's Food Produce Sector in an age of Cascading Crisis

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Canada's food produce supply chain is deeply integrated with global chains, but especially the United States. The reliance on the US has been challenged with the rise of US protectionism and the ensuing geopolitical tariff war. As a result, Canada's food sovereignty and the need for innovation in Canada's food system has never been more urgent. This paper reviews innovation challenges and opportunities in Canada's food system, with attention on Ontario's food produce sector (e.g., greenhouse grown tomatoes, peppers, cucumber, and lettuces). In addition to the new geopolitical uncertainties, challenges include high labour costs, frigid winters, unpredictable weather fuelled by climate change, and pressures to adopt new technologies. This paper will report on the rise of AI and automation in the food produce industry and examine some of the economic development policies behind the trend. Reporting on interviews with multiple actors, questions arise, for example regarding the social costs of displacing migrant labour and the energy costs associated with AI and intensive datacentre use. There are also questions around the sovereignty issues associated with foreign (U.S.)-owned AI and software packages and potential "lock-in" and path dependency of automated, software-as-service systems. This paper concludes with reflections on what the Canadian story tells us about food sovereignty, innovation, sustainability transitions and regional economic development. Concerns emerge as to whether we are replacing one form of dependency for another. In our bid to grow Canada's food sovereignty are we growing one end product of "local" with a "lock in" to a foreign-owned digital infrastructure ecosystem? For years, scholars wrote about the political economy of the seed and we must wonder if we are witnessing a new form of digital colonialism in the form of the political economy of the automated digital infrastructural systems built behind the operation of this local type of sector.

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Ideology and Supply Chain Management under Capitalism's Logistical Turn

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The emerging field of critical logistics studies has so far remained relatively unconcerned with the ideological aspects of logistics, arguably central to understanding the role of ideology in ongoing spatial reconfigurations of late capitalism. This paper examines the business literature on supply chain management (SCM) to uncover its ideological implications. While critical literature has previously portrayed logistics management as a "fantasy" characterized by seamlessness and circulatory smoothness, we contend that an engagement with ideology from an Althusserian perspective offers deeper insights. SCM literature exhibits a keen awareness of the frictions, turbulence, and disruptions facing contemporary supply chains. In its efforts to transcend these challenges, SCM espouses the ideology of logistical seamlessness, as institutionalized in business schools and corporate training programs around the globe. Moreover, as ideology, SCM also seeks to interpellate individuals, actively striving at remaking subjects – managers and other participants in supply chain operations – positioned in critical roles that underpin the ongoing reproduction of logistical capitalism. Through this examination, the paper offers initial suggestions for a materialist theory of ideology under capitalism's logistical turn. This is especially relevant given the planetary character of agricultural supply chains.

SESSION: Impact of global land rush on local communities. Contestations over foreign land investments

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Restless Arctic futures: Community wellbeing and local perspectives from the Southern Westfjords, Iceland

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Arctic rural development has long been framed by growth-oriented and neoliberal paradigms, often constraining transitions toward sustainability. This study explores how community wellbeing can inform more holistic and resilient development pathways in the rural Arctic. Community wellbeing is approached as a multidimensional concept encompassing social, economic, environmental, cultural, and political conditions that enable communities to flourish beyond aggregated individual wellbeing. Using a public participation geographic information system (PPGIS), this research examines residents' perceptions of opportunities, threats, and desirable futures in the Southern Westfjords of Iceland. The results indicate that opportunities for improving quality of life are strongly associated with transportation and accessibility, fisheries and aquaculture, and tourism. However, these sectors also feature prominently as perceived threats, alongside concerns related to governance, employment, and community life. Looking toward 2035, respondents express cautious optimism, emphasizing the importance of natural landscapes for identity, wellbeing, and regional attractiveness. While growth in key sectors, like aquaculture and tourism, is anticipated, tensions persist around competing resource uses and limited local involvement in decision-making. The conclusions highlight that sustainable development in rural Arctic communities depends on more than economic opportunities. Strengthening social infrastructure, fostering inclusion, and improving participatory governance are likewise critical. Hence, in a shifting geopolitical context where security concerns may overshadow sustainability agendas, embedding equitable and locally grounded participatory processes becomes essential. Enhancing community wellbeing relies on the quality of engagement processes that align diverse interests toward shared, place-based futures.

SESSION: Impact of global land rush on local communities. Contestations over foreign land investments

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Kernels of change: navigating land grabs and authoritarian-populist state-making in rural Hungary

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Over the past decade, Hungary has become a revealing site to examine the intersections of the rising global interest in farmland and nationally specific projects of authoritarian-populist state-making. Mobilising the spectre of foreign land speculations, Viktor Orbán's regime has auctioned vast tracts of state-owned land to a politically connected new agrarian elite, while agri-business actors continue to shape Hungary's rural landscape under a state that now selectively mediates access to land and associated resources. These processes have had profound impacts on rural livelihoods, yet little is known about how smallholders, often portrayed as politically disengaged in post-socialist Central and Eastern Europe, navigate these transformations in their everyday lives. Drawing on ongoing doctoral research, this presentation explores how smallholders in rural Hungary respond to state-supported land concentration through situated everyday practices, lived experiences of past agrarian

transformations, and future imaginaries of land control. Preliminary findings suggest that smallholders' responses complicate the dichotomy between resistance and compliance: quiet manoeuvring, subtle renegotiations of social ties, and the reactivation of memories of past mobilisations coexist with narratives infused with fear, resignation, and cautious hope. By situating these practices within broader debates on land grabbing and authoritarian-populist state-making, the paper shows that struggles over land control are at once struggles over rural futures. The case of Hungary illuminates dynamics common across Central and Eastern Europe, where the legacies of state socialism, neoliberal restructuring, and the exhaustion of earlier transformative repertoires shape how smallholders confront the current polycrisis. In this context, their everyday practices reveal not only local ways of navigating state-supported land concentration but also the tentative emergence of alternative agrarian futures in a region that urgently needs new, resilient eco-social pathways.

SESSION: Impact of global land rush on local communities. Contestations over foreign land investments

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Land rush under the banner of mitigating climate change – Cases of growing conflicts in Icelandic rural area

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International agreements aiming at fighting global warming are one of key drivers of land rush and land grabbing or green grabbing in the 21st century. Large-scale land deals in the Global South have been referred to as neo-colonialism and accumulation by dispossession by critical scholars, due to negative impacts on local communities (Neef et al, 2023). Although the Nordic countries have high share of renewables in their energy consumption, demand on more land in rural areas being allocated to production of wind energy has met resistance in many municipalities. The paper focuses on the growing contestations in Iceland over land rush by mainly foreign investors seeking land in rural areas for wind farms. Other cases of land deals by foreign investors that fall under the banner of mitigating climate change are plans about large scale export of pumice to produce cement with lower carbon footprint. The third case, involving both Icelandic and foreign companies, is buying farmland for planting trees for carbon sequestration. All these actual or planned land use changes are contested, both by nature conservation organisations and people in affected rural areas. They touch on many aspects of sociospatial power relations and environmental justice. Results from a new survey will be presented that show strong resistance among rural inhabitants to land investments for both wind farms and pumice export, but mixed views on tree planting which is a common source of extra income to farmers. Analysis of open questions shows mistrust towards foreign land investors claiming climate change mitigation as main motive and worries about future of rural societies in the wake of these investments and changes in land use.

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Buying land amenities for pleasure and profit while closing the commons

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The transformation of land, water and forests, which were once considered to be local assets and sources of livelihoods, into global capital investments (Zoomers & Otsuki, 2017), raises questions on future sustainability and resilience of many rural communities. Both material and affective land imaginaries (Sippel & Visser, 2021) can create conflicts at various geographical scales in the era of land rush. Iceland has seen an increasing pressure from both domestic and foreign investors interested in buying wilderness and farmlands with motives of nature conservation and tourist resort developments. While this type of land rush varies between regions the ongoing or planned project in many cases represent a large scale intervention or exclusion of public access to the commons. A rising tendency of making parking lots with access by paying, driven by private leasers has also highlighted a creeping and steadily growing tendency of privatization of land for profit. In this presentations examples of these types of implications will be presented ranging from a private spa company large scale intervention into a national park in the South, a buy up of a whole river valley in North East for declared conservation purposes, an exclusive resort buildup on a farmland in the North West, invasive practices of building a whole village at the tails of a national park and hotel building and changes of areal plans in Snæfellsnes that will prevent access to the locally raised forest and coastline contrary to existing law. These creeping changes into the rural areas raise interesting questions to explore on differentiated impacts on rural and regional development, as well as acceptance and contestations between national and local interests, and within the local community between different stakeholders and social groups.

SESSION: OPEN SESSION 6 – Rural transformation, environmental issues

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Understanding ‘justice’ in sustainability-oriented transformations in rural areas

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Rural areas are central places for the negotiation and implementation of sustainability transformations, such as energy and mobility transitions, the bioeconomy, and ecologically 'just' agriculture and nature conservation. Transformations are dynamic processes of change that are accompanied by social impacts, which are not universally perceived as positive ('transformation pain' or 'dark side of transformation'), and can lead to conflict and social polarization. In structurally weak rural regions, there is an increasing perception of being "left behind" and marginalized, as well as a general loss of trust in the state, which is also reflected in voting behavior and tendencies towards right-wing populist parties. Such reactions show that social justice has been insufficiently considered in the governance of sustainability transformations. Although various justice concepts—such as environmental, climate, spatial, and cosmopolitan justice or working-class environmentalism—have emerged in recent decades, they often address isolated groups or ethical aspects. A comprehensive integration of these perspectives into dynamic change processes remains lacking, and efforts to unify them under 'just transformation' have so far been limited. This talk presents a systematic, mixed-method, cross-sectoral literature review aimed at bridging this gap and deepening our understanding of justice dimensions in transformative change. First results on insights into (conceptual) aspects of justice, and thematic areas that are particularly relevant and strongly represented in rural areas, as well as methodological focal points in studies, will be presented. This study is part of the doctoral college "Justice Dimensions of Sustainability Transformations in Rural Areas", funded by the Hans Boeckler Foundation. Keywords: just transformations, just transitions, rural areas, sustainable development, social justice

SESSION: OPEN SESSION 6 – Rural transformation, environmental issues

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Does focusing on high profile environmental issues help win elections? Evidence from municipal elections in Finland 2021 and 2025.

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Winning enough votes to secure a seat is the primary goal for most candidates in municipal elections. In small municipalities in Finland, this typically requires only a modest number of votes but demands a strong alignment with local concerns and priorities. Notably, environmental issues often form a significant part of the local political agenda whether due to ongoing debates or recent ecological challenges. This study investigates whether emphasizing high-profile environmental issues helps candidates get elected in Finnish municipal elections, focusing on the elections of 2021 and 2025. We concentrate on a selection of smaller coastal municipalities that, between these two elections, either experienced a major environmental event, such as a chemical spill or engaged in intense public discussions over projects with potential ecological consequences. To strengthen our analysis, we also include neighboring municipalities that did not experience similar environmental issues during the same period, providing a comparative baseline. Our data source is the Yle election compass (produced by Finland's national broadcaster), which collects candidate responses to environment-related questions and allows them to highlight key themes in their campaign messaging. Through this data, we analyze the extent to which environmental positioning correlated with electoral success. Overall, the results suggest that environmental positioning was not a significant driver of electoral success. References to environmental issues did not increase election probability, and a stronger environmental orientation in structured responses was associated with slightly lower chances of being elected. Additionally, no significant differences were observed across years. These findings indicate that environmental emphasis played a limited role in shaping electoral outcomes.

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Assembling wild berry transitions: Projectified regional transition work in Västerbotten, Sweden

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In Europe, widespread projectification has led to sustainability transitions increasingly being enacted through projects. While projects have been seen as spaces where multiple actors from different levels of society can interact to accelerate transitions, this paper examines the deeper implications for transition work that arise from relying on the project form. Drawing on assemblage thinking, it analyses regional transition projects in northern Europe to explore the spatial work of project-making, showing how heterogeneous elements are brought together, how coherence is crafted amid difference, as well as how transition work extends beyond individual projects. Thus, the paper reveals projectified transitions to be dynamic and contested processes whose effects emerge from the spatial labour that continually shapes the scope and composition of transition projects. Furthermore, it shows that transitions are not driven by projects per se, but also by the relational practices through which actors

pool resources and mobilise connections across multiple project configurations to enact transitions despite fragmentation. By tracing how transitions emerge from the spatial work required to assemble relations that operate *within, across, between, and despite* projects, this paper shows that transition work unfolds not through the mere execution of project plans, but through ongoing efforts to navigate the affordances and constraints of a projectified funding landscape.

SESSION: OPEN SESSION 7 - Geopolitics, colonialism

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Some Thoughts on the Geopolitical Tension by Settler Colonialism Threats in the Arctic Greenland Compared to East Asian Experience in terms of Indigenous peoples, the Inuit, Sami, and Ainu peoples

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(Preface) Donald Trump's threats of land grab of Greenland had become serious since early this year across the heads of local Indigenous people: the Inuit people there. The similar thing can be said about the increasing tension along the Ryukyu archipelago due to the confrontation between the U.S. and China and related problematic Prime Minister Takaichi's statement in the Japanese Diet, which has been happening also across the heads of Ryukyu Indigenous people. (Settler Colonialism) Trump's intimidation is exactly settler colonialism threats from his security and mining concerns. It is an important notion of law of property. Nowadays it is still on-going in the Ukraine war and Gaza & West Bank conflicts in Israel. But it was ubiquitous across the world with regard to Indigenous peoples, including Hokkaido in Japan with regard to the Ainu people by the discriminatory Ainu Land Law based on terra nullius doctrine. (Marginalization of Indigenous Occupation) After the Meiji Restoration, the discriminatory Ainu Land Law was introduced and their original Indigenous occupation, most typically salmon fishing, was and has been severely prohibited and regulated much worse than in the Native Americans. The Sami people in Scandinavian countries are much more established Indigenous people than the Ainu, but their original occupation of reindeer-herding has been facing marginalization in the face of Swedish steel industry and the recent renewable energy revolution. (Solutions) How should we deal with the recent conundrum of settler colonialism threats nowadays? First, we should take care of the geographically local Indigenous people historically neglected and marginalized for a long time. Their self-determination should be much more focused according to Art. 3 of UNDRIP in 2007. Second, a peaceful negotiation and discussion approach should be taken rather than militaristic invasion. It should be based on reparations/ reconciliation for historical tragedies from Indigenous perspectives.

SESSION: OPEN SESSION 7 - Geopolitics, colonialism

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Colonizing the future through literature and maps: constructing imperial power in Elspeth Huxley's White Man's Country: Lord Delamere and the Making of Kenya

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This presentation argues that historic and literary narratives employ imperial and colonial cartography in the framing of constructions of states and nations. We focus on the links between cartography and literature, noting that each is mutually reinforcing, in the work of Elspeth Huxley's 1935 biography of Lord Delamere, *White Man's Country: Lord Delamere and the Making of Kenya*. Huxley's prolific oeuvre, authoring 38 books during her lifetime (1907-1997), contributed to British perceptions about its project in "Kenya Colony." Through narrative text and sporadically interspersed location maps, *White Man's Country* is both a biography of Delamere and his influence and a vehicle for the imperial construction of political, economic, and social relations of British East Africa (what would later become the Republic of Kenya). Huxley's two-volume narrative defends the British colonial enterprise in Kenya through both words and image. In particular, our paper examines the five commissioned maps inserted into the text at publication about which – to our knowledge – Huxley was not consulted. We argue that Huxley's publishers—with their strong ties to the British government—were well aware of the power of maps to reinforce the colonial state's creation of borders, along with its control of people and resources. Combined, Huxley's text and the publisher-inserted maps sustain a colonial legacy, creating echoes that reverberate to contemporary readers. Our paper thus seeks to position Huxley's work within a wider field of critical cartographic studies, including demonstrating its intersections with colonial and post-colonial literature and the ongoing debate about the ways in which Africa's geography is shaped and reshaped, and the power dynamics of who narrates and draws its maps.

SESSION: OPEN SESSION 7 - Geopolitics, colonialism

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Strings Attached at the Verge of Development: Extractive versus Everyday Urban Infrastructure in Mozambique

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In 2010, a massive reserve of gas, 9th largest on Earth, has been found in Mozambique. Troubles and the flow of capital followed. ISIS relocated to Cabo Delgado (Northern Mozambique) after 2015, conducting violence&terrorism in the region where the reserves are. World Bank was existent in Mozambique since 1984 yet after 2015, started massively financing the critical infrastructure; energy, transportation and water. The "rise" of Mozambique seems nothing like Ha-Joon Chang's fantasy on Mozambique escaping poverty by development with new fossil-fuel-free Technologies (2007) rather are the devils we know: extractivism and fossil-fuels. The strings attached to extractivism and international funding, together with core-dependent peripheral forms of "development" as Samir Amin puts forward, the global investment prioritizes ports, extractive logistics and energy corridors, while everyday urban life relies on fragile and incomplete urban infrastructures: water, energy and transportation. "[T]he concentration on decentralization and the related production of urban infrastructure" is the case for Mozambique as well and the long-term economic viability (Simone, A., 2001: 16) of the cities like Maputo, Beira and Nampula is not on the agenda either. Mozambique's urbanization looks more like an intensification of extractive integration to the global economy rather than development for now similar to what Phil A. Neel (2025) points out. These conditions give rise to forms of infrastructural autoconstruction, where urban residents assemble workable systems of survival within environments shaped by uneven investment and infrastructural absence goes hand in hand with infrastructure provision. Within this context, I aim to draw a picture of this historic moment of capital flowing Mozambican cities, Maputo, Beira and Nampula and the urban infrastructure provision in these cities versus the macro infrastructure provision for extractivism in national scale. With this study, I intend to illustrate the shape that expected "development" takes in the case of Mozambique and Mozambican cities.

SESSION: The green transition – taking stock and moving forward in a new geopolitical context I

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The green scalar fix: Battery manufacturing and green industrialization in Skellefteå, Sweden

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The paper analyzes how green industrialization around battery manufacturing in Skellefteå, Sweden, functions as a multi-scalar green fix for socio-economic issues that are largely non-environmental. Drawing on literature about geographical fixes and scales, we utilize a conceptual framework that links representations, responsibilities, and crisis discourses across national, regional, and local scales of governance. Empirically, the study is based on a qualitative case study combining semi-structured interviews with politicians, planners, and other stakeholders, together with strategic plans, budgets, and policy documents from Skellefteå municipality, Region Västerbotten, and the Swedish government. The analysis shows that, while battery manufacturing is framed at all scales as contributing to the green transition and climate mitigation, it is primarily mobilized to address scale-specific dilemmas: demographic decline at the municipal level; infrastructural and energy system development at the regional level; and competitiveness through green leadership, and geopolitical positioning at the national level. Through horizontally aligned narratives of shared responsibility and the presentation of green industrialization as a win-win-win scenario, industrial projects are represented as inevitable and desirable solutions, even as risks and material burdens are vertically placed downwards to municipalities. The article argues that battery manufacturing in Skellefteå operates as a trans-scalar green fix that stabilizes state-capital relations by reconfiguring socio-spatial responsibilities and reproducing center-periphery relations, while leaving the underlying drivers of the climate crisis and resource-intensive growth largely unchallenged.

SESSION: The green transition – taking stock and moving forward in a new geopolitical context I

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Planning under pressure: a municipality perspective on housing infrastructure and care

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This work highlights housing provision and planning in connection with the rise and fall of a battery factory in a Swedish municipality. The Northvolt factory in Skellefteå was planned to become one of the world's largest players in the battery market. Over a five-year period, the population in Skellefteå increased by more than 5,000 individuals through international and national in-migration. The lack of housing was seen as the biggest obstacle to industrial and regional development. The municipality, with the utmost responsibility for housing provision, started to expand the municipal housing stock by approximately 2,500 homes. After Northvolt's bankruptcy, the planning basis changed dramatically, as did living conditions in different residential areas. It is timely to ask whether and how it is possible to plan for and provide housing as an infrastructure of care under such radical conditions. Based on an interview study in Skellefteå, this article concludes that planning under pressure and prioritizing speed hamper the process of planning for a housing infrastructure of care while at the same time

accentuating the need for care activities. Furthermore, hope – understood as a process present in preparing and establishing an industry as well as in managing industrial decline – can contribute to a sense of direction. Situations of success and of adversity involve hope and give rise to challenges that in themselves provoke measures and activities that might strengthen a caring infrastructure in a longer perspective, including people, places and the environment.

SESSION: The green transition – taking stock and moving forward in a new geopolitical context I

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What barriers constrain technology adoption for sustainability transitions in the Global South? Evidence from mining in Tanzania

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The adoption of sustainable production technologies in the Global South is constrained by interrelated barriers, including limited access to finance, technical expertise, infrastructure, supportive policy frameworks, and socio-cultural and institutional factors. Sustainability Transitions research provides important insights into how technological innovation can reshape environmental, social, and economic systems. However, these barriers are often examined in isolation, limiting understanding of how they interact to shape transition processes. Moreover, much of the literature focuses on Western contexts, leaving significant gaps in explaining how sustainability transitions unfold in the Global South, where development trajectories and institutional conditions differ markedly. This research aims to identify these key barriers and integrate them into a novel analytical framework. It does so by building on an in-depth case study of Tanzania's artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) sector. ASM is labour-intensive, low-capital, and central to rural livelihoods across the Global South. Yet it poses significant environmental and public health risks, particularly due to the continued use of mercury in gold extraction. Despite sustained efforts to promote cleaner technologies, adoption has remained limited, reflecting persistent financial, institutional, technological, and socio-cultural barriers. This study analyses how these barriers interact to shape technology adoption. By examining the dynamics of technological upgrading in a resource-dependent and largely informal sector, the research develops an adaptable analytical framework for understanding barriers to sustainable technology adoption under conditions of structural constraint. Overall, this research contributes to a more context-sensitive and empirically grounded understanding of sustainability transitions in the Global South and proposes a new analytical framework that can be applied to cases examining the challenges of adopting more sustainable technologies in similar contexts.

