Nordic Geographers Meeting

Geographies of inequalities

June 18th–21st 2017
Stockholm, Sweden

Session abstracts

(Please visit the webpage for the last updated pdf-version)
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Session A1

Children and young people in the development of marginal regions

This session wants to set focus on the role of children and young people in regional development. It wants to explore trends and possibilities found in marginal regions - as opposed to the trends set by a life in capitals or main urban areas. The emphasis should be on how sustainable development in marginal regions can be experienced and promoted by children and young people.

Marginal regions are per definition “marginalized”. This is also reflected in the political language and choice of terms. Furthermore, questions of regional development are mostly discussed from a grown-up point of view. In this session, papers are welcome exploring aspects such as sustainable development, understanding of democracy and local identity in Nordic countries that involve young people outside big cities.

We would like to encourage our colleagues to present not only finished studies, but also ongoing research as well as open research questions. The aim of this session is to give space for a discussion of research needs. We hope to learn more about positive experiences in the Nordic countries, along with the difficulties of this process, in order to develop a research agenda.

The form of the session will be a presentation of papers followed by a panel discussion with the invited speakers.

Conveners
Helle Nielsen, Assistant Prof., PhD, Aalborg University Copenhagen, Danish Centre for Environmental Assessment (DCEA), A.C. Meyers Vænge 15, DK – 2450 Copenhagen
Eva Ritter, Associate Prof., PhD, Nordic Information Office in Southern Jutland/Southern Schleswig, Norderstr. 59, D – 24939 Flensburg

Please submit paper abstracts to
Helle Nielsen email: helle@plan.aau.dk
Eva Ritter email: eri@nordisk-info.de

Session A2

Inequalities and the geographies of children and young people: new approaches and debates

This session (or series of parallel sessions) seeks to explore geographical approaches and debates on ‘inequalities’ in the context of research on children and young people’s lives. It aims to encourage both a re-visitation of older approaches to the study of inequality (and related terms – poverty, injustice, marginalisation, discrimination, exclusion), as well as
hosting discussions around new theoretical languages to examine inequality in relation to the
geographies of children and young people.

The session will encourage debate around a series of key questions. How has the study of
inequality been approached, enriched or challenged by a consideration of children and young
people’s lives? How might geographers (re)theorise inequalities and what can be garnered
from older and newer approaches? What are the key contemporary challenges for those
working on inequality (and related debates) in children’s geographies? What can a focus on the
(unequal) lives of children and young people contribute to broader scholarship on the
‘geographies of inequalities’ across the wider discipline?

This session aims to host papers that engage with any of these provocative starting points and
related debates through either a theoretical, empirical, or methodological/ethical focus. Papers
may attend to any issues surrounding inequalities and the geographies of children and young
people; however, the organisers particular encourage papers on the following themes:
poverty; socio-spatial inequalities; educational inequalities; the interplay between emotions
and inequalities; participation, citizenship and in/equalities; in/equalities across human-
nonhuman ‘boundaries’.

Please submit paper abstracts to the session conveners:
Dr Sophie Hadfield-Hill, University of Birmingham, UK (s.a.hadfield-hill@bham.ac.uk)
Professor Peter Kraftl, University of Birmingham, UK (p.kraftl@bham.ac.uk)
Dr Sarah Mills, Loughborough University, UK (s.mills@lboro.ac.uk)

Session A3

Youth and inequality: perceptions, experiences and aspirations

Rising unemployment and sluggish economic growth are widely predicted to further widen
income and wealth inequality worldwide. Young people in particular are being
disproportionately affected with the OECD claiming that youth have replaced the elderly as
the group experiencing the greatest risk of income poverty. This has widespread implications
for the opportunities and constraints young people face as well as impacting on their
aspirations for the future.