SESSION: The green transition – taking stock and moving forward in a new geopolitical context I

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Industrial symbiosis – A regional planning perspective

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Industrial symbioses can be defined as clusters with a collective approach where there is physical exchange of materials, energy, water and heat resources between different types of businesses. The linkages and circulation of resources in the industrial system will often involve enterprises across sectors and anchor them to specific geographical areas on a longer term and in that way form innovative co-located milieus in which utilizes economies of scale and scope. Geographical proximity and an environment based on information exchange, trust, reciprocity and a spirit of cooperation are important key factors in this context. Through the collaboration, costs are reduced and possibilities for competitive advantages and increased profits are developed. Industrial symbioses in recent years have received increased attention as a type of arena where sustainability and the circular economy have led to practice. The industrial symbiosis investments cases presented in this study will not only be about investments initiatives and composition of actors in the park. It will also be about how these establishments are affected by and affect the location and regions and the institutional setting they are part of. The theoretical approach to address these layers of relations combines perspectives that deal with respectively industrial symbioses planning and management and agglomeration theory. The latter addresses the qualities and interplay with the regional context in which access to labour and various forms of societal infrastructure are relevant factors. The empirical evidence is based on secondary sources as well as field-based case studies about industrial symbiosis initiatives covering developments at different stages of planning with examples in various places in Norway. Planning, management risks and challenges are demonstrated through the examples that has been included. The results highlight the role of timing, industrial composition, geographical positioning, coordination and even sometimes competition between different regional initiatives.

SESSION: Circular cities for sustainable transformation I

25-06-2026 08:30 - 09:50

The (non-)future of Green Building

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Over the past decades, the building sector has been consistently striving for greater sustainability in construction and operational principles. In many countries, technical standards, green certification schemes, and Circular Economy approaches have led to more energy-efficient buildings as well as changes in building design, material components, and supply chains. Despite these adaptations to energy, climate, and ecological imperatives, the building sector remains one of the most significant contributors to global GHG emissions. This is partly due to the high stock of older buildings still awaiting 'green' refurbishments. More importantly, even cutting-edge sustainability standards applied to new buildings do not compensate for the additional energy and material impacts of new buildings adding to the existing stock, including embodied energy needed to produce a building. Simultaneously, the sector accounts for excessive resource turnover, including high amounts of construction and demolition waste. Against this backdrop, a critical debate around green building prospects and technological fix approaches has gained momentum, challenging hitherto modernization policies. One strand of this debate is manifested in national and international movements advocating building moratoria or the cessation of demolition to preserve and work with existing building stock rather than erecting new buildings. The second strand of this debate argues for sufficiency in the design of new buildings, encompassing both reduced floor space and the use of simplified construction techniques and traditional materials. One recent iteration of the latter approach is also coined as Non-Extractive Architecture. This paper synthesizes ongoing debates in Europe as they articulate within the building industry, at the level of urban and regional development policies, and amongst planning and design practitioners. The aim is to identify the empirical and conceptual opportunities and challenges for economic geography's assessment of the construction sector, the limitations of circular approaches, and the spatialities of sufficiency- and post-growth-oriented approaches to building.

SESSION: Circular cities for sustainable transformation I

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Circular planning in Swedish municipalities

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Sweden has set an ambitious target to reach climate neutrality by 2045, requiring net-zero greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors. The construction and real estate sector, which accounts for 22% of climate emissions and 40% of waste, is a key player in achieving this goal. To reduce the sector's negative impact, a transformation to a circular economy (CE) is required, prioritizing reuse and renovation over new construction. Achieving CE requires broad societal and economic changes, with a strong focus on continuous material use while minimizing waste and pollution. Central to achieving CE goals, spatial planning plays a pivotal role in guiding the physical, economic, and social structure of cities. Through effective planning, circular principles can be embedded in urban environments, ensuring sustainable management of buildings, infrastructure, and resources. This means municipalities and urban and regional planning, and governance play a key role in such a transformation but there is a lack of knowledge on how to integrate circular practices into planning. Drawing on a national survey of Swedish municipalities and interviews with planners, this paper examines the extent to which municipalities are incorporating (or struggling to incorporate) circular building practices into their planning processes and discusses the opportunities and challenges they face in advancing sustainable urban development.

SESSION: Circular cities for sustainable transformation I

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Assessing Legal Frameworks and Planning Processes for Construction Circularity among Swedish Local Municipalities.

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This study examines how regulations and urban planning processes influence circularity from the perspective of the local municipality. The Circular economy (CE) has emerged as an alternative to the traditional linear economy in the construction industry and is widely promoted as a pathway to preserving natural resources and reducing waste sent to landfills. Due to its significant environmental footprint, the construction industry has been identified as a priority area in the CE agenda promoted by the European Commission (2018). Existing literature identifies numerous barriers to construction circularity, including inadequate regulatory frameworks, weak policy enforcement, fragmented governance structures, and insufficient integration of circular practices into urban planning processes. The municipalities have a vital role in implementing national legislation through planning processes. Despite the growing attention towards governance issues in circularity, empirical research examining how municipalities interpret and implement legal frameworks remains limited. Drawing on Sweden as a case, this study uses survey data and document analysis to examine how legal frameworks and planning processes influence circular practices. The findings indicate that limited circularity is not only a legislative issue but also an organizational one. Circular governance is fragmented across multiple municipal departments. In addition, existing legal frameworks and planning processes continue to

support the linear economy, with the most used planning process at the municipal level focused on the extraction of virgin materials and the management of waste. As a result, current legal and planning frameworks remain insufficient to drive circularity practices in the construction industry.

SESSION: Circular cities for sustainable transformation I

25-06-2026 08:30 - 09:50

Shared-access residential spaces: Comparing preferences for sharing in Sweden and Slovenia.

Anuša Babuder ¹Anders Kyrkander ², Jakob Dalqvist ², Sabina Jordan ¹, Robert Boyer ²

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Efforts to reduce the environmental impacts of the residential built environment confront a structural dilemma: while buildings have become more energy efficient per square meter, the average number of persons per household continues to decline globally, resulting in **growing floor area per person** and offsetting efficiency gains (Clune et al., 2012; Ellsworth-Krebs, 2020; Esteve et al., 2024; Underwood & Zahran, 2015). This sociotechnical landscape shift can be addressed in several ways, including encouraging the development and redevelopment of shared access residential spaces. Recent multinational survey research suggests that many residents express at least potential interest in sharing access to residential kitchens, offices, and workshops. It also indicates that their willingness to pay for design and management attributes—including payment models, physical distance, bookability, and management structure—varies across national contexts (Forthcoming research by the authors). Yet quantitative results alone cannot explain the deeper motivations, reservations, and social narratives that shape individuals' willingness to share space. This article will report on focus groups conducted in Sweden and Slovenia to probe the qualitative dimensions of sharing that remain ambiguous in previous statistical analyses. Guided by prior findings demonstrating national differences in willingness to share and willingness to pay for sharing, as well as the influence of demographic variables such as age and presence of children in the household, the focus groups elicit participants' lived experiences, concerns, and expectations surrounding shared-access kitchens, offices, and workshops. Results are interpreted through Hofstede's (1980, 2011) cultural dimensions, which understand Sweden as a country of high individualism and low uncertainty avoidance, and Slovenia as a country of low individualism and high uncertainty avoidance. By comparing patterns across Swedish and Slovenian groups the findings provide nuanced guidance for architects, planners, and policymakers seeking to develop context-sensitive shared-access housing models that respond to both environmental imperatives and residents' lived realities.

SESSION: Climate futures: Anticipations, trends, spaces

25-06-2026 08:30 - 09:50

Contradictions in Climate Futures: Dialectical Analysis of Sustainability Imaginaries Under Ecological Crisis

Nicklas Riekötter ¹

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This contribution develops a critical-theoretical framework for analyzing climate futures by centering contradictions and temporal ruptures as methodological strategies. Drawing on Frankfurt School critical theory, particularly Adorno's negative dialectics, the contribution argues that contemporary

climate imaginaries function as necessarily contradictory mediations between acknowledged ecological limits and persistent growth imperatives. The framework distinguishes between form and content in climate futures, revealing how temporal structures themselves—linear progress narratives, tipping point framings, transition timelines—embody social contradictions. Imaginaries like 'green economy' or 'net zero' promise climate solutions while containing transformation within capitalist logic, generating persistent failures that are constitutive rather than contingent. Rather than treating these failures as implementation problems, the contribution conceptualizes ruptures—moments when climate imaginaries confront material limits—as privileged analytical sites exposing both ideological functions and transformative potential. Cases like 'green hydrogen regions' and 'circular economy' initiatives demonstrate how dominant imaginaries shape anticipatory practices while systematically failing to achieve their stated goals, revealing structural limits of what futures can be imagined within existing social relations. Methodologically, it is proposed that crisis-centered case selection, dialectical coding, and historical-dialectical tracing as strategies are foregrounding the contradictory dynamics of temporal imagination. This approach addresses the session's interest in temporal activism and transformative politics by identifying moments where climate imaginaries exceed their limitations, pointing toward futures that transcend rather than manage ecological contradictions—moving from preformative to affirmative languages of climate-changed futures.

SESSION: Climate futures: Anticipations, trends, spaces

25-06-2026 08:30 - 09:50

The 2050s horizon and beyond: Integrating statistical forecasting and expert-storied scenarios for living in a climate-changed Finland

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Future will undeniably be very different. Yet the power to reconceive future horizons is often anchored in past trends, patterns and ideas of what to expect from the future. Societies thus become prisoners of earlier progress and impressions. Nowhere is this more evident than in the AI regenerated images of a future city, where sky-reflecting high-rises enveloped by terraced and rooftop gardens frame the space for drones, monorails and the masses of flâneurs. In this paper, we reprove such imaginaries as counterproductive and look at the future of Finnish society in two tracks. First, we study residential living choices using individual-level longitudinal administrative register data containing all individuals living in Finland from 1990 to 2023. By linking these data to housing stock development as well as to valued greenness and community-living ideals, we are able to estimate the transition likelihoods of the Finnish population through the year 2050—and thus qualify the potential scope of population and housing changes based on earlier transitions. Second, we use three strands of expert short stories on future housing. We asked experts to think of future housing, propagate low-carbon ideals into the future or to imagine a +2.5 Celsius future after 2080. What emerged from the views are four different scenarios, Green technometropolitanisation, caring community cities, self-sufficient villages, and climate changed nomadland. This creative scenario building helps us to think about the evolution of low-carbon housing policies, regional development, energy futures and foreseeable climatic changes. The process utilises a 'fields of possibilities' framework to construct plausible and extended futures that allow us to imagine where and how Finns could live using statistical forecasting with qualitative scenarios work. Thus, we explore the potentialities, vulnerabilities and structural constraints for housing preferences and how they are compatible with climatic changes.

SESSION: Histories of geographic thought and practice in the Nordic countries

25-06-2026 08:30 - 09:50

A history of the transition from radical to critical geography in Denmark

Peter Jakobsen ¹

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Radical geography (particularly in its Marxist form) was a defining feature of Danish geography in the 1970s, much more so than in Norway and Sweden. Emerging from the political and intellectual currents of “1968”, this strand of radical geography developed in ways that distinguished it from the Anglo-American tradition, though its central concerns were familiar: imperialism, uneven regional and urban development, and environmental crises. From the mid-1980s, however, this tradition entered a period of change. This shift unfolded in the context of broader ideological changes and educational reforms, and it coincided with a new generation of geographers coming of age in an era sceptical of metanarratives and structural analyses, turning toward questions of everyday life, culture and identity. Those still concerned with aspects of economy generally moved towards less politically charged middle-range theories and more narrowly focused empirical concerns. In other words, Marxism fell out of fashion. As elsewhere, this marked a transition from radical to a broader and, in many respects, “softer” critical geography. This movement was heavily debated among geographers in the 1990s and 2000s in the UK and US, in what has since become known as the “What’s Left” debates. In Denmark, however, while there were murmurs of discontent among radical geographers, these never reached the same level of trench warfare seen in the UK and the US. The radical geographers active in Denmark in the 1970s have now either retired or are no longer with us, and there is little geography in Denmark today that could fly under the banner of “radical”. Based primarily on archival material, I present this intellectual movement and its theoretical evolution and explain the transition from radical to critical geography in Denmark. In doing so, I reflect on what, if anything, we can learn for our own time from this history.

SESSION: Histories of geographic thought and practice in the Nordic countries

25-06-2026 08:30 - 09:50

Notes to a history of the Nordic symposia on critical human geography

Henrik Gutzon Larsen ¹

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The Nordic Geographers Meetings have a precursor, the Nordic symposia on critical human geography. The first of these symposia was held in 1979, and shifting between different Nordic countries, they were – with some lacunae – convened annually until 2001. Somewhat surprisingly, perhaps, the Nordic symposia were not initiated by geographers from what in the 1970s had emerged as the interlinked hotspots of radical/critical geography in the Nordic countries, the universities in Copenhagen and Roskilde. Rather, the first symposium was organised by geographers at Uppsala University, and the loosely organised network that developed from this gathering also established a Nordic journal of critical human geography, *Nordisk samhällsgeografisk tidskrift* (1984-2007). As a contribution to the emerging histories of lesser known radical and critical geography movements, and how such movements were networked internationally, this paper will outline a history of the Nordic symposia on critical human geography and discuss this network’s role in the development of contemporary (Nordic) geography.

SESSION: Histories of geographic thought and practice in the Nordic countries

25-06-2026 08:30 - 09:50

The International Dialogue Project: Knowledge incommunication and the search for kunskapsvård

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Dialogue is having a moment in academia, but one of its most ambitious experiments, the International Dialogue Project (IDP), is curiously absent in this “dialogue turn”. Initiated over the 1970s by Anne Buttimer and Torsten Hägerstrand at Lund University, the IDP brought together researchers, artists and practitioners across disciplines and cultures and generated more than 160 videotaped interviews and related publications before its conclusion in 2010. This paper returns to the early stages of the project to offer a glimpse into the encounters, exchanges and motivations that shaped its initial formation. Drawing from Hägerstrand’s newly indexed papers at Lund University, we revisit how dialogue first emerged as both a practical and conceptual problem between two geographers positioned within different strands of a rapidly evolving discipline. Pushing against a view of dialogue as a relatively uncomplicated exchange of ideas, the paper shows how dialogue functioned as the basis for a more expansive ethic that Buttimer and Hägerstrand termed *kunskapsvård*, aimed at confronting an intellectual climate where cross-disciplinary communication had fractured amid scientific specialisation. Away from the search for innovation and application and towards an attentiveness to the personal and collective custodianship of ideas as they travel across contexts, the IDP presents a valuable lens through which to steward intellectual thought and memory in geography and beyond.

SESSION: People and Woods of the North; past, present and future

25-06-2026 08:30 - 09:50

Restoring native birch woodlands in Iceland requires a transdisciplinary multi-scale approach

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Human settlement and land-use practices reduced birch woodlands in Iceland from at least 20% cover in the 9th century AD to 1% by 1900. Current policy aims to initiate restoration on 3500 km², increasing birch woodlands to roughly 5% of Iceland’s area. Achieving this level of restoration requires harnessing natural recovery processes across scales, including dispersal, recruitment, community assembly, and soil development. Restoring the woodlands is not only an ecological challenge but also requires close societal alignment through governance, planning, stakeholder engagement and public interest. The transdisciplinary project BirkiVist (EcoBirch), now in its final phase, examines key challenges and opportunities for scaling up birch woodland restoration in Iceland, with a focus on multi-scale research and training of early-career researchers (M.Sc. and Ph.D. students). Its findings highlight considerable potential for birch woodland expansion through natural regeneration, but success depends on seed sources and conditions for seedling recruitment. Regeneration barriers can be reduced through simple measures such as improved grazing management near existing woodlands, establishing new stands providing seed sources, revegetating

eroded land, and creating small-scale disturbances in dense vegetation near seed sources. Chronosequence studies of expanding birch woodlands further indicate that natural woodland expansion is associated with significant carbon sequestration and succession of soil microbial communities. These findings are being incorporated into spatial and conceptual models for guiding landscape-scale restoration. We also addressed how woodland restoration changes visual landscape qualities by comparing woodland and nearby non-wooded sites in comparable landscape settings. Concurrently, the project identified socio-economic constraints on the stated restoration targets, including competing land-uses, limited incentives and institutional capacity, and an unclear position for restoration within spatial planning. Even with these challenges, the project's results show that large-scale birch woodland expansion is both ecologically feasible and environmentally beneficial, underscoring the importance of adopting an integrated socio-ecological approach to restoration.

SESSION: People and Woods of the North; past, present and future

25-06-2026 08:30 - 09:50

The Palaeoecology of Birch Woods in Iceland

Didrik Tveit ¹

¹ University of Iceland, Reykjavík, Iceland

Iceland's climate action plan includes ambitious afforestation targets, aiming to increase birch woodland cover from approximately 1.5% of the national land area today to 5% by 2030, with further expansion planned in the coming decades. As Iceland moves toward large-scale afforestation in a warming climate, understanding the long-term dynamics, resilience, and disturbance regimes of native birch woodlands becomes increasingly important for future policy and land management. Palaeoecology provides a way to establish long-term ecological baselines for Icelandic woodlands, capturing how woodlands have responded to climatic variability and anthropogenic activity over millennia. My PhD project aims to reconstruct the ecological character, development, and disturbance history of downy birch (*Betula pubescens*) woodlands during the late Holocene, with a focus on the period following human settlement in the late 9th century (*Landnám*). Given the near-complete loss of birch woodlands since *Landnám*, palaeoecological reconstructions provide the most reliable basis for understanding long-term woodland resilience in Iceland. Furthermore, the history of paleofire regimes in Iceland is poorly understood; the Natural Science Institute of Iceland only began tracking and recording wildfires in 2006. Using an integrated suite of geochemical (N-alkanes, PAHs, and faecal biomarkers) and traditional (Pollen analysis, microscopic charcoal, and CFS) palaeoecological methods, my project will provide long-term contexts for woodland resilience, anthropogenic impact, and fire disturbance under changing environmental conditions. By reconstructing how Icelandic birch woodlands responded to past climatic variability, land use, and fire over millennial timescales, this project will provide an evidence base that cannot be obtained from modern observations alone. The results will inform afforestation planning, conservation priorities, and wildfire risk assessment, contributing to more sustainable land-use practices under a changing climate.

SESSION: People and Woods of the North; past, present and future

25-06-2026 08:30 - 09:50

The charcoal burners of Þingvallaskógur: the saga of an ancient semi-natural woodland in Iceland

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² Þingvellir Þjóðgarður, Selfoss, Iceland

³ Universitetet i Stavanger, Stavanger, Norway

The Birchwoods of Iceland: Looking Back, Looking Forward project has been underway since 2025. The aim of the project is to understand the environmental histories of three ancient, semi-natural, birch woodlands in Iceland, distributed between the north, east and southwest of the island. The research methods deployed include the palaeoecological evaluation of lake sediment cores, archaeological excavation, the review of historical sources, and woodland ecological survey. Project findings will be extrapolated to understand the wider story of woodland in Iceland with the intention of informing woodland recovery and development in the future. Here, the focus is on Þingvallaskógur in southwest Iceland, located within Þingvellir National Park. With a critical eye, based upon saga narratives, it is possible to discern some indication of the scale of Þingvallaskógur as part of a wider woodland network in the region and something of the human exploitation of these woodlands during the medieval period. Actual historical accounts concerning Þingvallaskógur are limited prior to 1700 CE, whereupon a more in-depth understanding for the post-medieval period is available. Between the sagas and historical accounts, there is a clear continuity in woodland activity i.e. charcoal burning, highlighting the significance of Þingvallaskógur regarding the supply of fuel to the wider farming community of southwest Iceland. The scale of this is corroborated by archaeological survey and excavation. Overall, it is possible to suggest that land use at Þingvellir, for much of its history, was focussed upon charcoal production as much as it was on farming; perhaps even ensuring the survival of Þingvallaskógur through the centuries when woodland was otherwise lost as a feature of the Icelandic landscape.

SESSION: People and Woods of the North; past, present and future

25-06-2026 08:30 - 09:50

Aesthetic value of Icelandic birch forests

Edda R. H. Waage ¹Guðbjörg R. Jóhannesdóttir ²

¹ University of Iceland, Reykjavík, Iceland

² The Iceland University of Arts, Reykjavík, Iceland

Aesthetic value of Icelandic birch forests Edda R. H. Waage (University of Iceland) and Guðbjörg R. Jóhannesdóttir (The Iceland University of Arts). A part of the research project BirkiVist focused on the aesthetic and cultural value of birch forests. In this presentation, the results of an interview study on the aesthetic value of birch forests, conducted within this component of BirkiVist, will be introduced. The study was based on qualitative interviews with a total of 25 individuals who are connected either to the Húsafellsskógur forest in Borgarfjörður or the Ranaskógur forest in Fljótisdalur. The presentation highlights the phenomena and ideas that shape people's experiences, namely, what it is that people perceive in the forest, whether through sight, hearing, touch, smell, taste, or the interplay of these senses, the context in which the experience occurs, and the meaning people assign to it. Based on this, the talk discusses the aesthetic qualities and value of birch forests and compares these findings with other landscape types in Iceland that have been studied in a similar manner.

SESSION: Restless Methodologies for Urban Discovery and Critique

25-06-2026 08:30 - 09:50

Photo go-alongs for researching the relations between people and place

Amy Barron ¹

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This paper demonstrates the value of photo go-alongs as a qualitative method for researching the complex relationships between people and place. By integrating two traditional research methods, photo elicitation and go-alongs, the paper considers the utility of photo go-alongs in providing rich insights into how participants make sense of themselves and the world in the present moment. Photo go-alongs were used as part of a research study in Prestwich, Greater Manchester, UK, which worked with older people to better understand places of significance across the life-course. This was against a policy back-drop of the city region becoming more 'age-friendly'. Within this context, photo go-alongs were used to showcase participants' lived experiences. Through vignettes and using a more-than-representational epistemology which prioritises movement and the present moment, the paper highlights three key advantages of using photo go-alongs to research the relations between people and place. First, photo go-alongs show how pasts and futures shape the unfolding present. Second, they highlight how biographical and social memories intertwine. Third, they reveal place-making practices and routines. The conclusions highlight the utility of photo go-alongs in illuminating the interplay between people and place, as well as how method itself can be a space of potential. The benefits of photo go-alongs are stronger when they are approached with a flexible, adaptive, and responsive ethos.