This session will bring together papers which explore how young people’s lives and
aspirations are being influenced by the inequality they experience and imagine both in situ
and in far-away places. Papers are welcome from societies across the globe where young
people are being affected by real or perceived high levels of inequality. Topics which may be
explored in the session include, but are not restricted to, the implications of rising inequality
at a range of scales for young people’ perceptions, experiences and aspirations of:

- Mobility and immobility
- Education and skills training
- Work experiences and job prospects
- Housing and home

Conveners:
Prof Katherine Gough, Department of Geography, Loughborough University, UK
Dr Thilde Langevang, Department of Intercultural Communication and Management,
Copenhagen Business School, Denmark
Please submit proposed paper abstracts to k.v.gough@lboro.ac.uk

Session A4

Young people’s counter-politics in urban space

In this paper session, we approach young people’s everyday lives in urban space with a focus on their participation in matters of equality/inequality. How do young people challenge, negotiate and engage with questions of inequality? How do they respond to discriminatory or restrictive policies and practices? We are interested in hearing about young people’s counter-politics in urban space. This includes young people’s social-material practices and emotional/affectual geographies, but also their involvement with inequality debates in the city. What role does social media play in these practices and urban youth-based initiatives? How does it affect and change the city? We want to hear about everyday political practices that are spatial-embodied, playful and often more-than-representational. This session will generate discussion on how young people’s participation carves space for alternative forms of expression and how this relates to making more inclusive cities that allow for diversity, unplanned encounters and surprises.

We welcome papers that address the following themes:

- young people’s political agency in urban space
- multiculturalism and how it is lived
- processes of migration and mobilities
- young people’s approaches to difference in the city
- feminist geographies dealing with inequalities

Abstracts should be submitted which include a title, name and affiliation of the presenters and their email addresses.

Conveners
Tracey Skelton, Department of Geography, National University of Singapore; Sirpa Tani, Department of Teacher Education, University of Helsinki; Noora Pyyry Department of Teacher Education, University of Helsinki

Please submit paper abstracts to geost@nus.edu.sg and sirpa.tani@helsinki.fi
B Development Planning

Session B1

Is there a Nordic ‘planning culture’? Exploring commonalities and differences in times of growing complexity and inequalities

In a European perspective, the commonalities of Nordic national planning systems are often emphasised with focus on the prevailing legal frameworks as well as administrative and political structures. However, such structuralistic perspectives often overlook other more culturally embedded characteristics and cognitive frames that have received an increased recognition in recent comparative planning research. It is argued that approaching planning as ‘culturised practices’ can offer valuable insights into the praxis, performance and perception of planning. In doing so important analytical tasks are to uncover taken-for-granted beliefs, ideologies, normative mind-sets and the ethos among planning professionals in both private and public organisations. Also it might be fruitful to question the extent to which organisational-led rules and procedures have underpinned how planning practices have evolved over time. In addition, within the Nordic region we can observe a number of policy experiments currently taking place to respond to urgent societal and spatial challenges such as the introduction of new contractual arrangements, re-scaling of institutional layers and soft governance approaches. These divergent and/or convergent responses will not be inconsequential in regards to the ‘state’ of and ‘reflection’ about planning as a ‘culturised practice’. With this in mind we are organising a paper session that aims to contribute to this debate by deconstructing and challenging some of the established cognitive frames about planning across the Nordic region.

We are specifically interested in comparative papers with case studies from the Nordic region, as well as more conceptual and/or theoretical contributions from various disciplines.