SESSION: Restless Methodologies for Urban Discovery and Critique

25-06-2026 08:30 - 09:50

Place, Smell & Memory

Keld Buciek ¹

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This article examines the significance of smell in the construction of place, identity, and memory, drawing on cultural-geographical and phenomenological theory. Inspired by studies of urban sensory geographies (e.g., Alain Corbin; Monica Degen; John Urry) and memory studies (Edward S. Casey; Paul Connerton), it argues that smell constitutes a central—yet frequently overlooked—dimension in the social and cultural organization of place. The article positions itself within the tension between representational and non-representational approaches and proposes that smell may be understood as a sensory trace within the “ongoing composition” of place, rather than as an objectively measurable phenomenon. Empirically, the article presents an experimental “sensory atlas” based on photographic fieldwork, memory interviews (n = 25), and olfactory stimulation exercises conducted through a developed “aromateque.” The study encompasses a range of Danish urban and coastal areas and combines visual documentation with participants' olfactory recollections. Methodologically, it integrates sensory ethnography, thematic coding, and visual analysis in order to investigate whether and how photography may function as an indirect mediator of smell, and thereby as an archive for an otherwise ephemeral sense. The analysis demonstrates that smell operates simultaneously as an identity marker, a social boundary, and a catalyst of memory. Smell emerges as inherently ambivalent: it may foster belonging and community, but also stigmatization and marginalization. At the same time, it resists full control and documentation, thereby challenging conventional modes of

representation. The article concludes that sensory geographies—and smell in particular—should be incorporated as an analytical category in the study of the social order of places and collective memory. The sensory atlas is proposed as a reflexive and aesthetic-scientific method for rendering visible the corporeally grounded traces of memory that might otherwise disappear within the visual and technological dominance of modernity.

SESSION: Restless Methodologies for Urban Discovery and Critique

25-06-2026 08:30 - 09:50

Daily life mapping: a method for understanding the role of transport in the organization of everyday life

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A transition toward more sustainable modes of transport requires a deeper understanding of the role of walking, cycling and public transport in people's everyday lives. Such knowledge is essential for designing infrastructure and environments that reflect people's needs and preferences. Because everyday life involves complex situations that are difficult to capture through quantitative methods and statistics, qualitative approaches—particularly interviews—are well suited for such studies. To support interviews focusing on the use of transport infrastructure, the method *Daily life mapping* (*Vardagskartor* in Swedish) can be used. These are mental maps based on time-geographic understanding, that visualize individuals' daily activities, trips and spatial experiences. The method combines spatial and temporal perspectives and involves several steps: respondents draw a mental map of their everyday activities and use of infrastructure while indicating time-related aspects such as the sequence of activities or time/place constraints; the map then forms the basis for interview questions about the role of infrastructure in daily life; and finally, the results are analyzed using time-geographic concepts such as *strategies*, *constraints* and *projects*. The presented method was developed within a research project aimed at improving Social Impact Assessment (SIA) and was tested in the Västra Götaland Region, Sweden. Unlike traditional time-use diaries, which part from the temporal dimension, *Daily life maps* take space as their starting point, making them particularly useful in spatial and transport planning where spatial perspectives dominate. *Daily life mapping* can be applied in several contexts. In planning, it provides insights into how infrastructure relates to everyday life. In research, it offers an alternative to time-use diaries in time-geographic studies, especially when spatial aspects are central. In teaching, the method helps introduce time geography and qualitative methods to planning students, illustrating how infrastructure and place shape everyday mobility.

SESSION: Restless Methodologies for Urban Discovery and Critique

25-06-2026 08:30 - 09:50

Tracing everyday geographies of stress: a mixed-method approach to urban discovery

Marta Szejnfeld ¹Kamila Sikorska-Podyma ¹, Lidia Mierzejewska ¹, Natallia Zhukouskaya ¹

¹ Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, Poland

This paper develops a mixed-method approach to tracing everyday geographies of stress, relief and distress in the post-pandemic city. It draws on empirical research conducted in three Polish urban contexts: Poznań, Puszczykowo and Swarzędz. In each location, 50 participants took part in a study designed to capture both subjective and objective dimensions of stress and to relate them to the spatial perception of everyday urban environments. Participants assessed their perceived stress level,

completed a standardised psychological stress questionnaire, and identified on a map up to five places they considered stress-reducing and up to five places they considered stress-inducing in their everyday surroundings. Cortisol levels were also measured as an objective physiological indicator of stress. The analysis compares psychological and physiological stress levels with the location and distance of the places identified by respondents in order to examine whether proximity to perceived stressors and places of relief is associated with different levels of stress. The paper argues that combining spatial mapping, psychological assessment and biological measurement offers a productive methodological framework for interpreting and sensing contemporary urban life. This approach makes it possible to examine how stress is embedded in everyday spatial practices and how places of relief and distress are distributed across different urban contexts. By linking lived experience, spatial perception and physiological data, the study contributes to methodological discussions on how urban environments can be traced through more integrated and empirically grounded approaches. The findings also offer insight into how post-pandemic cities can be studied and planned with greater sensitivity to everyday wellbeing and stress-related spatial experience.

SESSION: Restless Methodologies for Urban Discovery and Critique

25-06-2026 10:10 - 11:10

When Theory Meets the Street: Performative Methodologies in Planning Education

Emil Pull ¹

¹ University of Agder, Kristiansand, Norway

Fieldwork is widely recognised as central to planning education, yet it often remains under-theorised and implicitly positivist: students are expected to apply theory to empirical cases. At the same time, many students struggle to engage meaningfully with seminal and canonical urban texts, which can appear abstract, demanding, and detached from lived experience. This paper presents an ongoing pedagogical project that addresses both challenges by rethinking fieldwork as a site for performing theory rather than merely applying it. Developed within a master's programme in planning at the University of Agder, the project adopts an approach in which theoretical perspectives actively shape how students encounter and interpret place. Drawing on classical and contemporary urban methodologies—such as rhythm analysis, psychogeography, phenomenology, and more-than-human approaches—students work in groups to appropriate a methodological lens and test it through iterative field encounters. In this way, canonical theory becomes a practical device: not something to be understood in abstraction, but something that orients attention, structures perception, and produces specific ways of seeing and knowing the city. The teaching design is organised in three phases—preparation, fieldwork, and reflection—where theoretical engagement is frontloaded, and field time is reserved for experimentation, dialogue, and co-creation. The site is not treated as a case for problem-solving, but as a medium for methodological and epistemological exploration. This shifts the focus from *what* the city is to *how* it is apprehended, and from solutions to situated forms of understanding. Preliminary findings suggest that this approach enables students to engage more deeply with difficult theoretical texts by grounding them in embodied, collective practice. At the same time, it fosters greater methodological awareness and place sensitivity. The project contributes to discussions on experiential learning, urban epistemologies, and how planning education can better connect theory and practice.

SESSION: Social and Cultural Geography - Journal keynote: Caroline Faria

25-06-2026 10:10 - 11:10

Social and Cultural Geography

Caroline Faria ¹

¹ University of Texas, Austin, United States

In the streets, alleyways, markets, and homes of Kampala, Uganda, the water is rising. Climate change is commonly cited as the cause – decried by international development agencies, environmental groups, and scholars, along with the Ugandan government itself. But the murky floodwaters conceal more complex political ecologies of land and water, including their gendered, racio-colonial, and neoliberal sediments. Residents make sense of the city's devastation with the words "Omwavu Wakuffa", the poor must die. A Lugandan refrain, it reflects on the fall out of power in the country: colluding elite national and international exploitation and land theft, enabled by overt militarism and quiet, threatening, persuasion. In this talk, I engage this turn of phrase to better understand climate crises in global south cities like Kampala. To do so, we examine the drivers and devastating impacts of flooding in Ntinda/ Nakawa and connected sites across the city, linking the clearly monumental impacts of planetary warming with the grounded politics of land speculation, wetland destruction, and governmental tensions between environmental protection and elite control. These dovetail with seemingly conflicting, but often colluding, international dictates of economic growth and environmental sustainability. A story unfolding across the global south, our work connects political ecologies of flooding with interventions from feminist urban geography and global racial capitalism, pushing for attention to the ways capitalist destruction relies on, and entrenches, gendered and racialized logics, and their colonial past-presents: logics of human and environmental disposability, devaluation, waste, and inevitable death. Disrupting these logics, these framings also demand intersectional, anti-racist, and feminist attention: seeking out everyday life-sustaining and place-making as the city's floodwaters rise.

SESSION: CHANGING ENVIRONMENT: The Reality of Place-Based Conservation in a Changed and Changing World

25-06-2026 10:10 - 11:10

The Reality of Place-Based Conservation in a Changed and Changing World

C. Patrick Heidkamp ¹ Timothy Lane ², Sarah Dalrymple ³

¹ Southern Connecticut State University, New Haven, United States

² Aarhus University, Aarhus, Denmark

³ Liverpool John Moores University, Liverpool, United Kingdom

The traditional conservation agenda—focused on preservation and restoring ecosystems to historical, pre-human baselines—is increasingly unrealistic and insufficient in the face of the Anthropocene's accelerating changes and widespread environmental degradation. This panel will move beyond theoretical debates to critically explore the pragmatic realities and necessary compromises of long-term, place-based conservation management. Drawing on the experience of practitioners and researchers working in dynamic, human-influenced, and rapidly changing environments (such as the Nordic and Arctic regions), this session will frame a discussion around a core manifesto of eco-pragmatism. The goal is to articulate an approach that successfully integrates ecological resilience with human well-being and cultural context. Key questions and discussion points for the panel include: The Rejection of 'Pristine': How do we—in policy and practice—move past the unattainable ideal of pristine nature and effectively manage ecosystems that are already hybrids or novel? What does this mean for setting realistic conservation goals? Balancing Ecology and Community: How can successful conservation outcomes be measured when ecological change is slow to manifest? What are the key social, cultural, and economic metrics that must be integrated alongside traditional ecological indicators (e.g., biodiversity, biomass) to ensure long-term, community-backed success?

Adaptive Management in Practice: What specific mechanisms and organizational structures are required for conservation efforts to be genuinely adaptive, experimental, and committed to continuous learning (i.e., 'learning by doing') rather than adhering strictly to a static plan? From Threat to Reality: How do practitioners negotiate environmental changes (like climate change impacts or long-term human degradation) that cannot be managed at a site level? How can we avoid simply labelling these as 'threats' and instead incorporate them as the working reality of the environment? Policy Implications of Pragmatism: If conservation success is inherently dependent on local context, human values, and continuous intervention, what kind of generic, actionable policy recommendations can be synthesized to guide practice at a wider scale? Dr. Timothy Lane – Aarhus University, Denmark (co-author of the paper) Dr. Monica McCard – Liverpool John Moores University, UK Dr. Courtney Mason – Thompson Rivers University, Canada Dr. Afton Clarke Sather – University of Minnesota, Duluth, USA Dr. Scott Graves – Southern Connecticut State University, USA

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

25-06-2026 10:10 - 11:10

Addressing Unavoidable Non-Economic Losses to Climate-Induced Events for Communities in the Arctic – insights from the Icelandic case study

Matthias Kokorsch ¹Gísladóttir Jóhanna ¹

¹ University Centre of the Westfjords, Ísafjörður, Iceland

The focus is on the potential loss of farmland and, in particular, livestock farming in rural and remote Iceland. Livestock farming has long been a key identity marker, livelihood base, and source of community cohesion, identity, and intangible cultural heritage. As farms are abandoned, more is lost than economic output: social roles, belonging, place-based knowledge, and intergenerational ties to land and animals are also at stake. Through the lens of non-economic loss and damage (NELD), the project examines how different factors shape these losses and the options communities perceive as viable. Climate change acts as an important, if not *the*, accelerator in this process. More frequent and intense weather extremes, shifting seasons, and greater production uncertainty make traditional farming practices increasingly difficult to sustain, especially in already marginal settings. Drawing on ongoing research in rural Iceland, embedded in a wider network of Arctic case studies, the presentation discusses emerging insights into how residents understand NELD versus adaptation trade-offs – for example, between investing in protection, facilitating relocation, or accepting the loss of a place-based way of life.

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

25-06-2026 10:10 - 11:10

Investigating climate-driven loss of subsistence food systems in rural Alaska

Rico Kongsager ¹

¹ Danish Institute for International Studies, Copenhagen, Denmark

This proposal presents a planned case study within the LostToClimate research project that will examine how rapid climatic change is disrupting traditional and Indigenous subsistence food systems in rural Alaska, and how these disruptions contribute to profound forms of non-economic loss. The study will focus on how rising temperatures, accelerating permafrost thaw, intensifying storms, and shifting seasonal patterns collectively reshape access to culturally significant food sources. These

environmental changes are altering hunting, fishing, and gathering practices, challenging long-established conservation techniques, and, in some regions, causing seasonal or long-term loss of essential species such as salmon and caribou. In addition, increasingly unpredictable freeze–thaw cycles and unstable ice conditions jeopardize travel safety and affect the transport of store-bought foods to remote communities, further contributing to food insecurity. The loss of subsistence food systems carries deep social and cultural implications, diminishing community cohesion and weakening connections to identity, place, and nationhood. As subsistence practices are central to individual and collective well-being, disruptions also influence human health, quality of life, and the continuity of intergenerational knowledge. The proposed research will investigate these dynamics through interviews, community-based mapping, and participatory workshops designed to foreground lived experience and Indigenous expertise. The study will also assess the adaptation measures communities are implementing or considering, including shifts to alternative species, adjustments in seasonal activities, increased reliance on store-bought or processed foods, use of food assistance programs, and, in some cases, migration or discussion of relocation. While these strategies may reduce immediate risks, they also entail trade-offs, including cultural erosion, declining social cohesion, a diminished sense of place, and additional psychological and physical health challenges. By documenting these evolving experiences, the case study will contribute to a deeper understanding of climate-related non-economic losses and support the development of equitable, culturally grounded adaptation pathways.

SESSION: Life on New Ground: Vegetation Succession and Soil Development on Emerging Nordic Landscapes

25-06-2026 10:10 - 11:10

Early soil development and formation of pedogenic clay minerals in the young soils of Surtsey, Iceland.

Theresa Bonatotzky ¹Franz Ottner ², Leonie S. Friðriksdóttir ¹, Bjarni D. Sigurdsson ³, Susanne C. Möckel ³

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Although soil formation begins rapidly after exposure of parent material, the development of mature soil profiles may take hundreds to thousands of years under favourable conditions. Surtsey, the youngest island of the Vestmannaeyjar archipelago, south Iceland, was formed during a submarine volcanic eruption between 1963 and 1967. The time span of about 60 years since the formation of Surtsey is only a very short period from a pedological perspective, especially in the cold and harsh Icelandic climate. However, it provides a unique opportunity to investigate the early stages of soil development on young land in real time. The establishment of a seabird colony on Surtsey in 1986 has had a large impact on vegetation succession and ecosystem processes. Most pedogenic studies on the island have focused on carbon and nitrogen dynamics, soil organisms and nutritional soil properties, showing differences between vegetated areas within the seagull colony and sparsely or unvegetated areas under lower seabird influence. Likely, the ornithogenic inputs also shape weathering processes and secondary mineral formation. However, despite their profound role for soil functions, little research has so far been done on the formation of pedogenic clay minerals on the island. We will present first results of an extensive investigation of pedogenesis and formation of secondary clay minerals in the young soils of Surtsey by X-ray diffraction and Thermal analyses. While most sites influenced by birds and vegetation do not show evident indications of clay mineral formation, we verified distinct signs of pedogenic clay minerals (e.g. vermiculite) at one site most influenced by geothermal heat. Our preliminary results suggest that weathering processes and the formation of secondary clay minerals on Surtsey are presently more strongly associated with proximity to the geothermal heat, whereas the influence of seabirds is not yet detectable within the relatively short timescale of soil development.

SESSION: Life on New Ground: Vegetation Succession and Soil Development on Emerging Nordic Landscapes

25-06-2026 10:10 - 11:10

Early Holocene vegetation and environmental responses to abrupt climate variability in the Icelandic highlands

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North Atlantic climate is strongly regulated by the strength of the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC). At present, the stability of this circulation is increasingly questioned, as enhanced freshwater input from accelerated Arctic warming is freshening the North Atlantic and potentially weakening deep-water formation. High-resolution palaeoarchives from Iceland provide a valuable long-term perspective on past AMOC variability and associated climate tipping points, given Iceland's strategic location within the North Atlantic climate system. The Early Holocene (11.7–8.2 ka BP) climate in the North Atlantic was characterized by a thermal maximum interrupted by rapid, short-lived cooling events linked to AMOC instability. The Icelandic highlands are likely among the most sensitive environments to external disturbances such as climate change and volcanic activity, yet their long-term ecological trajectories remain poorly constrained. This study investigates how vegetation and environmental conditions in the Icelandic highlands responded to Early Holocene warming and abrupt climatic fluctuations associated with AMOC variability. A multi-proxies approach was applied to lake sediment sequences from the Arnarvatnsheiði region, Iceland. Vegetation dynamics were reconstructed using pollen analysis. Loss-on-ignition, organic carbon and nitrogen contents (C/N ratios), stable carbon and nitrogen isotopes, and elemental geochemistry derived from XRF scanning were used to assess soil erosion processes and landscape stability. Tephrochronology and radiocarbon dating provided robust chronological control, enabling analysis of climate–ecosystem interactions at centennial to millennial timescales. By identifying past regime shifts and ecosystem persistence under rapid climate perturbations, this study advances theoretical understanding of ecosystem resilience.

SESSION: Can we educate transformative change-makers for better futures?

25-06-2026 10:10 - 11:10

Pedagogies for a sustainable future: approaches to teaching transformative adaptation and redefining the classroom

Daniel LeVine ¹

¹ The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, United States

The impending environmental catastrophes that can be understood through the planetary boundaries framework (i.e. global climate collapse, the 6th global mass extinction event, etc.) present the need for novel strategies that respond and adapt to the numerous major crises that are unfolding at multiple interconnected scales. This complex predicament, also referred to as the polycrisis, presents a need for pedagogies that teach transformative adaptation strategies that move away from the mechanisms that led us to the problems we face today. Informed by Freire's critical pedagogy, my teaching mission aims to face grand challenges through collaborative, community-based approaches that encourage students to find sustainable solutions and transformative departures from the status quo. I lean on examples from three classes that I've developed at UT Austin, including: 1) a course on community and citizen science that centers the coproduction of knowledge through community-based collaborative projects, 2) a course on soundscape ecology that prompts students to listen to their local environment to understand how it is changing and being impacted by human activity, and 3) a study abroad program examining urban climate adaptation strategies across Norwegian cities. Lessons and takeaways from these teaching strategies emphasize the importance of empowering students by asking them to envision the world they want to live in and providing opportunities to think creatively and outside-the-box to find just and equitable solutions to grand challenges.

SESSION: Can we educate transformative change-makers for better futures?

25-06-2026 10:10 - 11:10

Educating transformative change-makers for landscape and land use planning through long term international collaboration

Minna Tanskanen ¹Josep Vila Subiros ², Sanni Pirttilä ¹

¹ University of Eastern Finland, Joensuu, Finland

² University of Girona, Girona, Spain

Over the last decade, the importance of working-life relevance and competence has become central in higher education. The EU regulation highlights the social significance of higher education, and Erasmus+ has been established as a key funding instrument to align higher education with societal and professional needs. In our presentation, we first introduce a long-term (nearly 25 years) collaboration between the universities of Girona (Catalonia/Spain) and Eastern Finland aimed at developing working-life competencies on the field of landscape and land-use planning and management. This collaboration has been sustained through intensive courses, joint field-based learning, and multiple Erasmus+ projects, developing study contents and methods in close cooperation with local and regional stakeholders. Secondly, we focus on our ongoing project "*Nature Restoration - challenges and opportunities for future landscape specialists*" (FutureLand, 2025-2028), see: <https://www.erasmus-futureland.eu/>. The project responds to the urgent need to address environmental degradation and promote sustainable development, in line with the EU Nature Restoration Law (NRL), a key instrument of the European Green Deal and the EU Biodiversity Strategy. The FutureLand project develops innovative learning environments and teaching approaches that strengthen working-life competencies and enhance student employability in nature restoration and landscape governance. These approaches are grounded in co-production of knowledge, experiential, place-based learning, and the development of student's reflexive capacities. Within our project, we are developing methods and study contents to educate future landscape and land use specialists. We argue that long-term and sustained international collaboration provides a powerful framework for preparing students as transformative change-makers capable of addressing complex socio-ecological challenges. These practitioners combine technical expertise with reflexive, collaborative, and adaptive capacities, enabling them to contribute actively to sustainability transitions and the implementation of nature restoration policies.

SESSION: Can we educate transformative change-makers for better futures?

25-06-2026 10:10 - 11:10

Curating Futures: Imaginary-Historical Pedagogies for Educating Transformative Change-Makers

Marlies Meijer ¹

¹ Wageningen University, Wageningen, Netherlands

This contribution examines the *Museum of the Future* as a pedagogical intervention for educating transformative change-makers in spatial planning and geography. In the final assignment of the Master course *Political Dilemmas in Spatial Planning*, students act as curators in the fictive *National Museum of Planning History*. They construct a retrospective narrative from the vantage point of a Nature-Based Society in 2120. The assignment asks students to trace critical junctures, institutional shifts, and contested planning trajectories. In doing so, it activates key concepts from planning theory and institutional change and foregrounds the political, ethical, and epistemic dilemmas that shape long-term transitions. The museum format encourages students to combine theory, historical developments, and future-oriented reasoning into clear spatial-temporal storylines. This contribution argues that such imaginary-historical curation strengthens transformative competences—systems thinking, normative reflexivity, and the ability to question dominant paradigms. It offers a concise and engaging didactic model for preparing practitioners to shape more sustainable futures.

SESSION: Capital, Labor, and Supply Chains in Agro-industrial Crises II

25-06-2026 10:10 - 11:10

Capital accumulation through socio-technical fixes to natural crises: The case of controlled environment agriculture in Iceland

Nicholas Ian Robinson ¹

¹ University of California, Davis, Davis, United States

This paper explores the socio-technical landscape of controlled environment agriculture in Iceland, specifically hydroponic vegetable production. An extensive geographic study utilizing a survey, interviews, and on-farm observation was conducted among vegetable farmers in Iceland during the years 2021-2023, with 75% of the country's vegetable farmers participating in the study. In evaluating the specific modes through which capital accumulates in the hydroponic vegetable production sector in Iceland, the discussion chronicles the industry's origin, current state, and future aspirations. Hydroponic growers seek sociotechnical fixes to contemporary crises of natural systems but in so doing create new technological and economic path dependencies, becoming enmeshed in larger crises of fertility, finance, technology, climate, and geopolitics. Drawing upon a theoretical basis in agrarian political economy and political ecology, the paper evaluates the strategies utilized by growers to maintain capital accumulation in the face of these crises including particular modes of state capture being employed. These claims are evaluated alongside an assessment of the environmental and social impacts associated with hydroponic vegetable input supply chains and the environmental externalities involved in production. These processes of accumulation are understood to combine in transforming and restructuring socionatural relationships in Icelandic and connected global agricultural landscapes. The resulting structure has implications for the social metabolism of Icelandic food production, the autonomy of Icelandic rural communities, and the democracy of political-economic organization in Iceland.

SESSION: Capital, Labor, and Supply Chains in Agro-industrial Crises II

25-06-2026 10:10 - 11:10

The Warp and Weft of Debt: The Shrimp Supply Chain and the Rising Precarity of the Prawn Seedling Catchers of the Sundarbans

Taneesha Mohan ¹

¹ University of Colorado, Boulder, Boulder, United States

Tiger prawns, the “living dollars of the Sundarbans,” are a delicacy that fetches very high prices, and India is today a leading exporter. The shrimp industry in India contributes to 13 per cent of global shrimp production (second only to China) and is the top exporter to the US. The effects of this booming industry rarely percolate down to the bottom of the supply chain- the **female classes of labour**. This paper focuses on women prawn seedling catchers of the Sundarbans, where poverty drives more than 200,000 women every year to collect tiger prawn seedlings under perilous and unrewarding conditions. The expansion of prawn cultivation across the Sundarbans, coupled with rising impacts of climate change, has transformed the region's agricultural and biodiversity landscape, leaving many vulnerable households, and women in particular, with this as the only option left to eke out a living. Furthermore, to ensure a flow of income, women are now also seen in local shrimp processing plants, which is currently reeling under the impacts of US Tariffs, pushing them further into precarity. Drawing on my village study from the Sundarbans in West Bengal, the paper delves into the myriad ways the female prawn seedling catchers, a key component of this profitable global supply chain, engage in various survival strategies of securing their livelihood, which often results in debt-induced forced labour and rising poverty, while the industry is on a trajectory of growth.

SESSION: Circular cities for sustainable transformation II

25-06-2026 10:10 - 11:10

Planning for circularity in mid-sized industrial cities: opportunities and challenges for food waste

Elyse Stanes ¹Nicole Cook ¹

¹ University of Wollongong , Wollongong, Australia

Mid-sized industrial cities offer important, but frequently overlooked, possibilities for planning inclusive forms of circularity. Often bearing the burden for the noisy, dirty, and polluting metabolic functions upon which proximate larger metropolitan centres depend, mid-sized industrial cities are critical for material circulations. Moreover, because of their zoning regimes and infrastructural inheritances they are being increasingly positioned as key sites of experimentation for sustainability transitions, including industrial-scale circular economy initiatives. This paper draws upon longitudinal research on food circularity in Wollongong, Australia, to better understand the path-dependent relationship between circular systems, planning, and urban socio-materialities. Mid-sized industrial cities such as Wollongong have faced multiple phases of restructuring but retain diversified industrial bases. Diverse and flexible zoning, social enterprise development, and material industrial cultures have also supported emergent capacity around food production, waste recovery, and compositing/processing. Nevertheless, embedding food waste circularity within mid-sized industrial cities is far from straightforward. We outline three key challenges: the absence of viable markets for recovered materials, human health risks from circulating contaminated waste streams, and the problematic funnelling of investment toward waste-dependent circular systems rather than waste minimisation and reuse. Mid-sized industrial cities have distinctive socio-material configurations that create specific affordances for circular economies, but their potential is accompanied by place-based complexities that demand more nuanced conceptualisations of circularity and associated planning responses.

SESSION: Circular cities for sustainable transformation II

25-06-2026 10:10 - 11:10

Socio-spatial dynamics of consumer food waste behaviors in the Poznań metropolitan area: a study of urban and suburban households in Poland

Milena Zięba ¹Bartosz Stępiński ¹

¹ Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, Poland

This study examines the socio-spatial determinants of food waste behaviors within the Poznań metropolitan area, Poland, framing household waste as a critical challenge for the transition toward circular cities. Drawing on a survey of 984 adult residents, the research identifies how distinct urban and suburban environments shape the practices of food consumption and disposal. The findings reveal urban-suburban divide in waste-related behaviors. Urban residents - often younger, living in smaller households, and characterized by higher mobility - exhibit consumption patterns defined by high shopping frequency and lower planning. Conversely, suburban households, while maintaining more structured routines, struggle with over-purchasing and the management of leftovers within larger family units. Despite a high level of environmental awareness, a persistent attitude-behavior gap remains a significant barrier to circularity. The study highlights that sustainable practices are unevenly distributed, with higher education and access to home gardens acting as key catalysts for waste reduction. Furthermore, the low adoption of food-saving mobile applications suggests a mismatch between digital solutions and everyday consumer habits. The results argue for a shift from uniform environmental policies toward spatially-targeted interventions. By integrating behavioral insights with spatial analysis, this research provides a framework for locally-tailored strategies - ranging from urban meal-planning education to suburban retail adaptations - essential for fostering resilient and circular metropolitan food systems. These insights contribute to the design of evidence-based food waste reduction policies applicable to diverse metropolitan regions facing similar sustainability challenges.

SESSION: Circular cities for sustainable transformation II

25-06-2026 10:10 - 11:10

Negotiating circularity: How recycling industries complicate sustainable urban transformations

Zhengke Zhou ¹

¹ The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China

Recycling industries are often celebrated as key enablers of urban circular economy transitions, yet their environmental and socio-spatial implications remain contested. This study examines the paradoxical nature of circular practices by analysing the emergence of a battery recycling firm in Shenzhen. While battery recycling is framed as a green solution to urban sustainability challenges, its development reveals complex negotiations over what constitutes 'green' and for whom circular transitions are beneficial. Integrating evolutionary economic geography with political-industrial ecology, the study conceptualises green path development in the recycling sector as a socially and politically mediated process shaped by actors who attach divergent meanings and values to waste materials. Through this lens, the development of a battery recycling industry is shown to depend not only on technological innovation but also on bargaining among state and firm actors over environmental risks, spatial siting, and economic benefits. By unpacking how used batteries are discursively and materially transformed into valuable resources, the study highlights the tensions between circular economy ambitions and the lived realities of urban environmental governance. In

doing so, it offers a more grounded understanding of how recycling industries reshape socio-ecological relations, and how circular initiatives can both support and complicate sustainable urban transformations. The study contributes to debates on circular cities by bridging geographies of waste, green path development, and just sustainability transitions.

SESSION: Energy geographies books and special issues: Convening authors and editors to reflect on the evolving discipline I

25-06-2026 13:20 - 15:00

Image-ining place-based energy transitions

Christina Hoicka ¹Saki Murotani ²

¹ University of Victoria, Victoria, Canada

² SAKIART, Vancouver, Canada

Place-based approaches to renewable energy projects are more widely understood to bring about social acceptance and socioeconomic benefits to involved or nearby communities. Place-based approaches invite social and decolonial dimensions to policy design, moving beyond technocratic imaginaries of shovels, panels and turbines. Saki and Chrisea, a creative director and professional researcher, share their journey of developing illustrations of place-based imaginaries and realities of impacts that encompass language, culture, ecological revitalization, and new relationships along the journey of community engagement. The presentation will share illustrations and a company brand development to provoke discussion about transformative approaches to energy transitions.

SESSION: Energy geographies books and special issues: Convening authors and editors to reflect on the evolving discipline I

25-06-2026 13:20 - 15:00

Geographies of energy acceleration(ism)

Devyn Remme ¹

¹ University of Bergen, Bergen, Norway

Scholars from every discipline have written in some way about the disquieting double bind of energy acceleration (see also green extractivism). This reflection summarizes key contributions to the transdisciplinary debate - about how modern temporalities intersect with socio-ecological crises - from those geographies concerned with the spatial dimensions of contemporary energy questions and conflicts. It identifies four types of problems associated with energy accelerationism as known through different subdisciplines of geography: land use change; toxic waste; economic dependencies and financial speculation; and democracy, planning and policy.

SESSION: Energy geographies books and special issues: Convening authors and editors to reflect on the evolving discipline I

25-06-2026 13:20 - 15:00

Alienation and Agency: Labour Geographies in the Carbonscape

David Jordhus-Lier ¹

¹ University of Oslo, OSLO, Norway

We live in an era of failing climate mitigation. Energy geographers therefore not only have to point us to sustainable futures, but help us understand why science-based societal trajectories fail to materialise. My book project *Alienation and Agency* uses the contradictory political lives of fossil-fuel workers as a lens through which I explore the possibilities for energy transition and decarbonisation. Drawing on long-term research with Norwegian oil workers, I unpack “the oil worker” as a polarised subject in the Norwegian climate debate, and ask how the concept of alienation can help us interpret constrained forms of political agency and reframe energy geographies’ analytical obligations.

SESSION: Energy geographies books and special issues: Convening authors and editors to reflect on the evolving discipline I

25-06-2026 13:20 - 15:00

Are Low-Carbon Futures Decentralised? The Governance of Collective Electricity Systems

Siddharth Sareen ¹Per Ove Eikeland ¹, Tor Håkon Jackson Inderberg ¹

¹ Fridtjof Nansen Institute, Lysaker, Norway

This reflection features a recent book (<https://www.e-elgar.com/shop/gbp/are-low-carbon-futures-decentralised-9781035355181.html>) on the role of the electricity grid and cognate infrastructures in driving the low-carbon transition, addressing the key question: are low-carbon futures decentralised? It explores decentralisation as both a governance manoeuvre and infrastructural innovation, reflecting on the relationship between emergent data infrastructures and electricity systems. The reflection articulates some salient ways for energy geographers to engage and contribute.

SESSION: Who Prepares? Critical perspectives on civil preparedness

25-06-2026 13:20 - 15:00

Rethinking the imaginary of the ‘more prepared’ rural

Linda Sandberg ¹

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Rural areas in Sweden are often represented in crisis preparedness communication and policy as more capable and more accustomed to disruption than urban regions, imagined as both resilient places and home to residents who “know how to cope.” This paper examines how such imaginaries

are produced across policy documents, civil society materials, and publicly circulating narratives, and asks how preparedness becomes tied to particular places, practices, and populations through these representations. Across the material, rural residents are represented as people “used to power outages” or “accustomed to long distances,” while some documents even describe rural areas as “already carry a significant part of Sweden’s preparedness.” At the same time, rurality is also represented as especially vulnerable due to long distances and fragile infrastructures. These dual imaginaries, of the rural as both robust and exposed, shape expectations of responsibility and influence how people understand their own capacities in times of crisis. Preparedness messaging also draws affective boundaries around who is regarded as a capable citizen, intersecting with longstanding rural/urban imaginaries and gendered ideals. Alongside these representations, we also see how many rural places are affected by long-standing centralisation processes in which services recede and urban norms shape priorities. Consequently, rural areas are often framed in ways that do not fully align with the resource priorities or planning assumptions governing national preparedness, shaping how responsibilities and capacities are imagined. Reading preparedness through policy and other circulating representations highlights how ideas of a “more prepared” rural are linked to practical experience, while other conditions or dependencies remain only partly articulated. This raises questions about which practices enter policy visibility and which remain in policy shadows, where assumptions of rural self-reliance shape shifting expectations of support and responsibility, and highlight broader concerns about rural justice and the uneven distribution of responsibility and support.

SESSION: Who Prepares? Critical perspectives on civil preparedness

25-06-2026 13:20 - 15:00

Civil defence, security and sovereignty: Canadian postsecondary institutions and a crisis of preparedness during geo-political challenge

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² University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada

Amid threats of annexation of Canada as a ‘51st state’, threats to Danish sovereignty and self-determination of Greenland, and Canadian Prime Minister Carney’s description of a ‘rupture’ in the international world order, Canadian postsecondary institutions (PSIs) find themselves in 2026 at a key intersection of increased defence spending, research opportunities and civil engagement. With a comparatively weak (albeit strengthening) alignment of ‘postsecondary-defence industry-federal government’ investment in defence readiness, the sector awakened rapidly to the need for civil preparedness. This paper notes that this role has strong historical antecedents (including the ‘Khaki university’ of the 1920s’, officer training programs and cadet units in universities and colleges). In the current context it will be crucial for PSIs to invest in a ‘total society’ or ‘comprehensive security’ approach. The Canadian Military Veteran Family Connected Campus Consortium is a collaborative national network focused on mobilizing PSIs as integral to Canada’s defence and sovereignty, supporters of military-connected learners, and enablers of capacity-building for the Canadian Armed Forces. This paper focuses specifically on the role of PSIs within the network in fostering broader civil preparedness beyond the professional military and creating a ‘supplemental reserve’. Our paper situates the question of ‘Who prepares and whose labour’ within the wider question of how responsibilities operate across national, provincial, municipal, community and household scales. We conclude that (i) there is a rapid willingness of PSIs to align on national security, defence, sovereignty and research agendas, (ii) the engagement of PSIs with shifting geographies of labour, expertise and new defence spending is emerging as a significant factor in civil preparedness, and (iii) we have much still to learn from models in other countries, notably within the Nordics. We argue that critical perspectives on civil preparedness in Canada must be set within contemporary geopolitical challenges and the shifting geographies of multilateralism.

SESSION: Who Prepares? Critical perspectives on civil preparedness

25-06-2026 13:20 - 15:00

Housing in climate crisis: How financialisation of housing and climate risk governance shapes housing conditions

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Residents in urban spaces increasingly face the adverse consequences of climate change and financialization. The heat of warming summers gets locked into apartment buildings; the repeated thawing and freezing crack pipes in the winter; and rising sea levels contribute to flooding homes. While climate change influences housing inadvertently, financialization does so by design. Financialization of housing refers to ‘the increasing dominance of financial actors, markets, practices, measurements and narratives’ over it (Aalbers, 2016:i), and its manifestations range from the mortgages packaged for and sold on transnational financial markets to Residential Real Estate Investment Trusts that pool rental housing into investment portfolios. In growing cities, financialization contributes to increasing unaffordability and precarity of housing. Financialization also shapes the efforts to govern the potential and realised impacts of climate change. Households are expected to insure their homes to prepare for recovering from hazards such as floods, while cities and private actors turn to bonds to fund their adaptation infrastructure. Proponents argue that financial instruments distribute climate risks across space and actors, and credit insurers and investors with the calculative competence to assess risks and the capacity to mobilise resources. However, those competences and resources are not aimed at fairly reducing climate risks, and residents facing the highest risks are often those who find it hardest to be financed. The efforts to govern climate risks through financial instruments create uneven geographies of financiability, and reinforce inequalities within and across households. This paper explores how the encroaching financialization of both housing and climate risk governance shapes residents’ housing conditions in a changing climate. The focus is on apartment buildings in Stockholm, Sweden, where residents include owner-occupiers, long-term tenants, and temporary residents. The paper contains preliminary results.

SESSION: Who Prepares? Critical perspectives on civil preparedness

25-06-2026 13:20 - 15:00

Honey, did you buy the batteries? A book review of Sweden’s civil preparation guide “In case of crisis or war” from an intersectional perspective

Webster Natasha A. ¹

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Intersectional perspectives have been lacking in the implementation of civilian preparedness. Prepping advice, generally, does not consider diversity in individuals’ social positionality nor their access to resources, both material and social. Consequently, most preparedness advice is based on assumptions of who can do what, what they have and their communities – as a physical and social space. Civil preparedness requires sensitivity to complex social processes and intersectional perspectives may help identify how norms hinder or support preparedness activities and planning. With increasing threats to Sweden ranging from terror attacks, war to climate and misinformation, the

Swedish authorities expect everyone, ages 16 – 70, living in Sweden to be prepared. Now in its fifth rendition, the state sponsored booklet “In case of crisis or war” has been circulated to the Swedish population with detailed information on what preparedness means in the Swedish context to specific information of how one could do so. The presentation critically reviews, using an intersectional framework, the normative assumptions underlying the booklet with a specific focus on gender norms and social reproduction. I show that the booklet, while well intended, ignores the experiences and needs of a sizable number of people living in Sweden. I argue this blind spot, garnered through a lack of gender and intersectional perspectives, is a policy risk.

SESSION: Who Prepares? Critical perspectives on civil preparedness

25-06-2026 13:20 - 15:00

Organizing civil preparedness: community collaboration in rural areas

Emmeline Laszlo Ambjörnsson ¹

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Society is facing multiple crises and uncertainty ranging from climate related hazards, to pandemics and military interventions. However, the political agenda is dominated by imaginaries of impending military threats and Sweden is currently undertaking its largest defence investment since World War II. These developments also have implications for civil preparedness and community collaboration. Public and private actors are joining forces in new constellations to prepare for war and other crises. However, we lack knowledge about the new forms of collaboration that are emerging, as preparedness research has mainly focused on the individual level. The aim of this recently initiated project is therefore to understand how local collaboration for civil preparedness is organized, with a special focus on rural areas. The project thus responds to three knowledge gaps. First, it generates new knowledge on the evolving roles of businesses, public authorities, and civil society actors involved in collaborative civil preparedness processes. Second, it responds to the urban bias in existing preparedness research by focusing on rural contexts. Third, the project provides empirical insights into how preparedness practices are permeated by social difference and intersectional power relations in local communities. Theoretically, the project draws on the idea of ‘communitas’: the fleeting and liminal, but powerful, experience of existential connection, and the politics of emotion and ‘affective economies’: capturing how emotions contribute to the construction of the social order of political and economic power relations. The empirical focus is Sweden and the island Gotland, where the ongoing militarization is omnipresent. Through a systematic review of ongoing local civil preparedness projects in Sweden, and an in-depth study of the internationally recognized “Strong Parish” preparedness project on Gotland, the research provides important contributions on the role of civil society and local collaboration in rural areas in times of increased uncertainty.

SESSION: OPEN SESSION 8 - Ecology, conservation, green spaces

25-06-2026 13:20 - 15:00

Spatiotemporal water quality trend in a eutrophic boreal lake

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Eutrophication remains one of the most significant threats to freshwater ecosystems, driven largely by excess nitrogen and phosphorus inputs that stimulate phytoplankton growth, reduce water clarity, and impair ecological functioning. Boreal lakes are especially vulnerable due to their sensitivity to climate warming, altered hydrology, and nutrient loading. In Finland, eutrophication poses persistent challenges for lake management, particularly in small and shallow systems where algal blooms and declining water quality are both visually apparent and ecologically impactful. Lake Rokuanjärvi, a shallow eutrophic boreal lake within the Rokua esker system, represents an ecologically important site where understanding long-term water-quality trends is critical. This study examines spatiotemporal changes in water quality in Lake Rokuanjärvi by integrating multiple datasets: Sentinel-2 imagery (10 m; 2017–2025), RGB drone imagery (3 cm; 2024–2025), historical aerial photos (1946–2022), and in situ chlorophyll-a measurements (2017–2025). From Sentinel-2, the Normalized Difference Chlorophyll Index (NDCI) was derived, and pixel-wise temporal trends were assessed using the non-parametric Mann–Kendall test and Sen’s slope estimator. Using the drone imagery, the Normalized Green-Blue Difference Index (NGBDI) and Excess Green Index (ExG) were computed to map fine-scale spatial variability in nearshore vegetation and algal development. Preliminary results reveal spatially heterogeneous but predominantly increasing NDCI and chlorophyll-a trends. Positive monotonic trends are concentrated in shallow littoral zones, indicating rising phytoplankton biomass, while the central pelagic area shows stable conditions with no significant change in trophic status. Significant negative trends occur but are limited in extent. Overall, the findings suggest that Lake Rokuanjärvi is experiencing a modest yet ecologically meaningful increase in summer chlorophyll-related biomass. These patterns align with regional evidence of warming-enhanced phytoplankton productivity in northern lakes. Continued remote-sensing-based monitoring is essential for detecting early ecological shifts and supporting management strategies in sensitive boreal lake ecosystems.

SESSION: OPEN SESSION 8 - Ecology, conservation, green spaces

25-06-2026 13:20 - 15:00

Glacial change and the transferability of conservation strategies: can Ladakhi ice stupas work in the cultural and political context of the Chilean Andes?

Carmen Margiotta ¹

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Using the Cajón del Maipo, central Andes of Chile, as a case study, I investigate how conservation efforts in response to glacial change are shaped by identity, emotions, and power. In the Cajón del Maipo, ice stupas, a form of artificial glaciers first developed in Ladakh, Indian Himalayas, were introduced in 2020 as a way to help preserve glaciers and conserve the ecosystems dependent on them. The ice stupa experiment, led by local engineers as part of a project called “Nilus”, finds itself in a highly complex milieu of privatized water, contested use of natural resources, and local narratives about glaciers tied to extractivism and conflict. I argue that more than neutral technologies, ice stupas in the Cajón del Maipo can stand against or reinforce existing tensions about resource access,

influence of the private sector, and meanings attached to glaciers. To better understand how these technologies travel and transform, I place Chile in conversation with Ladakh, where ice stupas were ideated to speak to a wider cultural world, and their adoption relies on local spiritual meanings. Using ethnographic and qualitative data from fieldwork in Ladakh in April 2024, and in the Cajón del Maipo in November 2024 and February 2026, I aim to show that place-based conservation, and in particular artificial glaciers, are dependent on the local context and the emotional, political and cultural lives that are to accept, or resist, them.

SESSION: OPEN SESSION 8 - Ecology, conservation, green spaces

25-06-2026 13:20 - 15:00

Understanding Cultural Carrying Capacity From Theory to Practice: Wolves in the Landscapes of Minnesota

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The concept of 'cultural carrying capacity' —the public's tolerance for an animal population—is frequently used by wildlife planners to guide decisions on whether to allow wildlife populations to increase or decrease. However, the precise way this broad societal acceptance translates into specific, on-the-ground population targets remains vague in the literature. This paper addresses this gap by examining the case of wolves in Minnesota. We illustrate, at a granular level, how general understandings of cultural carrying capacity for this large, symbolic carnivore inform potential management actions, particularly concerning wolf hunting. Based on a large representative survey of Minnesotans (n=1612) conducted with state wildlife practitioners, we investigate three key areas. First, landscape acceptance examines how wolf acceptance varies across diverse landscape conditions, from farmland to national parks. Second value trade-offs examines residents balance the value of wolves against other species, specifically cervids. Third geographic influence examines how the opinions of residents living inside versus outside wolf range might be considered differently when assessing cultural carrying capacity. We examine the acceptance of hunting as a management tool across these differences. Ultimately, our results call for new theoretical frameworks to clarify the mechanism by which a state transitions from general levels of acceptance of animals to specific management objectives, thereby contributing to a better understanding of democratic environmental decision-making.