Conveners
Peter Schmitt (Department of Human Geography, Stockholm University)
Lukas Smas (Nordregio)

Please submit paper abstracts to
peter.schmitt@humangeo.su.se or lukas.smas@nordregio.se

Session B2

Regional development: theoretical approaches and empirical studies

For this session we invite research papers on regional economic development pertaining structures and processes on different geographical scales and in different geographical settings. With inspiration from recent research debates on regional resilience, the roles of institutions, networks and social capital, path-dependency and path-plasticity, and knowledge dynamics we invite papers discussing regional development from multiple perspectives and
through different methodological approaches and empirical sources. Examples of topics for papers to be presented for this planned session:

- Role and elements of business strategies and industrial clusters on regional development
- Role of policy and governance on processes of regional development
- Structures of cross-sector networks and institutions for regional development
- How social capital and networks generate lock-ins or dynamic development paths
- Multi-scalar networks and relations for regional development
- Regional development from the perspective of gendered space
- Regional vulnerability and regional decline

**Conveners**
Brita Hermelin, Linköping University
Kristina Westermark, Stockholm University

*Please submit paper abstracts to* brita.hermelin@liu.se

**Session B3**

**Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI): A ‘Social and Ethical Turn’ in Development?**

This session brings together papers investigating the Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) framework. The concept of RRI has increased in popularity both in academic and policy circles during the last decade. Reflecting a key dimension of modernity, namely development, RRI is emerging within several spheres, be it in (capitalist) economic development or in rhetoric addressing climate change, resource scarcity and public health. Thus, RRI can be seen as an innovation approach that specifically engages various ways of knowing, epistemologies and subjectivities also from outside techno-science with the intention of leading to more ‘just, sustainable and good’ innovations. The argument is that RRI offers a possibility of including new perspectives in approaching innovation in areas of society which earlier have been marginalised, while simultaneously downplaying (though not removing) profit maximisation as the guiding ‘principle’ behind innovation. Nevertheless, RRI is an immature category. Accordingly, this panel invites for debating the theoretical underpinnings of RRI as well as how it materialize when applied in practice (e.g. through social entrepreneurship, policies addressing Grand Challenges, or CSR strategies within firms and organizations). We are interested in papers reflecting on theoretical, empirical and/or political implications of RRI. In particular, the session welcomes papers exploring insight from human geography elaborating on green technologies, ethical trade, social entrepreneurship, etc. In light of global Grand Challenges, RRI is becoming increasingly important, and we invite contributions casting light on this development.

**Conveners**
Arnt Fløysand, Professor in Human Geography, Bergen University College/University of Bergen (corresponding convenor).
Stig-Erik Jakobsen, Professor in Economic Geography, Bergen University College
Session B4

Territorial Cohesion: Between Past and Future

The principles of spatial convergence and territorial cohesion have been at the heart of European Social Model in the Treaty of Lisbon. Contrary to the widely undertaken actions, spatial inequalities between different regions of Europe not only have persisted but have deepened in recent years. This became an issue for debate on the spatial cohesion historical background and reconsidering this concept as well as the importance of the territorial dimension in the European Union objectives.

This session calls for presentation and discussion of research and development addressing various conceptual and theoretical dimensions of territorial cohesion and exploring territorial inequalities within the European Union. As the concept of territorial cohesion seem to be at the forefront of consideration of many stakeholders of territorial development policies, this session intends to set up an interdisciplinary platform for discussion on issues like: the role of spatial cohesion at different scales from the continental to the local ones, identifying of the main political, social and political-economic dimensions and components of the territorial cohesion, review of evolving understanding of the concept and identification of both catalysts and obstacles in applied approaches, exploring methods to be used to measure the territorial cohesion. Presentations may be prepared either as formal paper presentations or as posters. The session is organized in the frame of the project ‘Integrative Mechanisms for Addressing Spatial Justice and Territorial Inequalities in Europe – IMAJINE’ (726950), funded by the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme of the European Commission, under topic REV-INEQUAL-07-2016 ‘Spatial Justice, Social Cohesion and Territorial Inequalities’.

Conveners
prof. Tomasz Komornicki (Institute of Geography and Spatial Organization, Polish Academy of Sciences) and prof. Sami Moisio (University of Helsinki).