SESSION: OPEN SESSION 8 - Ecology, conservation, green spaces

25-06-2026 13:20 - 15:00

Nature in your neighbourhood - a place-based, community-led monitoring approach to neighbourhood greenspaces

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Nature In Your Neighbourhood, Staffordshire Moorlands (England, UK) is a five-year, place-based, community-led project launched in 2024. Over time the project will highlight how community groups and neighbourhoods can manage and improve their local greenspaces and integrate nature-based solutions. The community are actively taking part in citizen science through structured seasonal

habitat surveys and by filling in data gaps in the ecological record on iNaturalist. The community have boosted the monitoring capacity and potential of the project and have supported an increase in ecosystem knowledge for local decision makers. Following ten community nominated sites in detail this study will examine the impact of community-led monitoring, and management on the sites. The study will consider public perceptions, habitat biodiversity, pollinators, soils and the complexities of community groups. Grounded in concepts such as Nature's Contributions to People and the nexus approach, the project translates large-scale environmental challenges into a tangible, place-based case study. Nature In Your Neighbourhood is a partnership project created by a community group (Moorlands Climate Action), wildlife conservation charity (Staffordshire Wildlife Trust), local government (Staffordshire Moorlands District Council), education and research institution (Keele University), a rural arts revolution organisation (OUTSIDE Arts), and youth organisation (SCVYS). This stakeholder partnership so far has proven strong in turning words into action, and activating community conservation in locations that matter to them. From road side verges, to community greens, and country parks these neighbourhood greenspaces are all significant in supporting habitat connectivity and supporting community sense of place. Nature In Your Neighbourhood is funded by the National Lottery Community Fund.

SESSION: OPEN SESSION 8 - Ecology, conservation, green spaces

25-06-2026 13:20 - 15:00

Mapping Urban Wildness for Place-Based Conservation in the Rotterdam–The Hague Metropolitan Region

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As cities continue to expand and intensify, urban conservation can no longer be framed by idealized notions of pristine nature. Instead, it must engage with hybrid landscapes in which ecological processes unfold unevenly within spaces shaped by infrastructure, governance, and everyday human use. This paper explores how mapping urban wildness can contribute to more place-based approaches to conservation in such hybrid and rapidly changing environments. Using the Rotterdam–The Hague Metropolitan Region as a case study, the paper examines urban wildness as an uneven spatial condition shaped by tensions between ecological autonomy and human control. Spatial mapping reveals a region where relatively self-organizing areas coexist with tightly managed environments, alongside transitional spaces where spontaneous ecological processes persist under everyday regimes of planning and control. The analysis helps distinguish visually green but tightly managed spaces from areas where lower-intervention ecological dynamics are more likely to be sustained. The study argues that urban nature should not be treated as a uniform resource. Rather, a wildness-based reading of the region highlights differentiated socio-ecological conditions that call for different conservation responses, including protection, connectivity enhancement, and selective management relaxation. More broadly, the paper contributes to debates on conservation in changed and changing environments by showing that urban conservation is not about restoring an idealized past nature, but about recognizing, negotiating, and governing diverse and evolving ecologies in place.

SESSION: OPEN SESSION 9 - Multiple and restless mobilities

25-06-2026 13:20 - 15:00

More than "Ready, Set, Go!": complexities and directional fluidity of run-commuting

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Run-commuting—the practice of running as a form of functional transportation between home and work—represents an emerging yet frequently overlooked phenomenon within active mobility research. While mobility studies traditionally focus on cycling and walking, run-commuting remains a significant research gap despite its growing popularity in urban environments. This paper investigates run-commuting as a complex social practice, drawing on qualitative data from personal diaries and semi-structured interviews with Czech run-commuters. Using social practice theory as a foundational framework, this study categorizes run-commuting through its essential elements: materials, competences, meanings, people, and environment. Furthermore, it expands this framework by incorporating the critical variable of directionality. Our findings reveal that run-commuting is not a uniform practice; rather, it is continually negotiated, both within the runners themselves—in terms of their physicality and embodied experiences—and in relation to their social and physical environment. Consequently, the experience and logistical requirements of this practice differ significantly, shifting with weather conditions, seasons, and bodily sensations. Ultimately, the significance of these elements and the spatiotemporal behavior of runners depend heavily on the direction of the run. By highlighting how spatial needs, environmental factors, and personal characteristics influence the practice, this paper argues for a multi-factorial understanding of active travel. The results contribute to a deeper knowledge of how everyday life is reshaped by mobile practices and offer important insights for both urban and workplace planning, as well as future mobility research.

SESSION: OPEN SESSION 9 - Multiple and restless mobilities

25-06-2026 13:20 - 15:00

Seeking a Tailwind for Bike–Train Mobility in Türkiye through Female Cyclists’ Narratives

Zeynep Ceren Correia ¹

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This paper explores how women cyclists’ narratives could provide a critical lens for rethinking mobility, agency, and the imagination of bike–train mobility futures. Drawing on qualitative engagement with cycling stories, it examines how human capacities, our properties and powers, emerge relationally through encounters with both material and social worlds. By centering women’s experiences of cycling, the paper asks how stories make certain mobility practices imaginable. The analysis draws on critical realist philosophy of science, particularly its account of reflexivity in the formation of agency, and treats narratives as a site where reflexive understandings of mobility and participation within it take shape. It also engages interdisciplinary debates influenced by developments in neuroscience that challenge conventional assumptions in mobility planning and design; how people make decisions, how collective commitments emerge, and how societies orient themselves toward the future. Empirically, the paper situates these questions in Türkiye. Türkiye presents a striking mobility paradox: despite ranking among the world’s leading countries in transport infrastructure investment, levels of active mobility remain low, and multimodal practices such as bike–train multimodal travel remain marginal. This paradox unfolds within a broader socio-political landscape marked by the imprisonment of urban planners, the dismissal of critical geographers engaged in peace advocacy,

and the persistence of gender-based violence. I argue that these conditions produce a shared state of 'fractured reflexivity' among riders, readers, engineers, planners, and other actors engaged with bike–train mobility. This shape not only how mobility systems are designed but also how they are imagined and experienced in everyday life. Rather than treating bike–train mobility as a purely technical integration of transport modes, the paper proposes understanding it as a practice grounded in 'mobility as a commons', thereby opening interdisciplinary inquiry into the 'possibility of naturalism' in mobility studies, with particular attention to narratives as a source of inquiry.

SESSION: OPEN SESSION 9 - Multiple and restless mobilities

25-06-2026 13:20 - 15:00

Ten years with Regional Public Transport Authorities – perspectives on steering, geography and planning in the light of rescaling

Ida Andersson ¹

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This presentation summarizes findings from a four-year research project examining the institutional transformation of public transport governance in Sweden following the introduction of the Public Transport Act (SFS 2010:1065) in 2012. It is based on a recently published anthology (i.e. Andersson (ed.), 2026). The reform established 21 Regional Public Transport Authorities and reconfigured responsibilities, planning mandates and governance practices across local and regional levels. Situating the reform within broader processes of rescaling (Keating, 2017) and collaborative governance (Healey, 1997), the analysis illustrates how public transport planning is shaped in a multi-level, non-hierarchical governance context. Drawing on interviews with regional and municipal actors, document analysis and comparative regional studies, the findings show that the reform has strengthened the strategic role of the regional level, particularly in linking public transport to regional development and labor market integration. However, implementation remains highly dependent on municipal planning capacities, especially in relation to land use, welfare services and local accessibility. This creates a fragmented governance landscape in which coordination and negotiation are essential but resource intensive. The results highlight a persistent tension between growth-oriented and welfare-oriented logics. While regional strategies emphasize efficiency, competitiveness and region enlargement, municipalities often prioritize social inclusion, accessibility and service provision. Furthermore, the analysis demonstrates how territorial variation conditions the outcomes of rescaling processes. In densely populated regions, strategic ambitions for public transport expansion are more readily realized, whereas in rural areas, structural constraints necessitate alternative mobility solutions and reinforce dependence on flexible and informal arrangements. The analysis concludes that public transport governance is best understood as an ongoing institutional process characterized by selective rescaling, negotiated collaboration and spatial differentiation. Rather than advocating further structural reform, the findings point to the need for enhanced coordination, improved data infrastructures and a stronger integration of social sustainability into regional mobility planning.

SESSION: OPEN SESSION 9 - Multiple and restless mobilities

25-06-2026 13:20 - 15:00

404 not found: Outscaling, governance asymmetries and the role of public transport in Sweden

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² Örebro University, Örebro, Sweden

This paper uses the discontinuation of rural bus line 404 in the Örebro county region as a lens to study the governance of public transport in rural areas of Sweden following the 2012 regionalization reform. Drawing on semi-structured interviews with municipal officials and regional planners, the analysis shows how the rescaling of decision-making authority to the regional level has left municipalities with enduring welfare responsibilities that remain dependent on functional mobility systems. The rescaling of planning mandate produces a mismatch between authority and accountability, where municipalities must manage the social and economic consequences of regional service withdrawal without meaningful influence over strategic public transport planning. The discontinuation of line 404 demonstrates how public transport carries both practical and symbolic significance in rural areas. While low ridership levels are invoked to justify cutbacks, the line's removal generated wider repercussions for inter-municipal cooperation in upper-secondary education, labor-market access, and municipal development strategies. At the same time, the withdrawal was interpreted locally as a symbolic act of territorial downgrading, reinforcing perceptions of center-periphery imbalance within the region. These reactions reflect international research showing that rural transport infrastructures function as political infrastructures of recognition, conveying inclusion or neglect beyond their operational metrics. The paper highlights the collision between efficiency-oriented regional planning logics and municipal welfare obligations and argues that mitigating such tensions requires improved cross-scale coordination and governance models that reconnect decision-making to the sites where responsibilities and consequences are carried. In conclusion, the 404 case exposes vulnerabilities in Sweden's regionalized transport governance and underscores the need for arrangements that support both territorial cohesion and rural viability.

SESSION: Giving back, research impact, or the 'third mission'? Exploring the institutional role of the geographer in interesting times

25-06-2026 13:20 - 15:00

"Watching. Being. Tracing." Expanding on *tredje uppgiften* and curation as a pedagogical tool

Tom Ward ¹Björn Nordvall ²

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² Stockholm University, Stockholm, Sweden

Tredje uppgiften is the Swedish principle that foregrounds the obligation of researchers to communicate their research to a public audience. While engaging with this principle to produce a public exhibition in rural Sweden on ethnographic research methods, we found that the act of curation confronted us with the need to actively and critically reflect on how we use and operationalise research methods in practice. Adopting the principle of *tredje uppgiften*, curation emerges as a novel pedagogical tool that encourages students to consciously reflect on the methodological foundations of their research. In the paper we describe how, for us, this act of curation took two forms: (1) a curation of knowledge content and (2) a spatially-informed selection and positioning of this curated knowledge. We approach these two points in a methodological sense and suggest that curation confronts students with thorny questions about their research methods, questions that productively foster a deeper understanding of the research process. Moreover, we argue that the spatial nature of curation, when curating a public exhibition, is particularly productive of methodological reflexivity in a geographical context. We raise questions, accordingly, of how engaging in the principle of *tredje uppgiften* encourages spatially-oriented reflection upon how geographical knowledge is communicated and produced, and foreground the pedagogical value of such reflexivity for students navigating questions of methodology in their work. Making these arguments, in today's changing social and political landscape that increasingly questions the traditional position of the intellectual as a

producer of knowledge, we thus draw upon our own experiences of exhibition curation to demonstrate how engaging in *tredje uppgiften*, in the communication of our research to a public audience, is a process of critical, reflexive, and spatially-oriented thinking about *how* we do geographical research, a process whose value is just as pedagogical as it is societal.

SESSION: Giving back, research impact, or the ‘third mission’? Exploring the institutional role of the geographer in interesting times

25-06-2026 13:20 - 15:00

From Classroom to Community: Experiential Planning Pedagogies and Giving Back in Peripheral Urban Contexts

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¹ Roskilde University, Roskilde, Denmark

² Lund University, Lund, Sweden

This paper examines how geography and planning education can contribute to the university’s ‘third mission’ through locally embedded, experiential learning practices. In response to current debates on the role of the university in society, we explore how teaching can function as a site of knowledge exchange and responsible research communication. Drawing on a case study from Nakskov (Denmark), we analyse how problem- and project-based learning (PBL/PPL) in urban planning education facilitates reciprocal engagements between students, researchers, and local communities. The paper is informed by theoretical perspectives on experiential learning (Dewey), critical pedagogy (Freire), and transformative learning (Mezirow), and is based on qualitative material including student reflections, visual outputs, and interactions with local stakeholders. We show how these pedagogical practices enable forms of “giving back” by mobilising situated knowledges and producing alternative narratives and planning imaginaries in peripheral urban contexts. At the same time, the paper critically interrogates the tensions and power relations embedded in such engagements, including risks of extractive research practices, asymmetries between university and community actors, and the temporal limitations of project-based interventions. We argue that experiential and collaborative pedagogies position geographers as mediators between academic knowledge and societal concerns, while also making visible the contested nature of knowledge exchange. By foregrounding teaching as a key site of the ‘third mission’, the paper contributes to discussions on how geographers can engage ethically, creatively, and reflexively with society in a Nordic context where the role of the university is increasingly scrutinised.

SESSION: Giving back, research impact, or the ‘third mission’? Exploring the institutional role of the geographer in interesting times

25-06-2026 13:20 - 15:00

Geographies of knowledge and research impact: Why research evaluation needs a geographical lens

Mirek Dymitrow¹ Rene Brauer¹

¹ Linnaeus University, Växjö, Sweden

What can geographers offer society in an era defined by demands for measurable research impact and institutional accountability? Higher education institutions remain central sites where knowledge is produced, circulated, taught, and evaluated. Over recent decades, scholarship has criticized how research impact and knowledge exchange are assessed. These critiques highlight distortive effects of performance-based metrics, the rise of competitive accountability cultures, and the risk that knowledge practices prioritize measurable outputs over intellectual or societal value. Others emphasize how such regimes may undermine academic freedom, hinder knowledge co-creation, disadvantage early-career researchers, and obscure power relations in evaluation systems. While compelling, these critiques often remain fragmented and rarely consider spatial conditions under which knowledge is produced, legitimized, and valued. Effectively, an important dimension is missing: the geographical context in which research evaluation regimes operate. This paper argues that a geographical perspective provides a more systemic understanding of value conflicts in contemporary research evaluation. To address this gap, we draw on a 'geographies of knowledge' approach, examining how ideas emerge, circulate, and gain or lose authority across places and scales. This perspective combines two dimensions: geography, as a lens attentive to place, scale, and spatial relations; and knowledge, as socially processed information that acquires legitimacy within institutional and societal contexts. Together, they enable analysis of how evaluation regimes travel, how norms are interpreted locally, and how spatial contexts shape consequences. Drawing on examples from Nordic, Continental European, and African contexts, we discuss how research evaluation regimes interact with diverse academic traditions and institutional histories, generating distinct value conflicts and forms of epistemic injustice. By foregrounding these spatial dynamics, this perspective helps clarify why evaluation regimes produce uneven outcomes across the globe and how their societal consequences may unfold.

SESSION: Giving back, research impact, or the 'third mission'? Exploring the institutional role of the geographer in interesting times

25-06-2026 13:20 - 15:00

When participation requires expertise: the geographer as knowledge broker in co-creative urban environmental governance

Patrycja Grzyś ¹

¹ University of Lodz, Lodz, Poland

In contemporary urban governance, co-creation and participatory mechanisms are widely promoted as tools for democratizing decision-making and empowering citizens. While such approaches foreground the right to the city, they also raise less explored questions about responsibility, expertise, and the uneven capacities of residents to engage with complex sustainability challenges. This paper reflects on the role of the geographer as a knowledge broker within co-creative urban governance, drawing on engagement with two initiatives in Lodz, Poland: eco-participatory budgeting and the civic initiative – Social Tree Inventory. Both initiatives aim to strengthen citizen involvement in shaping local environmental interventions while simultaneously creating spaces for knowledge exchange between residents, municipal institutions, and academic experts. Empirical observations from these initiatives reveal a recurring gap between environmental ambition and participatory depth: while residents often articulate ecological priorities with clarity, mechanisms of co-implementation and long-term stewardship remain weakly specified. In practice, this produces hybrid governance arrangements in which civic initiative, institutional frameworks, and expert mediation become mutually constitutive. In this context, the geographer's role shifts from detached observer to mediator translating between expert knowledge, civic perspectives, and governance structures. The paper argues that participatory urban governance involves negotiating not only citizens' rights to shape the city but also shared responsibilities for its environmental future.

SESSION: Giving back, research impact, or the ‘third mission’? Exploring the institutional role of the geographer in interesting times

25-06-2026 13:20 - 15:00

Reaching out – communicating eudaimonic well-being in nature through various (creative) media

Joha Järekar¹

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In this presentation, I share insights into creative modes of research communication and discuss both tensions and possibilities in engaging with media and stakeholders, based on my experiences of popularizing my PhD research. My research focuses on the often overlooked eudaimonic well-being benefits of nature. Unlike the more commonly discussed hedonic well-being, which concerns pleasure and positive feelings, eudaimonic well-being addresses meaning and deeper life fulfillment. Rather than asking how nature makes us feel good, it asks how nature contributes to a more meaningful life. During my PhD, I have collaborated with various media outlets, reflecting a broader public interest in the topic. My popularizing activities have included podcast interviews, magazine articles, blog posts, a curated exhibition with artists, and even an EP of songs composed based on my data. My work is supported by a foundation that also encourages such public engagement. However, this work has not been without challenges. In this session, I examine not only successes but also the tensions that arise when stepping beyond academia to communicate research. These include differences in pace between media production and academic publishing, navigating interviewers' agendas, and meeting stakeholder expectations while remaining true to the research. I present practical examples of addressing these challenges in creative and ethically grounded ways. Finally, I reflect on how mixed-method approaches may help small-scale qualitative research become more visible in media and public communication.

SESSION: Transforming urban transport in unfavourable conditions

25-06-2026 13:20 - 15:00

Simulating capability spaces: an agent-based approach for analyzing mobility inequalities

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Traditional transport modelling approaches tend to focus either on observed travel behavior or on spatial accessibility, each providing only a partial view of mobility inequalities. Behaviorally grounded models reproduce realized activity–travel patterns, offering detailed insights into individual decisions but often overlooking the constraints that shape feasible choices. In contrast, accessibility models capture the spatial distribution of opportunities but typically abstract from individual heterogeneity in temporal, social, and resource constraints. While detailed mobility datasets provide rich representations of realized activity patterns, they are difficult to scale to population-level analyses, whereas aggregate spatial models lack the granularity needed to represent differentiated freedoms. This disconnect limits the ability to assess how mobility inequalities emerge across individuals, groups, and neighborhoods. To address this challenge, this study operationalizes the Capability Approach within a spatially explicit agent-based model (ABM) to estimate individual capability spaces: the set of activities and destinations feasible under given constraints. Grounded in time geography, the model uses data from the Dutch national travel survey (ODiN) to assign agents daily anchors such as work or school locations, which define space–time prisms bounding potential activity participation. Rather than reproducing observed behavior, agents explore feasible opportunities through repeated Monte Carlo simulations, generating distributions of capability spaces. This enables the aggregation

of individual capabilities to group and neighborhood levels, providing a scalable framework to analyze mobility inequalities and transport justice beyond observed behavior or static accessibility measures.

SESSION: Transforming urban transport in unfavourable conditions

25-06-2026 13:20 - 15:00

Parking policy design: a study of choice, calibration and mix of policy measures in Swedish municipalities

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Parking is a policy area with untapped potential in relation to urban, sustainable transitions – but at the same time it is controversial. Parking measures can be used to achieve less energy-intensive urban mobility and is also a critical matter of land use, where urban land constitutes a scarce resource with several alternative uses. This paper takes as its starting point the governance dilemma between accelerated transition and political and public support for policy. To investigate this, the paper relates the present state of parking policy in Swedish cities to the views of policy makers on the design of parking policy. We use the analytical notions of policy mix and calibration to unwrap parking policy design and governance in Swedish municipalities. A survey to the 67 largest Swedish municipalities was carried out and the survey included inter alia questions on present and future use of parking measures (fee-, time-, and space regulation) and the (re)distribution of space for and from parking. Four municipalities were selected for in-depth, qualitative analysis. The primary empirical materials in the multiple case-study are relevant documents (parking policies, owner directives, policy advisory notes) and transcripts from semi-structured interviews with civil servants, politicians, and other involved actors, e.g. parking companies. The survey indicates that the largest Swedish municipalities are the most transformative ones in terms of designing, calibrating and mixing parking policy measures. However, it does not reveal why the municipalities differ in parking policy design or how design is related to local and contextual matters, e.g. political, economic, geographical or socio-technical aspects. This is the subject for an in-depth analysis based on interviews and a qualitative analysis of policy documents (carried out March-June, 2026).

SESSION: Transforming urban transport in unfavourable conditions

25-06-2026 13:20 - 15:00

Public participation in transport planning. Lessons learned from a co-creation workshop with elderly women in Lund, Sweden

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Transport planning has traditionally been dominated by expert-driven approaches, often overlooking social dimensions such as accessibility, safety, and the lived experiences of vulnerable groups. In the light of calls for more sustainable and just transport systems, this paper examines the role of public

participation through co-creation in urban transport planning. The paper reports from the ELABORATOR project and presents a case study from Lund, Sweden. The empirical data is based on a co-creation workshop conducted with women aged 65 and over, a group identified as particularly vulnerable in relation to traffic safety and accessibility. The workshop combined exploratory walks with a World Café activity to explore participants' experiences of public space, mobility, and transport-related challenges around a central urban square and an adjacent street. The results show how the co-creation activities generated not only situated knowledge about transport, but also public space design, green structures, safety, well-being, and place identity. While the workshop focused on a specific citizen/societal group, participants raised concerns relevant to other vulnerable groups, highlighting the interconnections between transport, accessibility, and urban liveability. The paper concludes by reflecting on methodological lessons and the potential of co-creation processes to support more sustainable and just transport policy and practice.