Please submit paper abstracts to
t.komorn@twarda.pan.pl
sami.moisio@helsinki.fi
Session B5

Territorial Stigmatization in a Scandinavian Context

It’s not new that certain areas are marked by negative connotations and it’s not new that this affects the residents. This, the ‘blemish of place’ has gotten more and more attention especially in urban studies in recent years. First and foremost as a guideline for a range of interdisciplinary empirical investigations and since Loic Wacquant coined the term ‘territorial stigmatization’ in the mid 90’ies, we have witnessed an upsurge in studies focusing on this specific kind of stigma. Until now these studies have targeted how territorial stigma are produced, constituted and experienced and to lesser extent how it is countered (subjectively, institutionally and politically). This session invites papers dealing with issues related to this: How do citizens in the Nordic welfare states react to this spatial stigma? How does the phenomenon unfold in an urban, suburban or rural setting? How is it affected by specific yet changing (Scandinavian) welfare state contexts? We welcome empirically as well as more conceptually oriented papers that wish to critically engage in further developing discussions about territorial stigmatization.

Conveners
Kristian Nagel Delica, Department of People and Technology & Troels Schultz Larsen, Department of Social Science and Business, both Roskilde University, Denmark

Please submit paper abstracts to
kdelica@ruc.dk

Session B6

The Inequality of Abstract vs. Embodied Experiences in Development Planning

The worlds of development planners and policy-makers tend to be far removed from the worlds of the people who directly feel the effects of plans and policies in their daily lives. This separation is not just geographical – it is a separation between engaging with a problem on an abstract or a concrete level. While at the policy level, problems are ‘approached’ through various perspectives, the same problems are experienced personally by people at particular times in specific localities. While ‘approaches’ may fail, and such failures can be analysed in a detached way as ‘learning experiences’ by policy makers, the same failures can be devastating lived experiences for the affected people, who don’t have the luxury of being able to afford a failure. This gap between conceived and embodied experience and the unequal power relations it represents contributes to creating geographies of inequalities. It can create feelings of distrust between planners and people, and affects legibility and legitimacy of policies and plans.

This session invites papers that address these inequalities and aims to discuss how mutual trust can be built in such contexts. Feedback mechanisms and local participation in decision-making have in many cases had severe limitations, and local development needs have often been constructed to serve various other interests. Where lies the responsibility for understanding the local needs and perspectives, and how can this be done in a satisfactory
way considering the underlying inherent inequalities? The session will consist of paper presentations, question time and a panel discussion with the presenters and the audience.

Conveners
Flora Hajdu and Linda Engström, Division of Rural Development, Department of Urban and Rural Development, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

Please submit paper abstracts to
Flora Hajdu: flora.hajdu@slu.se

Session B8

Transporting Inequalities: On Transport in Urban and Regional Inequalities

Despite a surge in critical urban studies, the role of transport infrastructure and its material and virtual aspects is still underdeveloped in studies of urban and regional inequalities. Transport infrastructure involves processes of everyday mobility in and to the city, including accessibility to work, services and green areas. Moreover, transport infrastructure guides processes of urban and regional development and planning, where prevailing norms in relation to e.g. automobility continue to pose challenges to environmental sustainability. As such transport mediates power-relations between institutions (private/public), scales and groups. These relations are materialized in terms of spatial segregation and differentiated usages of urban space on the basis of e.g. gender, ethnicity and class.

The aim of this session is to enhance our understanding of urban and regional inequalities by emphasizing the role of different aspects of transports and its associated infrastructure. We welcome contributions on the role of transport in urban and regional inequalities, both in regards to empirical studies and broader theoretical and methodological advances in the field.