SESSION: Transforming urban transport in unfavourable conditions

25-06-2026 13:20 - 15:00

More money, more power? Municipal Buy-ins and the Geography of Public Transport Governance in Sweden

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Since Sweden's 2012 regionalisation reform, public transport (PT) planning has been formally consolidated at the regional level, while land-use planning has remained a municipal responsibility. This rescaling has created a governance landscape characterised by interdependencies, negotiation, and multi-level tensions. Although most Swedish municipalities have transferred taxation rights and decision-making authority to regional public transport authorities (PTAs), municipalities across Sweden increasingly engage in municipal buy-ins. A *buy-in* refers to the practice of purchasing additional PT services, or subsidising specific user groups, from a PTA. Despite its wide use, this practice remains analytically underexplored and is frequently described by planners as a 'black box' within Swedish PT governance. In this paper, we conceptualize municipal buy-ins as a spatial and political expression of local attempts to regain influence within a regionalised PT regime. We ask: When and why do buy-ins occur? How do municipal actors make sense of them? How do buy-ins reshape relationships between municipalities and PTAs? And to what extent can buy-ins be understood as a strategy to create local action space within a multi-level governance system? Building on insights from an ongoing research project, we identify regional variations in organisational structures and collaboration practices between PTAs and municipalities. These uneven regional geographies of responsibility and resources suggest that buy-ins may respond to spatial inequalities in PT provision. The paper draws on three contrasting municipal case studies selected for variation in size, regional location and PTA organisation. Using interviews and document analysis, paper provides a first more systematic investigation of municipal buy-ins in Sweden. By conceptualising buy-ins as a spatial governance practice, the paper contributes to debates on rescaling, multi-level governance, and the politics of collaboration in Nordic public transport. It offers new insights into how municipalities navigate shifting responsibilities and negotiate influence in regionalised planning landscapes.

SESSION: Geographies of the Blue Economy: Justice, Restlessness, and Resilience I

25-06-2026 13:20 - 15:00

Uneven Blue Governance in Long Island Sound: Participation, Power, and Coastal Planning

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The Blue Economy promises to balance ecological protection, economic development, and social inclusion, yet its planning instruments often reproduce uneven geographies of access and influence. This study examines the Long Island Sound Blue Plan (LIS BP), mandated by Connecticut Public Act No. 15-66, as a case through which to interrogate these tensions. Although the plan was established to support transparent and participatory marine spatial planning, its development exposed significant gaps between inclusive statutory language and the limited democratic access provided in practice. Inaccessible meeting venues, inconvenient scheduling, and insufficient outreach collectively marginalized non-advisory stakeholders and coastal communities situated at the periphery of planning power. Guided by a critical pragmatic approach, the study interprets these barriers as practices that reinforce long-standing inequities in coastal governance rather than mere logistical oversights. Using qualitative analysis of planning-phase documents, spatial-demographic patterns, and semi-structured interviews, the research surfaces the “subjugated knowledge” often excluded from Blue Economy decision-making. By revealing how exclusion becomes structurally embedded in coastal planning, the paper contributes to broader debates on blue justice and the uneven materialities of ocean governance. The findings propose an alternative framework for transforming the LIS BP into a more democratic, adaptive, and socially equitable planning instrument.

SESSION: Geographies of the Blue Economy: Justice, Restlessness, and Resilience I

25-06-2026 13:20 - 15:00

Feeling Blue? Government policy and (in)action on the Blue Economy in Canada.

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This presentation departs from the recent Federal Government policy on the Blue Economy in Canada. After a strong initial promotional phase that included opportunities for consultation, the current stagnation of Blue Economy efforts has left many feeling blue. Departing from the Canadian Federal Government's Blue Economy strategy this presentation shares the evolution of Canada's 'Blue Economy' in three distinct phases: (i) pre-2020, when no mention of the Blue Economy was made in Canadian federal policy; (ii) 2020-2024, when the Federal Blue Economy strategy was developed through consultation that led to a policy roadmap; and (iii) 2025 onwards, where both action and inaction can be seen across Canada's three ocean frontiers and three indicative themes: justice in Canada's Pacific blue economy, resilience in Canada's Atlantic blue economy, and restlessness in Canada's Arctic blue economy. Beyond the 'blue economy' as a lens there is substantial interest and investment in Canada's ocean territory as a transportation space for natural resources, as an infrastructure space for renewable energy, and as a changing space for climate adaptation. The presentation concludes with an assessment of how a 'blue economy' lens can advance efforts to manage the disparate interests of maritime communities from coast to coast to coast in Canada.

SESSION: Geographies of the Blue Economy: Justice, Restlessness, and Resilience I

25-06-2026 13:20 - 15:00

The dark side of the blue: Russia's Arctic strategies in the era of war

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Since the early 2000s Russia's economic and military presence in the Arctic has expanded steadily (Buchanan 2023, Kinossian 2017). Are we witnessing a revival of the soviet style 'conquest' of the Arctic, epitomised by economic expansionism and equalised development (Hill and Gaddy 2003; Kinossian 2013)? The official rhetoric indicates several strategic priorities, including mineral exploration on the Arctic shelf, protection of Russia's resources, economic development of peripheral regions, and control of a section of the global shipping route (the Northern Sea Route, NSR), the commercial relevance of which is believed to increase because of the impact of the global warming. However, Kremlin's expansionist agenda faces significant structural, environmental, and social constraints questioning its feasibility (Tynkkynen et al. 2018). Russia's unprovoked full-fledged invasion of Ukraine has fundamentally reshaped Russia's relationship with the West, with implications for development of its maritime and terrestrial zones. Arctic energy and transportation projects have found themselves in the centre of geopolitical confrontation. As sanctions disrupt trade and technology transfer, the NSR appears as an immune to economic restrictions or hostile actions trading corridor. As such, it appears vitally important for sustaining Russia's commodity trade but also requires ports, search-and-rescue facilities, navigation systems, icebreakers, and maritime services. Transforming the NSR into a trading route of global reach became the defining features of Russia's Arctic strategies, indicating a shift from the territorial model of development to that centred on site of resource extraction, maritime logistics, and coastal zones, symbolising a broader move from the terrestrial to the maritime Arctic, suggesting further peripheralisation of other territories and localities.

SESSION: Geographies of the Blue Economy: Justice, Restlessness, and Resilience I

25-06-2026 13:20 - 15:00

Trump's stop-work order and the online debate over Revolution Wind

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Federal stop-work orders issued by the Trump administration in August and December 2025 temporarily halted construction on the nearly completed Revolution Wind offshore project, generating an unusual moment of public attention around Blue Economy development in southern New England. Although both orders were later overturned in court, the interruptions created uncertainty across coastal communities and opened space for intense online debate about the future of offshore wind in the region. This study analyzes how people used social media to talk about these halts and how those conversations shifted as construction stopped and started again. Using a digital footprint analysis of posts from platforms such as X, Facebook, and Reddit, along with basic sentiment and thematic coding, we track the major concerns expressed by users ranging from job security and energy costs to trust in federal agencies and broader questions about offshore wind's place in the region. This study will also incorporate a spatial analysis of geolocated and place-referenced posts to examine how responses varied across coastal communities in southern New England, helping identify where support, concern, and uncertainty were most strongly expressed. Rather than arguing that social media drove policy outcomes, we approach these posts as a way to understand how coastal communities interpret sudden political interventions in large-scale energy projects. Our findings point to the ways online spaces can amplify uncertainty during policy disruptions, with implications for communication and public engagement around Blue Economy initiatives.

SESSION: Thinking with buildings: exploring the intersection of Architecture and Human Geography I

25-06-2026 13:20 - 15:00

Biophilic design as the foundation for the resilience of the cities of the future

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Modern cities exposes residents to increased levels of chronic stress, negatively affecting mental and physical health, which requires the conscious shaping of urban communities that are resistant to stress and able to regenerate. In the face of increasing climate, health and social crises, the concept of a resilient city – a system capable of adapting, absorbing shocks and regenerating while preserving key functions – is becoming increasingly important. At the same time, the idea of a biophilic city emphasizes the need for systemic integration of nature with urban structures as the foundation of health, quality of life and sustainable development. The aim of the article is to show the links between biophilic design and building urban resilience based on a literature review and research on the impact of greenery and elements of the natural environment on the well-being of residents. The analysis also includes the results of empirical research conducted among the inhabitants of the Poznań metropolis. The results indicate that the availability, diversity and quality of urban green spaces are associated with reduced stress levels, better regeneration and greater resilience to crises. Recommendations were formulated for the design of urban spaces supporting the resilience and psychophysical well-being of residents. The importance of developing coherent green-blue infrastructure systems, improving access to green spaces, strengthening ecological connections and integrating nature into the everyday living environment was highlighted. Selected examples of spatial interventions are also presented. The results indicate that daily contact with nature is a key adaptation resource for cities and their residents. Nature-based solutions and the integration of biophilic elements into the urban environment strengthen the resilience of communities to crises. Hence, the concepts of urban resilience and biophilia significantly shape contemporary approaches in architecture and geography, emphasizing nature as the foundation of sustainable and adaptive space design.

SESSION: Thinking with buildings: exploring the intersection of Architecture and Human Geography I

25-06-2026 13:20 - 15:00

Cultural centers: Common spaces for art, culture and democracy. The case of Kopparberg's People's House

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In December 2025, the first Bergslagen literature festival was held in Kopparberg's new People's House. One of the organizers then said to SVT: "The countryside is generally somewhat of a periphery, especially when it comes to cultural activities or the public conversations that often take place in cities. Therefore, it is important that we arrange a literature festival here" (Hanagarth, 2025, my translation). In this presentation, I will analyze the process of collaboratively creating a cultural center – a building and a space for art, culture, and democracy – in a peripheralized and deindustrialized context. I will focus on the new People's House in Kopparberg, which reopened in December 2024 in the same building that historically served as a People's House for the labor movement. People's house in Kopparberg is a case of cultural and democratic infrastructure created

by grassroots efforts. As illustrated by the quote, this building and space enable participation in the public sphere. The popular form of public which is created in the People's house is however different from how a public functions in a central urban context. In this peripheralized context, there are unexpected alliances formed to reopen People's House as a public space. While the coalition of associations that currently owns the People's House in Kopparberg is reusing historical spatial practices of the labor movement, the historically strong labor movement and industrialized society are no longer present. By analyzing this People's House, I will discuss how this public is constructed to address contemporary cultural and political issues in Kopparberg and how these issues relate to matters beyond Kopparberg. As a People's House, this space is being created in relation to other People's Houses and to other cultural infrastructures, both current and historical. This presentation will highlight the function of a cultural center in a peripheralized context. Hanagarth, A. (2025, December 5). Här förbereds Bergslagens första litteraturfestival – i Kopparberg. *SVT Nyheter*. <https://www.svt.se/nyheter/lokalt/orebro/har-forbereds-bergslagens-forsta-litteraturfestival-i-kopparberg>

SESSION: Thinking with buildings: exploring the intersection of Architecture and Human Geography I

25-06-2026 13:20 - 15:00

From stress to resilience: shaping healthy cities in the light of neurourbanism principles

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The literature indicates that city dwellers are much more susceptible to, and at the same time more exposed to, stress than rural residents. Since chronic stress—which is prevalent in cities—is harmful to both mental and physical health, there is concern that ongoing urbanization will contribute to a public health crisis. Neurourbanism may help in the search for solutions to reduce urban stress. It is a relatively new scientific discipline, representing a unique combination of fields from urban studies, medicine, neuroscience, and psychology. Neurourbanism helps investigate the relationships between human-made spaces and residents' well-being and health, and incorporates the findings into the planning process. The aim of this study is: (1) to outline the main principles of neuro-urbanism, taking into account the connections between urban planning, architecture and urban geography, (2) to identify places/buildings and areas in the city perceived as major sources of stress, and (3) to propose planning solutions that may help reduce urban stress. The research section is based on the results of a geo-survey conducted among residents of Poznań—one of Poland's largest cities. The geo-survey, which includes interactive maps, allows respondents to identify specific places and structures in the city that are sources of stress for them. Identifying these locations makes it possible to determine the impact of buildings and the built landscapes on residents' stress levels, and then to seek innovative planning and design solutions (e.g., in the field of biophilia) that support the development of stress-resilient cities.

SESSION: Thinking with buildings: exploring the intersection of Architecture and Human Geography I

25-06-2026 13:20 - 15:00

In search of an architectural geography

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Geographer's interest in architecture goes back at least 150 years (Ford, 1984), and during the last four decades various attempts have been made in order to formulate what an architectural geography could be (Goss, 1988; Lees, 2001; Jacobs, 2006; Jacobs & Merriman, 2010). But yet, what an architectural geography could or should be deserves further exploration. With changing demands, understandings of what architecture is and what it does also changes. In human geography concepts of *landscape*, *place* and *space* has been vital to the field whereas *architecture* has not. This might be a result of understanding architecture as unchangeable monuments over bygone eras, rather than as part of shifting landscapes. In this paper I want to investigate how architecture can be included in human geography, not as static objects, but as performative and changeable spaces. In my PhD project I study conservation of post-war concrete architecture. The buildings were designed as more or less temporary, meaning they should be demolished or transformed if demands changed. Buildings are valuable both as material (when resources are finite) as well as physical structures that enables different cultural practices. Therefore, it is important to highlight building design when mapping geographies of these environments. Can architectural geography include an interdisciplinary perspective where methods and knowledge from human geography are interwoven with those from architecture, and where materiality, design and possible design transformations are combined with studies of present geographies? Could this broaden understandings of how these built environments can be incorporated into ideas of the future, without freezing time? A way to unite knowledge on existing material and immaterial values and at the same time allow for alternative futures to take shape. Both regarding restoration and possible architectural transformations, as well as changed domestic conditions.

SESSION: The green transition – taking stock and moving forward in a new geopolitical context II

25-06-2026 13:20 - 15:00

Nordic-Japanese Space Cooperation: Where Green Transition Meets Geopolitics

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As geopolitical uncertainty and technological rivalry reshape global cooperation, partnerships among like-minded, innovation-driven democracies are becoming strategic assets. Space has rapidly evolved from a domain primarily associated with scientific exploration into a central arena for economic competitiveness, technological sovereignty, environmental monitoring, and increasingly security and defense. Space infrastructure and standards are increasingly tied to broader questions of connectivity, resilience, and green transition. In this evolving landscape, the Nordics—building on unique capabilities such as advanced space infrastructure, including mainland Europe's only satellite and rocket launch sites located in Sweden and Norway, as well as strong competencies in Earth observation, Arctic monitoring, and space-enabled connectivity—must strengthen their collective research capacity to understand and shape the governance, economic models, and strategic implications of space cooperation. Japan stands out as a crucial partner in this regard. As one of the world's most technologically advanced economies and a committed supporter of rules-based international order, Japan has deepened its engagement with Europe through the EU–Japan Strategic Partnership Agreement and the EU–Japan Green and Digital Cooperation agenda. The presentation explores the current state and future potentials of Nordic-Japanese space cooperation at

the bilateral level and within EU-Japan institutional frameworks, focusing on how space collaboration can support the green transition. A wide range of space capabilities—including satellite infrastructure, Earth observation, navigation, and communication systems—underpin global connectivity, financial systems, energy networks, logistics chains, and climate governance, making space an increasingly strategic domain in both geopolitics and green transition.

SESSION: The green transition – taking stock and moving forward in a new geopolitical context II

25-06-2026 13:20 - 15:00

Navigating global sustainability and national governance: the case of Indonesian palm oil exporters

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Intense North-South trade has made Global Production Networks (GPN) functionally integrated but geographically fragmented. For Global South countries, participation in GPNs often occurs in systems characterized by institutional voids or weak market-supporting institutions. This causes governance challenges for Global North lead firms, which seek to coordinate suppliers. At the same time, rising sustainability pressures require these firms to reduce environmental impacts throughout the chain, which demands governance arrangements that support knowledge sharing among suppliers. Sustainability governance in GPNs must therefore operate across institutional voids and navigate challenging local and global regulatory frameworks. As local institutions and regulations shape firms' sustainability behavior, their outcomes depend on how firms engage with these institutional environments. Indonesian palm oil exports provide an illustrative case of this dynamic because the sector is governed by multiple actors and scales, from domestic policy networks to transnational sustainability regimes. Palm oil is highly contested due to its association with deforestation, and large conglomerate companies dominate the supply chain, accounting for ~66% of the refining capacity. We ask whether Indonesian palm oil exporters that are more deeply embedded in national governance networks also demonstrate stronger global sustainability performance. To address the question, we combine TRASE data on the Indonesian Palm Oil supply chain with unique network survey data from palm oil stakeholders in Indonesia and the EU. We find that exporters more embedded in the national governance system tend to be associated with lower emissions, once scale effects are controlled for. These findings align with the GPN perspective: sustainability pressures in fragmented production systems cannot be addressed only through dyadic buyer–supplier ties alone, but instead require broader horizontal networks and engagement with non-firm actors beyond immediate supply chains. Such connections enable firms to adapt their capabilities, knowledge, and coordination resources to meet sustainability standards across their production networks.

SESSION: The green transition – taking stock and moving forward in a new geopolitical context II

25-06-2026 13:20 - 15:00

Decoupling without decarbonisation? The material blindness of financialised GDP

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Claims of “green growth” increasingly rely on indicators such as energy intensity (energy/GDP) and carbon intensity (CO₂/GDP) to evidence progress towards decoupling environmental pressures from economic expansion. Yet these metrics rest on the assumption that GDP constitutes a stable and meaningful proxy for real economic activity. Successive revisions to the System of National Accounts (1993, 2008) have progressively reclassified a broad range of (speculative) financial activities as “productive”. This shift permits expansions in financial intermediation, asset management and real estate–related income to appear as genuine value added, even when unaccompanied by increases in material output or useful services. On the assumption that material production stays constant, the incorporation of ever more non-material fee-/rent-based financial transactions into GDP has artificially inflated the scale of the economy. Besides the fact that this may hide underlying (secular) stagnation of an economy, the apparent decline in emissions intensity and energy use per GDP unit owes less to substantive environmental improvement than to the statistical elevation of the denominator: financialised growth crowds out the visibility of biophysical/carbon emissions stagnation or even its increase. This proposition appears increasingly plausible in light of work exposing the malleability of economic metrics, as well as the effects of asset-price inflation over the past two decades. We argue that the expansion of financialised value creation systematically obscures the material intensities of economic processes. Economic geography must attend more carefully to the materialities nominally captured – or indeed concealed – within GDP, an underexplored domain with significant implications.

SESSION: Geographies of knowledge and innovations in the restless era of emerging technologies I

25-06-2026 13:20 - 15:00

From Promises to Practice: Integrating 3D Models and Digital Twins in Municipal Urban Planning

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The prominence of 3D city models and digital twins has expanded rapidly in both policy agendas and academic debates. Within urban planning, they have been heralded as transformative tools for climate adaptation, citizen engagement, and data-driven decision-making. As early as 2017, digital twins appeared among Gartner’s Top 10 technology trends, with expectations that the technology would reach mainstream adoption within a decade. Much research has therefore examined how digital twin initiatives have been launched and developed in larger cities such as Dublin, Rotterdam, Hamburg, and Helsinki. While this work has provided important insights into the visions, promises, and aspirations surrounding these technologies—often discussed in terms of sociotechnical imaginaries—less attention has been paid to the practical challenges and complexities that municipal practitioners encounter when attempting to implement them in everyday planning contexts. Consequently, we examine attempts to implement 3D models and digital twin technologies in small and medium-sized municipalities in Denmark and Sweden. Drawing on interviews with urban planners, GIS employees, and technology providers, as well as insights from municipal pilot projects, we explore how the promises associated with these technologies translate into everyday planning practices—with a particular focus on how these tools shape emerging forms of knowledge production and innovation. By focusing on municipal efforts to incorporate 3D models into planning processes, we highlight the practical complexities that arise in practice, including fragmented data infrastructures, limited organizational capacity, competing interpretations of what these technologies should deliver, and the ongoing work required to maintain and use them in municipal planning. Examining these dynamics reveals how the development and use of these technologies unfold unevenly across different institutional and spatial settings. In so doing, we contribute to debates on geographies of

digital innovation by highlighting how such emerging technologies are shaped by local capacities, infrastructures, and organisational arrangements.

SESSION: Geographies of knowledge and innovations in the restless era of emerging technologies I

25-06-2026 13:20 - 15:00

Green path creation in middle-income cities – Tracing techno-institutional resource dynamics around onsite water reuse in Bengaluru

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³ Eawag, Dübendorf, Switzerland

New industrial path development in resource-constrained regions (RCRs) has predominantly been explained through the anchoring of extra-regional techno-economic resources, implicitly assuming limited endogenous potential. This paper challenges this view. Building on the capability framework and its evolutionary model of economic development (Van Dam and Frenken, 2022), we conceptualize regional industrial path development as conditioned not only by the availability of complementary techno-economic resources, but also by institutional resources that shape how the former can be accessed, combined and mobilized. We develop a framework that links regional resource configurations to micro-level innovation barriers, distinguishing between *detering barriers* that inhibit firms' engagement in innovation ex ante and *revealed barriers* that are experienced by firms when trying to innovate. We argue that while revealed barriers may relate to resource deficiencies in both the techno-economic and institutional dimensions, deterring barriers in RCRs are primarily institutional in nature. Overcoming them may open windows of locational opportunity for endogenous path development activity that is based on generic techno-economic capabilities and/or unrelated diversification. The framework is applied to an in-depth case study of the emergence and evolution of an industry around advanced water treatment and reuse technologies in Bengaluru, India. Using path tracing and extensive interview data, we show how series of institutional changes reduced deterring barriers and enabled path emergence despite initially limited techno-economic resource dynamics. Subsequent phases of development were driven by the endogenous creation and recombination of institutional resources, often drawn from unrelated regional industries, followed by incremental techno-economic resource acquisition through on-site experimentation, user-driven tinkering and DUI-based innovation, rather than anchoring. The findings demonstrate that institutional resource acquisition precede and condition techno-economic upgrading, and that endogenous techno-institutional resource dynamics can play a central role in new path development in middle-income city regions.

SESSION: Geographies of knowledge and innovations in the restless era of emerging technologies I

25-06-2026 13:20 - 15:00

Geographies of knowledge sharing through emerging remote work technologies

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Emerging remote work technologies, such as telepresence robots, holograms and virtual avatars generate novel geographies for knowledge sharing and creation. These technologies enable “being there” in two places (and spaces) at once and communicate in a way that more resembles face-to-face experience than a video call. Therefore, sharing some dimensions of tacit knowledge may be possible at a geographical distance through advanced remote work technologies. This challenges the traditional perspective that tacit knowledge is sticky and sharing it requires “being there” with others. This paper aims to understand the emerging geographies of knowledge through advanced remote work technologies. Based on 32 interviews and our experiences of using these technologies, we find they enable limited spatial agency elsewhere to share some dimensions of tacit knowledge.