Conveners
Jens Portinson Hylander, Swedish National Road and Transport Research Institute, and Department of Technology and Society, Lund University
Till Koglin, PhD, Department of Technology and Society, Lund University
Dalia Mukhtar-Landgren, PhD, Department of Political Science, Lund University

Please submit paper abstracts to
till.koglin@tft.lth.se; Dr. Till Koglin, Department of Technology and Society, Lund University, via e-mail:

Session B9

Strategies for shrinking cities, regions and municipalities - Critical perspectives on political, social, economic and administrative challenges

Over the past decade, the issue of depopulating cities and communities has received an increasing attention among scholars and students of local planning and policy. A large and growing number of studies have examined how shrinkage affects cities, municipalities and
regions. Data from numerous cases reveal that demographic decline have severe effects on local economy and, in consequence, on welfare services, and infrastructure. For public authorities a shrinking population presents a number of political, social, economic and administrative challenges. Accordingly, several studies have highlighted the need for local or regional strategies and policies on how to deal with shrinkage. However, few local or regional governments seem to develop strategies of this kind. We do come across a wide array of local and regional policy programmes, aiming at fostering growth – in economic as well as in demographic terms. Despite this multitude of policies, strategies and programmes for growth, many cities and municipalities continue to shrink.

This session welcome papers that contribute to a critical understanding of the processes and policy responses that emerge in a situation of a long term demographic decline. It seeks to critically discuss the policies developed to meet demographic decline in different contexts, and to reflect on the conflicting ideas and ideals of these policies. We welcome theoretical and conceptual papers and empirical contributions, as well as papers with an explicit aim to be relevant for a wider public sector audience.

Conveners
Gert-Jan Hospers, Department of Public Administration, University of Twente
Josefina Syssner, Centre for Municipality Studies, Linköping University

Please submit paper abstracts to
josefina.syssner@liu.se
C Economic Geography

Session C1

Austerities, Economic Crises and Neoliberalisms: Experiences of Children, Young People and Families

This paper session will explore ways in which diverse, challenging geographies of ‘austerity’, ‘economic crisis’ and ‘neoliberalism’ have affected the lives of children, young people and families in international contexts over the last decade. There is mounting evidence that these social, political and economic contexts are substantially transforming contemporary geographies of childhood, youth and family and constituting new or intensified forms of inequality. In this context, the session will bring together new empirical and conceptual papers in three thematic areas. First, the session will connect new research papers – including qualitative, quantitative and multi-methods projects - evidencing experiences of children, young people and families in diverse contexts of austerity, economic crisis and neoliberalism. In so doing, the session will explore the geographically-differentiated, regionally-distinctive and personally-provoking nature of these experiences, via case studies from different states, regions, localities, cities and communities. We particularly seek papers which consider intersections between local/family geographies of austerity, economic crisis and neoliberalism and wider spatial/social inequalities (e.g. around age, gender, ethnicity, disability, social class) or contemporary geographical issues (e.g. mobilities, migrations, debt, finance, use of public space). Second the session will bring together papers which provide new conceptual and methodological reflections relating to the session themes. We particularly seek papers which critically consider discourses of ‘austerity’, ‘economic crisis’ and ‘neoliberalism’ in relation to contemporary ideas of ‘childhood’, ‘youth’ and ‘family’, or which showcase new, interdisciplinary methodological tools for exploring and analysing new geographies and inequalities in this context. Third, the session will conclude with papers exploring the involvement of children, young people and families in practices which contest, or offer alternatives to, geographies of ‘austerity’, ‘economic crisis’ and ‘neoliberalism’.

Convenors
John Horton (University of Northampton, UK)
Helena Pimlott-Wilson (Loughborough University, UK),
Sarah Marie Hall (University of Manchester, UK)

Please submit abstracts to
John Horton (john.horton@northampton.ac.uk)
Helena Pimlott-Wilson (H.Pimlott-wilson@lboro.ac.uk)
Sarah Marie Hall (sarah.m.hall@manchester.ac.uk)
Session C2

Changing Landscapes of Labour – Theorizing the Spatialities, Temporalities and Possibilities of Work in Times of Flexibility and Transnationalism

Working life in general has for some time been exposed to what can be conceptualized as a dual process of flexibilization and transnationalization. This has resulted in new economic geographies characterized by spatial and temporal divisions of labour, including: temporary and precarious forms of employment, a migratory workforce, and segmented labour markets. Theorizing these spatialities of work requires a language for understanding not only how workers are divided, but also how they are brought together in new ways. Hence, acknowledging workers’ role in global production networks and corporate actors’ role in the mediation of migration patterns (as well as other emerging assemblages of work) remain a core task for human geographers. Growing attention has also been directed to the agency of workers, and how it is differentiated across time and space, as well as to the complexity and constitution of workers’ identities. Workers are increasingly perceived as subjects and co-creators of economic, political and social landscapes. However, the capacity to act is both enabled and constrained by these very same landscapes.

This session welcomes papers that a) explore and seek to advance our understanding of the spatialities and temporalities of work, particularly in response to the above-mentioned processes of flexibilization and transnationalization, and b) unpack and theorize workers’ agency, identities and experiences as they navigate in a flexible, and increasingly transnational, labour market.

Convenors
Kristina Zampoukos, Dept. of Tourism studies and Geography, Mid-Sweden University
David Jordhus-Lier, Dept. of Sociology and Human Geography, Oslo University
Anders Underthun, Work Research Institute, Oslo and Akershus University College
Hege Merete Knutsen, Dept. of Sociology and Human Geography, Oslo University

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Session C3

Cultural Production Within, Against and Beyond Inequalities

Cultural producers – variously referred to as ‘knowledge-based’, ‘cognitive’, or ‘immaterial’ labour – in many respects epitomize the transformed working conditions of the new ‘precariat’ in the post-Fordist economy (Gill and Pratt 2008), embodying striking economic, social, cultural and ethical tensions of our time (Barrett 2014). Moreover, cultural production and the arts frequently struggle to confront entrenched internal gender, class and racial inequalities. Still, these fields play an important role in meaning-making, and often cultural producers engage in efforts towards exposing inequalities, uncovering bias, and contributing to shaping a more equal world.
In this session we aim to explore the ways in which cultural producers intervene materially and symbolically in the public sphere and in urban space through alternative ways of creating economic and cultural value within and beyond capitalism.

We welcome theoretical, empirical and methodological contributions in different kinds of media and forms, addressing, but not limited to, the following questions:

Who is producing alternative cultural expressions? For whom? How does creative resistance relate to other social movements?

What kind of (broadly understood) political resistance is displayed through artistic and cultural productions? What is its influence in promoting social change? On which geographical scales?

How are the risks of co-optation into neoliberal capitalistic processes handled?

How do these forms of alternative production within, against, and/or beyond capitalism nuance our understanding of political action and resistance, as well as inform geographical knowledge and theory?

Conveners
Gabriela Hinchcliffe (Department of Social and Economic Geography, Uppsala University)
Chiara Valli (Department of Social and Economic Geography, Uppsala University)

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Gabriela Hinchcliffe gabriela.hinchcliffe@kultgeog.uu.se

References

Session C4
Geographies of inequality, time and hardship: yesterday, today and tomorrow

This paper session will explore the geographies and temporalities of inequality and hardship. Contemporary studies of inequality, particularly around the geographies of austerity and hardship, are very much focused on the urgency of ‘today’s’ issues. Food and fuel poverty, the impact of economic crises, rates of joblessness and precarious employment, housing and city living, to name but a few, are discussed through rhetoric concerned with the here and now; a prevailing politics of the present. Coupled with the dominant discourse of austerity, and its associated political ideology of frugality and restraint, the geographies of inequality are positioned within a particular time and space.

This session aims to open up these debates, engaging with a broader temporal and spatial perspective. In doing so, we firstly wish to focus on the notion of 'hardship', a term that we find usefully encapsulates a wide array of personally and socially affective experiences, including and beyond the economic. Secondly, we propose a broader temporality to exploring
this field. Thinking through the fluid categories of past, present and future we want this session to capture the breadth of temporalities and how they function within the geographies of inequality. These could be memories and stories of a time gone by, or imagined temporalities of the future. Likewise they may reveal the rhythms, frequencies and tempos of the geographies of hardship, time speeding up or slowing down, or they may capture the bundling of space-time – work, leisure, gender.