SESSION: The Geopolitics of Planetary Futures: Contested Time, (De)Growth, and Ecological Territorialization

25-06-2026 13:20 - 15:00

Decomposing geologies: John Latham’s Niddrie Woman and the failures of deep time

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Concerned with current geographic debates about the relations between the geologic, the afterlives of extraction zones, and the liberal subject, this paper considers British artist John Latham’s (1921-2006) land-art project, *Niddrie Woman*. *Niddrie Woman* was the name Latham gave, in the mid-1970s, to Greendykes bing – bings being prominent, pink-hued slagheaps left over from nineteenth-century shale-oil mining which dot the landscape west of Edinburgh, Scotland. As process-art form, *Niddrie Woman* was found more than made, a living embodiment of the process of industrial labour that had shaped the landscape. She also embodied the form of an unspecified Celtic goddess, Latham’s nod to a fetish for primitivism popular at the time. This paper evaluates the landscape of *Niddrie Woman* along two lines. The evaluation takes the style of decomposition, de-composing aspects of its geo-social alignments. The first is the ambition for *Niddrie Woman* to represent a monument for epochal industrial transformation. From afar, this seems unlikely; up close the casual encounter with the bings reveals the decomposition of epochal geology (monumentalizing industrial ruination) into humdrum processes of everyday life. Second, the story can be told as an epochal clash between the figure of the maveric genius and the bureaucrat. Turning to the archive, my assessment is that the need to act cheaply on industrial blight encapsulated by the bings, in this case by declaring them an artwork, motivated Latham’s sponsors much more rather than Latham’s genius. In other words, an artistic rendering of the afterlife of extraction failed to make inroads into an equally potent epochal force: the bureaucratic.

SESSION: The Geopolitics of Planetary Futures: Contested Time, (De)Growth, and Ecological Territorialization

25-06-2026 13:20 - 15:00

Whose Loss Counts? Inequalities and Governance in Climate Loss

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Climate loss, the social and material consequences of climate change, is both produced through governance, measurement, and social structures and lived concretely by people on the ground. While climate loss is universally experienced, international frameworks often frame it as a North-South issue, overlooking losses in high-income countries and potentially reproducing blind spots in recognition of loss, allocation of reparations, assignment of responsibility, and distribution of resources. This paper engages with key questions about planetary futures: who decides what counts as a loss, whose losses are prioritised, and how inequalities are reproduced through measurement, valuation and governance, including in the context of adaptation limits. Drawing on my research on climate loss and damage, I examine how political, territorial, and epistemic inequalities shape whose losses are acknowledged, which communities are prioritised, and how responsibility is assigned. For example, loss and damage finance tends to favour some countries, strategically significant regions receive disproportionate attention, and risk-focused science often overshadows subjective, social, or cultural dimensions of loss. Using a social theory lens, including neoliberal governmentality, I problematise these dynamics, highlighting the tensions, limits, and contested nature of how climate loss is socially and politically produced, unevenly experienced in time and space, and shaped by contested decisions about what counts and how it should be governed. This work is part of my ongoing research developing a social theory of climate loss for a forthcoming book, and attending this session will help to refine conceptual tools for chapters on conceptualising, measuring, and social just responses to loss, contributing to broader discussions on how planetary governance shapes both the experience and recognition of climate loss.

SESSION: The Geopolitics of Planetary Futures: Contested Time, (De)Growth, and Ecological Territorialization

25-06-2026 13:20 - 15:00

Commoning, care and geo-politics in restless river assemblages

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Cities and borders have long formed around rivers, yet rivers are not merely passive backdrops to political processes. This paper conceptualises rivers as dynamic socio-ecological assemblages of transformations—fluid constellations of human and more-than-human relations continuously reworking environmental and political orders of linear transition. Drawing on assemblage thinking, debates on commoning, and care ethics, I examine how rivers bound agencies actively unsettle the spatialities of governance and belonging. I approach commoning as a contested and relational practice through which access, care, and becoming are negotiated to overcome diverse ruptures. This perspective opens up space to engage recent debates in urban political ecology to understand contested (b)ordering processes as lived and more-than-human. Thus there is potential to approach commoning and geopolitics as mutually constituted through the ongoing reconfiguration of river assemblages. Focusing on the Narva River between Estonia and Russia, the paper shows how the river exceeds its representation as a fixed geopolitical boundary of European Union. Empirically, the paper engages with transboundary environmental protection, the hydropolitics of energy, and embodied water relations to understand socio-ecological assemblages of transformations.

SESSION: (De)Valuing land: Speculation, Housing and Residents

25-06-2026 15:20 - 17:00

The 'housing crisis' left behind

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This paper draws attention to the 'housing crisis' that has been brewing in left-behind places, but has rarely been acknowledged as such. The 'housing crisis' framing highlights the worsening housing conditions faced by many residents across Europe and beyond. The availability and affordability of housing that meets households' needs are considered to be declining, and tenure is becoming increasingly precarious. The 'housing crisis' framing also politicises the ways in which the current organisation of housing systems leads to the deterioration of housing conditions. National housing policies play a key role in structuring (national) housing systems, even if many of the adverse developments are transnational trends, including deregulation and financialization of housing. Framing the housing situation as a 'crisis' has drawn political attention to it, even if some solutions proposed for it have been counterproductive in addressing it. Furthermore, both the diagnoses and solutions for the 'housing crisis' tend to focus on large, growing urban areas where owner-occupied housing has become increasingly difficult for residents to access, while rental prices have risen substantially in relation to real incomes. However, dysfunctional housing systems cause harmful impacts across the state space, not only in the metropolises. In rural areas, for example, a major housing issue may be the lack of suitable housing, which can force residents to leave the area. To connect the housing concerns of residents in left-behind places with those of their metropolitan counterparts, this study asks: what characterises 'housing crisis' in left-behind places? This study focuses on rental housing conditions in a deindustrialising urban area in Northern Finland. The case study comprising 43 semi-structured interviews demonstrates how, despite the relative stability of rental price levels, the accessibility, stability and quality of rental housing are in decline in a context where residents increasingly hesitate and struggle to buy homes.

SESSION: (De)Valuing land: Speculation, Housing and Residents

25-06-2026 15:20 - 17:00

Local Responses to Housing and Real Estate Market Challenges in Shrinking Regions

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Population decline poses major challenges for housing and real estate markets. Declining demand usually leads to falling property prices and values, high vacancy rates, underused building stock, and increasing difficulties in selling or repurposing real estate. For cities and municipalities, these developments create pressure on local economies through declining tax revenues, but also on their attractiveness and image, further reinforcing negative perceptions of place. This study explores how local governments respond to housing and property market challenges in shrinking municipalities. It focuses on the concrete measures municipalities adopt to attract new residents and firms, facilitate property transactions, support the functioning of housing markets, and increase the reuse of vacant buildings. The study draws on 12 interviews with municipal decision-makers in three Finnish municipalities. One of the municipalities is officially classified as a city, and all three have experienced population decline for several decades. The interview material was collected in autumn 2025 and consists of semi-structured interviews with municipal officials, political decision-makers, and other key market actors, such as staff from municipal rental housing companies and representatives of the construction sector. The analysis focuses on the role of municipalities as active market-shaping actors

in areas characterized by weak demand and uncertain asset values. Preliminary findings suggest that municipalities respond to housing market decline through a range of measures. These include demolishing vacant, municipally owned rental housing to reduce oversupply and acting as intermediaries between property owners seeking to sell and potential buyers.

SESSION: (De)Valuing land: Speculation, Housing and Residents

25-06-2026 15:20 - 17:00

Mediating Markets: Housing Associations and the Frictions of Growth-Oriented Redevelopment in Denmark

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This paper examines how housing associations in Denmark are being repositioned as entrepreneurial actors within urban redevelopment processes. Formally private but non-profit, these organizations are increasingly engaging with public-private partnerships to enact urban redevelopment projects. Drawing on four case studies, the paper analyses how these hybrid governance arrangements seek to enact growth-oriented development agendas based on ideals of privatization, social mixing and investment-led redevelopment. The findings show that these agendas come into friction with existing institutional and material assemblages, producing differentiated outcomes across cases. I argue that housing associations are emerging as key intermediary actors within evolving growth coalitions, however the form and effects of this role are shaped by local housing market conditions and land value dynamics, resulting in uneven redevelopment trajectories across space. This has potentially important ramifications for the future of the housing association sector in Denmark. The paper contributes to debates on the assetization of housing and the governance of urban redevelopment. It challenges one-size-fits-all models of entrepreneurial urbanism and highlights both the possibilities and limits of this emergent model of cross-sector coordination.

SESSION: (De)Valuing land: Speculation, Housing and Residents

25-06-2026 15:20 - 17:00

Seductive global images fueling the Nordic Growth Machine: Case Tampere Deck

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Urban growth machine theory (Logan & Molotch 1987) has recently gained renewed traction in European urban studies, particularly in analyses of large-scale flagship projects under conditions of neoliberalized urban governance (Anselmi & Vicari 2020; Georgantas & Lekakis 2021). Yet, despite an expanding body of research on the persuasive power of narratives in planning (Throgmorton 2003), the role of visual storytelling in advancing development trajectories remains underexplored. This paper addresses that gap by examining how a Nordic growth coalition in Tampere, Finland – comprising the City, private developers, ice hockey advocates, and the regional newspaper Aamulehti – mobilized global architectural imaginaries to legitimize the Tampere Deck Arena megaproject. In doing so, we show transnational logics of urban growth machines are adopted in the

Nordics, driving the financialization of urban space and housing. By extending growth machine theory into the domain of visual political economy, the paper illuminates how seductive, open-ended images function as persuasive instruments that bind local actors to global imaginaries and reconfigure the Nordic terrain of urban development. Our analysis shows that, unlike in the financialized Milanese case (Anselmi & Vicari 2020), where global capital drove the project forward, in Tampere it was the symbolic capital of architectural imagery that sustained momentum. We argue that this mode of operationalizing visuality reflects a distinctive Nordic variant of the growth machine, shaped by welfare-state planning traditions, strong municipal capacities, and an expectation of social-economic mix, yet increasingly entangled in global inter-city competition.

SESSION: (De)Valuing land: Speculation, Housing and Residents

25-06-2026 15:20 - 17:00

Waterfront transformations and assetization of leisure

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Urban waterfronts have become strategic arenas through which cities seek to attract investments, stimulate real estate markets and reconfigure their competitive positioning. Formerly industrial, restricted or underused shorelines are opened for public use yet increasingly reconfigured as redevelopment frontiers, where environmental enhancement and architectural spectacle are deployed to raise land and property values and advance growth-oriented urban development agendas. In this paper in progress, I examine how the entanglement of leisure and water has become integral to these redevelopment logics, functioning not only as an amenity but as an instrument in the economic and spatial restructuring of the waterfront. Blue-green leisure infrastructures such as promenades, piers, swimming and canoeing docks as well as saunas play a central role in reshaping the sensory and experiential qualities of the waterfronts. Even as they expand recreational opportunities and improve waterfront liveability, they may also reproduce socio-spatial inequalities through restricted access, commercialisation and subtle behavioural controls that limit their potential for openness and social inclusion. As leisure and water become more intensively valued, redevelopment accelerates land valorisation and deepens affordability pressures. I argue that both leisure and water are increasingly configured as assets in “material remaking of society” (Birch & Ward 2024), designed to increase land and real estate value (Usher 2024) and to promote aspirational ways of living alongside selective forms of use. In addition to assetization of leisure and water (nature), this paper contributes to the multifaceted debate on the contested transformation of urban waterfronts.

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SESSION: Academic Knowledge Production and the Falling Rate of Use Values: Rethinking Academia in the context of Planetary Crises

25-06-2026 15:20 - 17:00

Academic Knowledge Production and the Falling Rate of Use Values: Rethinking Academia in the context of Planetary Crises

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This special session calls for panelists to rethink academic knowledge production in the context of both planetary crises and academic overproduction. Academic knowledge, its creation and dissemination are being converted to commodities of exchange and subject to ever more intensified competition under the terms of neoliberalization. As a result, the Academy becomes continually more poorly equipped to deal with societal and environmental challenges. The session provides opportunities to identify and contest the ways that the structural forces of neoliberalization currently at play come to be expressed, in part, as the falling rate of use value of academic knowledge. We wish to explore what might happen if we begin by recognising the academic as a member of the working class that produces surplus value for the institutions at which they work. In recognizing our classed position as workers, academics can begin to undertake an autonomist inspired refusal of tasks and processes within the Academy. Our objective is to identify those structures that undermine our attempts to respond to societal and environmental crises, and then find ways to contest them. We hope that participants can draw on the embodied, emotive and fundamentally earthly entangled subjectivity of the academic to propose practical steps forward to enact such refusal and to turn the tide on the falling rate of use value of academic knowledge

SESSION: Thinking with buildings: exploring the intersection of Architecture and Human Geography II

25-06-2026 15:20 - 17:00

A portal to the future: Sustainable architecture as a political-economic imaginary in times of crisis

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In times of crisis, new imaginaries play an important role in establishing and legitimizing responses. “Urban sustainability” has become a widespread response to the ecological, social and economic crises unfolding, with architecture and property development sector taking lead. Following the growing body of research within architectural geography, and particularly research emphasizing iconic architecture as significant parts of the imaginary of societies in crisis, this paper explores a “sustainable” building in a compact city district in the Global North as an example of urban architectonic solution to multi-scalar ecological and social crises. By studying relationships between microlevel and macro-level explanations of a building, this paper theorize crises, crises-responses and architecture as simultaneously abstract and concrete phenomena. Through a cultural political economy (CPE) approach that highlights capitalism’s recurrent crises as “path-shaping” moments where new economic and political *imaginaries* emerge, the paper analyzes the building as part of a political-economic imaginary of “urban sustainability”. As a signal project for “sustainable architecture” and the first completed property in the center of Hovinbyen – a “compact city” under construction in Oslo – the office building *Økern Portal* serves as a powerful example of how “sustainable buildings” are mobilized as urban crisis-solutions. Through observations, text analysis and interviews with actors ranging from investors to janitors, the article provides a “thick description” of *Økern Portal* as an urban crisis-response that involves a profound re-imagination of urban natures and communities. It is argued that the case of *Økern Portal* (re)produces a philanthropic political-economic imaginary of “urban sustainability” that *obscures* and *depoliticizes* the crises of climate, nature and inequality instead of facing it.

SESSION: Thinking with buildings: exploring the intersection of Architecture and Human Geography II

25-06-2026 15:20 - 17:00

Pedestrianism: Jan Gehl, Revanchism, and the “Copenhagenization” of Urban Design

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In critical geography, an important conversation is developing around the idea of a political economy/ecology of design, including the production of expertise and complicity in the urban arena. This paper examines pedestrianization: the process of converting an area to pedestrian-only use. I develop the concept of pedestrianism to examine an interface between design and policy, concerning how creating vibrant pedestrian areas has become an aspirational value and mark of success for affluent municipalities and many private developers the world over. Pedestrianism refers to the epistemic work and moral economy associated with the elevation of pedestrian-oriented revitalisation schemes as a hallmark of “livability”. Perhaps more than anyone else, Danish architect Jan Gehl has been hailed for his contributions toward walkable, livable cities: a proprietary toolkit for observing and assessing the “life between buildings” forms the basis for the services provided by Jan Gehl Architects, an influential design consultancy founded in 2000. Drawing on multi-sited archival and policy research, my work follows the Dane and his business as they develop, implement and disseminate the toolkit from Sienna and Copenhagen to New York, Kyiv and other places. Specifically, this paper reveals the role of Copenhagen as a place where Gehl honed his method. This is a history of expertise in which surveying mundane aspects to pedestrian choreography—for example, counting how many people sit, stand or walk on a particular street or square at a particular time of day—was operationalized as a form of urban quality assessment, with postwar public housing neighborhoods receiving particularly poor treatment as “unlivable”. I show how the Danish capital’s neoliberal turn in the 1990s—marked by capital-led downtown regeneration, revanchist policy targeting social-housing neighborhoods, and the emphasis on a livable city brand—created a context in which Gehl’s construct gained a strategic significance, and a viable pathway to the consultancy business.

SESSION: Thinking with buildings: exploring the intersection of Architecture and Human Geography II

25-06-2026 15:20 - 17:00

Buildings as Memory Actors: Architecture, Geopolitics and the Politics of Reconstruction after War

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This paper examines the post-war reconstruction of buildings and cityscapes as a spatialization of memory, bridging architectural theory and human geography, most specifically critical urban geopolitics. It interrogates the role of buildings as memory actors to scrutinize how architectural agency functions across scales. The paper first traces how the destruction and rebuilding of architecture are framed within human geography and architectural discourse. It then exemplifies these frameworks through three urban cases: the debate about radical reconstruction in Sarajevo, the reconstruction of the General Staff in Belgrade after the 1999 NATO bombings, and the reconstruction of Beirut’s city center after 1990, which reveal both discussions about the agency of architecture and the interplay between internal memory politics and international agendas, as well as

how reconstructed environments condition everyday practices and perceptions of space. Drawing on fieldwork in the Balkans and the Middle East since 2008, including interviews with planners and NGOs, architectural hermeneutics, and media analysis, the paper argues that the entanglement of diverse actors across scales in reconstruction continues to reshape memory dynamics and conflict long after peace treaties are signed, and that a dual examination across architecture and human geography highlights how the materiality of buildings and human actors constitutes a memory assemblage.

SESSION: Thinking with buildings: exploring the intersection of Architecture and Human Geography II

25-06-2026 15:20 - 17:00

Misquoting the Miljonprogram? Photography, postwar architecture and the politics of aesthetics.

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Ever since the so-called Million Programme (*Miljonprogrammet*) generated a million new dwellings in Sweden over the course of a decade (1965-1974), the residential developments thereby produced have been at the centre of intense debates. Critics have argued that the push for building that many houses at once led to the production of alienating environments characterized by drab architecture. Sometimes, such critics argue, the mistakes made were so vast that the only viable solution is to tear buildings down. Those more sympathetic to the programme and the resultant neighbourhoods have instead underscored the improvements in the quality of housing enabled through the programme, the greenery that many neighbourhoods included, or the beauty of brutalist architecture. Despite housing some 20% of Sweden's population, Miljonprogrammet surprisingly often remains treated as somehow outside Sweden, something alluded to in moniker *utanförskapsområde* (literally an area permeated by 'beyondness') to describe neighbourhoods – often built during the Miljonprogram years – characterized by poverty and cramped housing conditions. This paper traces how hegemonic perceptions of Miljonprogrammet as 'outside' are produced and reproduced through the photographs used to tell people what and where Miljonprogrammet is. Drawing on John Berger's insistence of photographs as quotations I scrutinize how notions of Miljonprogrammet as a dystopia emerge through the selective production and circulation of particular kinds of photographs of particular kinds of buildings and neighborhoods. These photographs tell a well-known story of the Million programme as modernist mistake. But alongside such depictions are other ones, enabling more optimistic readings of what Miljonprogrammet is and has been. Thinking through the relation between these different photographs allow thinking about debates on the Miljonprogram in terms of a Rancièran politics of aesthetics, and how photographs as quotations shape notions of the familiar and the unfamiliar, improvement and mistake, outside and inside.

SESSION: Energy geographies books and special issues: Convening authors and editors to reflect on the evolving discipline II

25-06-2026 15:20 - 17:00

Energy Geographies: A Political-Industrial Ecology Perspective

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This paper will examine how political-industrial ecology can advance energy geographies. It will take stock of the evolution of the sub-field over the last 10 years after the publication of a special issue in *Geoforum* on the topic. It will end with a synopsis of the presenter's work on the political-industrial ecology of energy development in Pennsylvania and how a political-industrial ecology perspective can advance energy justice in rural energy landscapes, an epicenter of low carbon energy transitions worldwide.

SESSION: Energy geographies books and special issues: Convening authors and editors to reflect on the evolving discipline II

25-06-2026 15:20 - 17:00

Whose energy citizenship? reflections on a global north construct

Niall Dunphy ¹

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Over recent years, energy citizenship, long an abstract somewhat nebulous term, has gained increasing currency in the energy transition discourse. This reflection draws from recent work (<https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-70153-5>) on the topic and takes a spatial lens to examining the meaning of citizenship in the energy domain. It critiques narrow, market-led views of participation and highlights inequality, power, and justice as central issues for the energy citizen. Acknowledging the diversity of relationships between people, place, and energy, it calls for a more inclusive, democratic, and collective approach to citizen involvement in the energy transition.

SESSION: Energy geographies books and special issues: Convening authors and editors to reflect on the evolving discipline II

25-06-2026 15:20 - 17:00

A Research Agenda for Energy Landscapes

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Research on energy landscapes has grown considerably in the past decade or two. We will reflect on this, with focus on a book that we have been editing, which is currently in press (Edward Elgar Publishers). In the book, authors from most parts of the world, from geography, landscape architecture and various other disciplines, discuss particular aspects of energy landscape research and suggest new topics and methods. The chapters range from theoretical underpinnings of this important research to novel approaches in terms of methodology and landscape design. The book ponders whether energy landscape research has become a fully-fledged interdisciplinary research field. Will this collection further energize landscape research? That is the million megawatts question.

SESSION: Geographies of the Blue Economy: Justice, Restlessness, and Resilience II

25-06-2026 15:20 - 17:00

Aquabalance: Sustainable Blue Aquaculture Economies?

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Aquabalance is a Horizon Europe Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership project examining how European aquaculture navigates environmental, economic and social sustainability. While the sector contributes to food security, employment, and regional development, it faces persistent challenges including water pollution, ecosystem degradation, impacts on native species and inefficient resource use. The industry is also highly heterogeneous: firms operate with varied business models, capacities, and institutional supports and regional “thickness” differs widely, shaping innovation, learning and sustainability performance. Aquabalance explores this diversity by mapping European aquaculture hubs and their differing framings of ‘sustainability’. The study draws on 96 interviews with producers, NGOs, policymakers, and other stakeholders across Norway, Denmark, Ireland, and Italy. Data were collaboratively coded through iterative workshops and peer review. Early findings reveal limited integration of circular-economy principles in aquaculture practices, policy and licensing. Although innovations such as recirculating aquaculture systems (RAS), integrated multi-trophic aquaculture (IMTA) and by-product valorisation are advancing, policy frameworks are not enabling their broad uptake. Governance remains a critical but underutilised lever for providing incentives, regulatory clarity and knowledge systems that support sustainability innovations. Divergent stakeholder priorities further underscore the need for inclusive governance and shared sectoral sustainability visions that align producers, consumers, researchers, environmental NGOs, local communities and policymakers. Evidence points to European aquaculture as symptomatic of a fragmented, extractive and non-inclusive blue economy development paradigm.