We invite papers that engage with the temporalities and geographies of hardship through a focus on, though not limited to:

- Work (paid, unpaid, divisions of labour)
- Gender relations
- Materiality/material culture
- Methods for researching temporal geographies
- Social practices
- Social, political or economic exclusion
- Alternative and diverse economies
- The life course
- Caringscapes

Conveners
Sarah Marie Hall (Geography and Morgan Centre, University of Manchester) and Helen Holmes (Sociology, SCI and Morgan Centre, University of Manchester)

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Session C6
Is sharing really caring? A roundtable on sharing economies, social justice and (in)equalities

The meteoric rise of the ‘new sharing economy’ in the past 5 years has been characterised by intense debate over the potential benefits and drawbacks of sharing-based economic systems. Occupying an ambiguous space between formal and informal economies, this new sharing economy has embedded itself equally into corporate and venture capitalism, as well as green, circular, and ‘prosumption’ economies. Businesses such as AirBnB and Uber have at once been positioned as pushing exciting new frontiers, while also receiving intense criticism for contributing to gentrification, displacement, precaritisation, and erosion of workplace pay and conditions. Moreover, geographical unevenness has compounded existing challenges in certain local and regional economies (e.g. AirBnB in San Francisco). Importantly, the use of ‘sharing’ as a catch-all term for these controversial initiatives has obscured a host of everyday, often non-monetised forms of sharing that are arguably far more endemic. Initiatives such as couch-surfing, informal kinship networks, tool exchanges and food sharing projects have long indicated the potential for sharing as an integral part of challenging inequalities and promoting mutual support in and across places.
The question that follows, then, is: how can we understand the role of sharing economies in promoting or ameliorating inequalities? This discussion-based session explores the possibilities and risks of using sharing as a mode of resource distribution. A panel of invited speakers will provide short interventions based on their own research, followed by a wider discussion. Confirmed panelists include Laura Pottinger (University of Manchester) and Richard J White (Sheffield Hallam University).

Conveners
Anthony Ince (School of Geography and Planning, Cardiff University) and Sarah Marie Hall (School of Environment, Education and Development, University of Manchester)

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Sarah Marie Hall: sarah.m.hall@manchester.ac.uk

Session C7

Land rent and crises: economic, housing and environmental

The so-called global economic crisis of 2007-08 was (and remains) for the millions of dispossessed citizens a housing crisis with ruinous impact on their lives. The same speculative activities of finance capital seeking rent wherever it may be created – including ‘sustainability enhanced investment vehicles’ – underlies the complexities of environmental crises, from collapsing biodiversity to climate change. Ours is a time of the resurgence of the rentier economy, facilitated by neoliberalization in its variegated forms. In response to Harvey’s call to bring rent “forward into the forefront of analysis” in order to understand “processes of crisis formation” (Harvey 2010), these sessions bring together analyses of economic, housing and environmental crises that highlight the manifold ways land rent and rent seeking activities create crises. In (re)engaging with rent, these sessions welcome empirical analyses and critical debates, as well as contributions that move beyond issues of strengthening theory by seeking to elucidate how we might go about curtailing rent seeking, this “polite and rather neutral-sounding way of referring to … ‘accumulation by dispossession’” (Harvey 2014). These sessions comprise of one panel session and at least one paper session.