SESSION: Geographies of the Blue Economy: Justice, Restlessness, and Resilience II

25-06-2026 15:20 - 17:00

Business Models for a True Blue Economy: Insights from European Aquaculture Firms

Noelle King ¹

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Aquaculture is recognized as a key component of the Blue Economy, contributing to food security, coastal livelihoods, and regional development while raising pressing questions of environmental impact and social equity. This paper examines how sustainability and equity are incorporated into the business models and innovation practices of aquaculture firms across Europe. Using responses to a Europe-wide online survey of aquaculture firms, the study identifies distinct configurations of sustainable business models and sustainability-oriented innovation strategies within the sector. Semi-structured interviews with selected firms are used to contextualize and interpret quantitative findings, providing insights into how and why particular business model patterns emerge, how they operate in practice, and on implications for environmental performance and social justice. By combining quantitative firm-level survey data with in-depth qualitative insights, this study develops an empirically grounded typology of sustainable business models in European aquaculture and examines spatially uneven drivers and constraints that shape their development across different regions.

SESSION: Geographies of the Blue Economy: Justice, Restlessness, and Resilience II

25-06-2026 15:20 - 17:00

Declaring a “Napa Valley of Oysters”? A Bibliometric Analysis of Oyster Trails, Place Branding, and Coastal Sustainability

Jillian Zitofsky ¹

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This paper presents a bibliometric analysis of academic research on food trails, with a focused examination of oyster-based tourism as an emerging form of coastal place-making. Responding to recent policy narratives that brand regions as elite food landscapes—such as the declaration of Connecticut as the “Napa Valley of oysters”—the study asks how such claims are reflected, supported, or challenged within the scholarly literature. Using multidisciplinary databases, publication metadata are systematically analyzed and visualized in VOSviewer to identify temporal trends, co-authorship networks, and thematic clusters. The bibliometric mapping organizes the literature into three dominant research dimensions: the economic impacts of food tourism, the ecological functions of oyster habitats, and the socio-cultural construction of sense of place (SOP). Rather than evaluating oyster trails empirically, the paper contributes methodologically by transforming a fragmented body of scholarship into a quantitative knowledge map. This approach reveals both areas of conceptual convergence and notable absences—particularly the limited integration of environmental stewardship and community engagement within food-trail research. By making the structure of the literature visible, the study provides a critical foundation for assessing whether oyster-based food trails function primarily as branding devices or as mechanisms capable of fostering coastal sustainability and resilience.

SESSION: Geographies of the Blue Economy: Justice, Restlessness, and Resilience II

25-06-2026 15:20 - 17:00

«We have it all» - opposing assemblages of care, belonging and ecological livelihoods in coastal communities

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Small rural coastal communities are often portrayed as “doomed” in the face of depopulation, economic restructuring, and environmental change. Based on qualitative ethnographic fieldwork in coastal Finnmark, Northern Norway, this study challenges such narratives by examining how residents assemble relations that make life in these “blue” places meaningful and viable. Drawing on assemblage thinking, the paper explores how coastal resource assemblages are composed, stabilised, and rendered natural, asking what elements are brought together and why they take their particular form. The analysis integrates perspectives on belonging, such as place-belongingness, politics of belonging, and more-than-human relationality-- with an ethic of care and diverse economies scholarship. Belonging is understood as a relational process through which people, places, and ecologies come into being together. Attending to everyday practices of care - among humans and more-than-humans- the study highlights ecological livelihoods and the reworking of economy-ecology relations. Livelihoods are conceptualised as involving being made by others, making others, and making a living. The paper argues that these communities are not simply sites of decline, but dynamic socio-ecological assemblages where belonging, care, and economic practices are continuously negotiated and remade.

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

25-06-2026 15:20 - 17:00

Green Space Justice for a Just Urban Transition in China: Practices, Perceptions, and Spatial Inequality

Yiming Zhu ¹

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Green space justice is increasingly urgent under climate change, as disadvantaged groups often face unequal access to urban greenery, an important resource for climate adaptation and social resilience. In China, a distinctive planning and housing system has produced a dual provision model: public urban parks versus semi-private green spaces inside gated communities, where access is closely tied to socio-economic status and purchasing power. Since these restricted-access spaces within gated communities make up a substantial share of urban green infrastructure, this dual arrangement raises critical justice concerns and complicates pathways toward a just and resilient urban transition. Despite growing attention to green space justice, existing research remains limited in three respects. First, it predominantly focuses on public green spaces, overlooking the justice implications of private or semi-private green spaces that are physically present yet socially inaccessible. Second, most studies emphasize spatial distribution while paying limited attention to whether actual use aligns with provision, and how such mismatches reproduce socio-spatial inequalities. Third, procedural and recognitional dimensions of justice are often underexplored, particularly in China, where institutions, social norms, and governance arrangements shape how justice, participation, and inclusion are understood and negotiated. To address these gaps, this research investigates green space justice in Nanjing through an integrated mixed-method design. GIS-based mapping identifies and classifies public and gated-community green spaces, revealing the socio-spatial structure of dual provision. A resident survey captures use patterns and experiences, identifying inequalities and provision-use mismatches across groups and neighborhoods. Finally, semi-structured interviews examine how different groups perceive green space justice, participation, and exclusion. By linking spatial configurations with lived practices and justice perceptions, this study offers a context-sensitive perspective on green space governance and practical insights for more inclusive and socially just climate transitions in rapidly urbanizing contexts.

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

25-06-2026 15:20 - 17:00

Translating policy into practice: analysis of climate policymaking in the Nordic- Baltic region

Wilma Henning ¹, Nína María Saviolidis ², Viena Lahtinen ³, Kristel Edelman ³, Vilija Šatienė ⁴, Annica Kronsell ¹

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Existing research reveals that climate-related risks and opportunities are unevenly distributed across different social groups, such as gender, underscoring the need for policy frameworks which address these disparities. Failing to recognise these differences puts climate policy at risk of focusing on the wrong targets, making it both ineffective and unjust. Despite growing recognition that gender sensitivity and intersectional approaches are critical for a just climate transition, previous research

shows an institutional stickiness in Nordic climate policies. These policies privilege techno-economic discourse, favouring technical innovation and economic growth while overlooking gender perspectives. The paper focuses on the energy and transport sectors, which are traditionally male-dominated and high-emitting sectors essential to climate mitigation efforts. Grounded in feminist institutionalist theory, the paper analyses semi-structured interviews with civil servants in key climate institutions in Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Estonia, Lithuania, and Iceland, exploring the institutional challenges and obstacles to integrating gender into climate policymaking. The analysis focuses on how gender is constructed and understood in climate policy and which forms of knowledge are legitimised or sidelined. Preliminary findings indicate that gender is not perceived as a neutral policy domain but can be politically charged, which may constitute a barrier to policy integration. Siloed structures may reinforce this perception where institutional mandates, resources, and expertise tend to be compartmentalised into separate climate and gender domains. This fragmentation is further compounded by path dependencies whereby past norms guide future development which can be a challenge to address and change. The accelerating pressures of fiscal austerity and the impact of political cycles also create challenges for civil servants, forcing them to find new techniques to work around the current conditions. These preliminary findings highlight the importance of studies that critically examine institutional structures and their role in shaping gender-sensitive climate policy.

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

25-06-2026 15:20 - 17:00

Beyond Technical Renovation: Social Innovation and Niche Experimentation in Neighbourhood-Based Renewal of Large Housing Estates

Anneli Kährik ¹Mari Kirss ¹, Bianka Plüschke-Altöf ¹, Bradley James Loewen ¹

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Accelerating the energy renovation of residential buildings is a central challenge of the European energy transition. While policy initiatives such as the Renovation Wave have increased attention to the decarbonisation of the building stock, the implementation of large-scale renovation remains constrained by institutional, organisational and social barriers. These challenges are particularly pronounced in large housing estates characterised by fragmented homeownership structures, where renovation decisions depend on collective action among multiple stakeholders. In response, new approaches are needed that combine technological innovation with novel forms of governance and community engagement. This paper examines the role of social innovation in neighbourhood-based housing renovation through the case of the SOFTacademy prototype in the Mustamäe housing estate in Tallinn, Estonia. Drawing on the frameworks of sociotechnical transitions, systemic social innovation, and reflexive governance, the initiative is conceptualised as a niche experiment within the broader housing renovation system. The analysis is based on qualitative interviews with key stakeholders involved in the project. The findings identify three interrelated dimensions of innovation emerging from the prototype: (1) technological solutions supporting deep energy renovation, (2) institutional and procedural innovations enabling new governance arrangements, and (3) participatory practices fostering social learning and community engagement. Together, these innovations illustrate how neighbourhood-scale prototypes can function as experimental spaces for developing integrated renovation models. The paper contributes to the existing debate by advancing the understanding of housing renovation as a socio-technical transformation process in which social innovation plays a critical role alongside technological change. It also highlights the conditions under which neighbourhood-based initiatives may generate scalable models for accelerating sustainable renovation in housing estates with fragmented ownership structures. The prototype was studied within the framework of the Horizon Europe project PREFIGURE.

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

25-06-2026 15:20 - 17:00

Places left behind by Taiwan's just transition agenda: unpacking a justice paradox in the mainstream discourses

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The concept of 'Just transition' has been embraced by many international organizations (e.g. OECD and IPCC) and countries to guide socially fair net zero transitions. Aiming at 'leaving no one behind', just transition policies worldwide often assume that people and places relying most on carbon-intensive industries today are most vulnerable in net zero transitions, and hence most in need of support and policy attention. This study offers a critical reflection on this policy assumption with empirical lessons drawn from the case of Taihsi Village—a rural periphery in central Taiwan and a sacrifice zone of the largest petrochemical industrial complex in Asia. It investigates how and why petrochemical fence-line communities like Taihsi were paradoxically left behind in Taiwan's policy agenda, by examining the ways in which just transition was defined and designed by central government since 2022 through a policy document analysis, participatory observation in public forums and events, and in-depth interviews with government officials, experts, and campaigners. In-depth interviews with Taihsi villagers were also conducted to provide an alternative understanding of just transition from a local perspective. The study shows that just transition policies that prioritize people and places most affected by transition pains could result in aiding communities and places already benefiting most from fossil fuel industries, while overlooking the historical socio-environmental injustices and spatial inequalities experienced by marginalized communities in industrial development. This study concludes with suggestions on how to address this justice paradox with the burgeoning place-based perspective on just transition.

SESSION: Spectacular to Skeletal, Clandestine to Everyday: Contemporary Modalities of Autoconstruction in African Cities

25-06-2026 15:20 - 17:00

Stealth Urbanism and Transgressive Practices: Improvisation as an Urban Way of Life

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Scholarly research and writing in urban studies have increasingly drawn attention to the scale of explosive urbanization on a global scale, focusing in particular on the conditions under which extended settlement patterns have merged with unregulated self-building housing and variegated kinds of income generation. City dwellers around the world live in social worlds of makeshift urbanism, defined by uncertainty and precarity rather than stability and predictability. Conventional urban studies scholarship has struggled to make sense of city dwellers who are excluded from the mainstream of urban life, that is, those without formal housing, regular wage-paying work, and access to adequate social services. In the mainstream urban studies literature, the reliance upon such heuristic devices as the longstanding formal-informality binary, the hierarchical ranking embedded in the global/world cities frameworks, and the Global North/Global South dichotomy have steadily lost their analytic capacities to make sense of what is happening on a global scale. Focusing on the improvisational practices of stealth urbanism in Alexandra township at the northeast corner of the City of Johannesburg enables us to explore how city building take place outside of the modernist ideals of rational order, spatial coherence, and functional specialization. In Alexandra, auto-constructed, multi-

story buildings that accommodate both residential and commercial functions have sprung up on vacant land with disputed ownership. Largely incremental, transgressive practices cannot be reconciled with state-sponsored formal regulatory frameworks that seek order over alleged chaos. Residents pay little attention to prevailing regulations, and do not bother to wait for official approval. These transgressions do not mean that these practices are effectively “ungoverned.” Parallel modes of hybrid privatized governance have filled in the gaps brought about by the diminishing capacity of public authorities to regulate urban spaces. A collection of photographs taken in Alexandra township supplements the written text and spoken word.

SESSION: Spectacular to Skeletal, Clandestine to Everyday: Contemporary Modalities of Autoconstruction in African Cities

25-06-2026 15:20 - 17:00

Gaining ground? Establishing presence at the fringes of Windhoek

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This paper explores the tactics, negotiations and temporalities through which aspiring residents seek to entrench their presence as legitimate occupants of urban space in what are commonly called informal settlements at the fringes of Windhoek, Namibia. It examines the process of gaining access to land and residence, establishing gradual histories of presence in an area, and the relationships, actions and arguments these involve. Occupying and developing urban space in these settlements is an incremental process where land occupation, “autoconstruction” or “quiet encroachment” generate possibilities to access infrastructures and produce livelihoods, while partial recognitions from authorities and gradual advances in access to infrastructure in turn solidify claims to land. Close relations, particularly kin relations broadly understood, are significant in this process, as are various positions and tactics towards authorities. Local leaders play a role in regulating access, but their powers are limited. James Ferguson has argued that claims and obligations might be grounded in presence instead of (urban) citizenship – that is, “a power not to withdraw labor but to inhabit, and sometimes to disrupt, social space” (Ferguson 2019: 17). However, presence in this sense of inhabiting is not an unproblematic given. Rather, it is a matter of gradual achievement – or failure. It takes time and effort and can be either disavowed or recognized. Only if recognized does it create obligations and become distributively consequential. Hence, it is also a sphere of politics, of claiming recognized presence and of granting or rejecting such. But co-presence, presence en masse, is harder to ignore than an individual person or household; thus it is a social force that imposes itself on the city and on its governing arrangements.

SESSION: Spectacular to Skeletal, Clandestine to Everyday: Contemporary Modalities of Autoconstruction in African Cities

25-06-2026 15:20 - 17:00

The practice(s) of everyday life after AI comes to town: 7 questions for an emergent research agenda

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The utopian aspirations of billionaire Tech Bros and the AI-driven platforms they represent seek a totalizing transformation of governance, social lives and livelihoods, and infrastructures in cities around the world. Sidestepping both the hype and hysteria – which is ample – the impact of AI interventions on cities and their residents is likely to be significant in the years ahead. At the same time, contemporary African urban environments tend to be organized by informal economies, people-as-infrastructures, and socio-spatial fluxes that limits the degree to which they can be rendered knowability, predictable, and ordered. The paper engages these tensions by seeking to conceptualize the on-the-ground implications on everyday lives and livelihoods for residents of African cities. We address questions such as: how does resistance become embodied amidst pervasive AI infrastructures; how and why are the impacts of AI unevenly distributed across class and space and what forms of inclusion or exclusion emerge as a result; what techniques for everyday urban-placemaking remain viable amidst pervasive AI infrastructure eco-systems? Taken together, these questions offer an invitation to (re)think the meaning of terms like “informality” and “autoconstruction” to better understand the (digital) infrastructures now shaping and shifting trajectories of contemporary African urbanism.

SESSION: Spectacular to Skeletal, Clandestine to Everyday: Contemporary Modalities of Autoconstruction in African Cities

25-06-2026 15:20 - 17:00

Burning for Progress? Earth vs. Concrete in Africa’s Booming Cities

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African societies have a long tradition of earthen construction, but it is conspicuously absent from booming African cities. As attention turns from climate mitigation to adaptation, this is concerning for, while concrete certainly has its uses, it is also carbon- (and sand)-intensive, and a poor choice as a default material in hot climates. While in recent years certain, elite segments of society seem to be reevaluating the merits of earthen construction, concrete largely remains the material of choice for both the urban masses and the wealthy. This is despite that a widespread use of locally-sourced materials could increase access to housing, create jobs, and improve thermal comfort in climates that may reach 50°C. This is curious, given that the ubiquity of concrete is explained in terms of rational choice. Borrowing from political ecology, this exploratory paper seeks to situate how notions of modernity and progress, and vested economic interests, have contributed to an exaggerated use of concrete as the standard building material at the expense of earth. This paper unfolds as follows. First, I conduct a literature review on the benefits of earthen construction. Second, I explore some of the (political) factors that have led to concrete’s privileged status, despite these benefits. Third, I use on-the-ground insight from the case of Zinder, Niger, to highlight these tensions. I conclude with a synthesis and discussion, indicating trends that may signal a burgeoning shift in the ways that Africans construct their cities.

SESSION: Geographies of knowledge and innovations in the restless era of emerging technologies II

25-06-2026 15:20 - 17:00

Remote work, second homes, and shifting geographies of work and mobility in Finland

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Emerging remote work technologies are reshaping where work is done, how it is experienced, and how everyday mobility is organized. In Finland, these changes are especially visible in the growing role of hybrid work and second-home living, which together challenge conventional boundaries between home, workplace, and leisure spaces. This paper presents preliminary findings from the Finnish case study of a broader European project examining how remote work transforms work practices, work-life balance, health and wellbeing, everyday mobility, and spatial development. The presentation draws on an ongoing mixed-methods research design combining survey data, interviews, time use diaries, and quantitative mobility analysis. Rather than treating remote work only as a change in employment arrangements, the study approaches it as a wider sociospatial process with implications for how daily life is coordinated across locations and how opportunities for flexibility are distributed across groups and places. Particular attention is given to the ways remote work technologies and second-home practices may reconfigure the geographies of work, employee experiences, work-leisure boundaries, and presence between urban areas, suburban settings, and more peripheral regions. By focusing on the Finnish context, the presentation speaks to broader debates on how emerging technologies transform labour, work-life balance, and regional inequalities in a restless era. It also highlights the importance of examining remote work not only through organizational or technological lenses, but also through questions of place, mobility, and uneven access to the conditions that make remote work possible. In doing so, the presentation contributes to ongoing discussions on the societal and spatial consequences of digitally mediated work.

SESSION: Geographies of knowledge and innovations in the restless era of emerging technologies II

25-06-2026 15:20 - 17:00

Skill relatedness and global knowledge networks of immersive technologies: Evidence from online job-posting

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Multinational corporations connect local economies to external knowledge through cross-border activities such as hiring, and these linkages may support knowledge flows across sectors. Such flows are more likely to generate meaningful learning when incoming knowledge is related to a region's existing industrial base. Knowledge that is too distant may exceed local firms' absorptive capacity, while knowledge that is too similar may be absorbed without triggering innovation or economic renewal. The effects of these flows also depend on how strongly a country is embedded in global knowledge production networks, as deeper integration tends to broaden access to diverse knowledge sources. When regions are both globally connected and capable of absorbing incoming knowledge, they are better positioned to combine multinational knowledge with local capabilities, potentially inducing structural change. Immersive technology offers a useful lens for examining these dynamics. By creating simulated experiences perceived as real, it has applications across a wide range of

business functions. Although core technologies may remain proprietary, the skills associated with their development and use can diffuse across firms and industries through labor mobility. We examine whether countries more central in global immersive-technology hiring networks exhibit stronger sectoral alignment in multinational hiring. Specifically, we measure the relatedness between the two-digit NACE classification of immersive-technology job postings and the headquarters firm's primary sector. We ask: (1) do multinational firms hiring for immersive-technology-related skills reproduce their headquarters' core sectoral orientation in foreign labor markets, and (2) how cognitively close is the sector of a job posting to the headquarters firm's primary sector? We analyze firm-level diversification across sectors and geographies using 13,000 online job postings from 19 countries. We argue that multinational hiring patterns may reveal potential pathways of structural change in local economies by indicating whether firms introduce knowledge related to existing regional capabilities rather than disconnected from them.

SESSION: Geographies of knowledge and innovations in the restless era of emerging technologies II

25-06-2026 15:20 - 17:00

The "Geo-" Prefix: Re-rooting New Data Collection in Geography

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Numerous disciplines are increasingly integrating locational data into their methodologies, yet geography as a parent field often struggles to conceptually encompass these shifts. Across fields such as computer science, sociology, psychology, or epidemiology, this trend frequently leads to the adoption of 'geographical methods' that lack a solid grounding in theory, where terms like 'geographically-explicit' or the 'geo-' prefix are utilized primarily to denote a simplistic spatial dimension. Conversely, geography often overlooks emerging data collection methods and methodological frameworks, even though innovative data sources have already significantly advanced the study of space-time dynamics. Pervasive technologies and their digital traces, originating from mobile networks, social media, payment transactions, or utility networks, enable the collection of extensive passive data. Furthermore, portable sensing facilitates the research of dynamic, high-frequency, and direct interactions between individuals and their immediate environment, effectively bridging the gap between environmental, behavioral, and affective contexts. Utilizing specific research experiences, this contribution provides a critical geographical insight into intensive longitudinal methods, including self-reported questionnaires via portable devices triggered by specific temporal or spatial keys. By framing these tools within the principles of time geography and Volunteered Geographic Information (VGI), the discussion demonstrates how re-rooting such methods in geographical theory addresses the aforementioned paradox. Ultimately, the contribution enriches the post-disciplinary discourse of mobility research by showing how a theoretically grounded approach to new data transforms our understanding of urban spatialities and knowledge creation.

SESSION: Geographies of knowledge and innovations in the restless era of emerging technologies II

25-06-2026 15:20 - 17:00

Urban analytic platform: extending national geospatial infrastructures with integrated urban analytics

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Urban mobility research increasingly depends on the integration of diverse spatial data sources, analytical methods, and disciplinary perspectives. Yet the digital platforms and infrastructures that support this knowledge production remain fragmented, with data access, spatial analysis, and results dissemination scattered across separate environments and project-specific solutions. This fragmentation limits the reuse of data and methods, reduces transparency and transferability of research outcomes, and creates uneven conditions for participation across disciplines and institutions. This presentation introduces the Urban Analytic Platform (UAP) as a web-based analytical environment designed to complement national geospatial research infrastructures, with particular reference to the Finnish context and initiatives such as Geoportti. The platform is conceived as a unifying layer that connects curated spatial datasets, analytical workflows, and standardized data access mechanisms within a single, modular system. Rather than duplicating existing services, UAP builds on available national data resources and computational infrastructures, exploring how these can be unified into a user-facing platform that supports exploratory analysis, reproducible workflows, and results sharing across projects and disciplinary contexts. UAP contributes to discussions on how digital platforms transform the geographies of knowledge and innovation in urban and mobility research. By consolidating data access, analysis, and dissemination within a single environment, the platform highlights pathways toward greater methodological transparency, reproducibility, and broader access to analytical resources. This presentation focuses on the conceptual design and potential role of UAP in transforming how spatial research is conducted and shared, with urban and mobility research as the primary application context.