Conveners
Eric Clark and Ilia Farahani (Human Geography Department, Lund University)

Please send your abstracts (max. 200 words) to
Ilia Farahani (ilia.farahani@keg.lu.se)

Session C8

Postcapitalist Futurologies

The eight years that have passed since the meltdown of financial capitalism can be characterized not only by the proliferation of austerity measures but also by the popularization of postcapitalist imaginaries. Ideas around an approaching end of capitalism circulate widely today, and have been propagated in particular through a genre of writing that we might call
postcapitalist futurology. Some of the main contributions to this genre, including Mason’s Postcapitalism (2015), Srnicek & Williams’s Inventing the Future (2015) and Hardt & Negri’s Commonwealth (2009), all propose similar narratives of capitalist crisis and postcapitalist potentiality based on the tendential developments of machinic automation and digital networks of socialized information. The path to postcapitalism, the story goes, runs through and beyond the most advanced landscapes of techno-capitalist development.

In this workshop, we wish to delve into such contemporary postcapitalist futurologies and the spatio-temporalities they inhabit and perform. We want to question the affirmation of capitalist logics of techno-social change -- and, indeed, the totalized presence of “the capitalist system” in the first place -- as a prerequisite for envisioning capitalism’s eventual demise. How might we think postcapitalism otherwise and elsewhere? Following authors such as Gibson-Graham (2006a, 2006b) and Harney & Moten (2013), we call for a decidedly open study of postcapitalism, welcoming a broad range of contributions that include interrogations of past and current theorizations of postcapitalism(s); discussions of existing and proposed postcapitalist practices; as well as artistic, performative, and fictional engagements with postcapitalisms we already have, and postcapitalisms yet to come. The workshop format will be based around short interventions (e.g. paper presentations, collaborative exercises, artistic performances) followed by ample time for collective thinking and discussion.

Conveners
Aron Sandell (Department of Sociology and Human Geography, University of Oslo)
Tuomo Alhojärvi (Geography Research Unit, University of Oulu)

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tuomo.alhojarvi@oulu.fi

Session C9

Resilient or vulnerable? Towns in transition

Numerous towns and small villages in the Nordic countries have faced major challenges in relation to shifting socio-economic and demographic environments. Especially resource-dependent communities face difficulties due to changes in resource entitlements, limited access to resources, or other forms of stress.

Resilient communities are those that have the ability to adapt to changes and disturbances and manage to bounce back into equilibrium of sorts. Strategies to adapt and adjust can either come from within the communities (bottom-up) or be driven by governmental programs (top-down).

In this session, particular interest will be paid to communities that have shifted from traditional resource extraction to alternative economic models and thus diversified the local economy. Which quantitative and qualitative measures are at hand to analyse community resilience? Which approaches have been tested and can serve as examples for other Nordic communities?
In addition to examples of resilient towns, contrary examples can also be presented – of vulnerable towns that seem destined to further decline. Must a socially acceptable way to dismantle a community perhaps be found? Contributors are encouraged to grapple with such and other provocative questions.

Convener
Matthias Kokorsch (University of Iceland, Department of Tourism and Geography)

Please submit paper abstracts to
mak31@hi.is

Session C12
Cultural and creative industries and the service economy

Cultural and creative industries (CCI) are a diverse group with different governing modalities, different territorialities and different economic structures. The competitive advantage for producers of cultural commodities is based in the ability to entertain, provide a form of social identity, and/or confer status (Lash and Urry 1994). When we discuss CCI, products often come to mind; from a cool pair of jeans, a video game, the latest record from our favourite musician or a new work of art. What this often overlooks, is the fact that a number of CCI business are actually service providers that harness and create value. For example, more traditional services meant for a professional market, such as advertising, industrial design and architecture, but also more unheeded services such as retail clerks in fashion boutiques, people ‘curating’ playlists for websites, interior designers styling for real estate agents or artists working with city planners.

While the service sector is increasingly the largest employer in western economies and more recently has overtaken the goods sector in terms of employment and output, innovation in this sector of the economy is comparatively understudied (Bryson & Daniels 2015). We often privilege the study of the creative class, even though the majority of labour force are employed in service-oriented occupations. As such, in this session, we seek to broaden our understanding of the service economy and the role of the service economy in processes of innovation and economic development.

In this session, we welcome papers that investigate innovative service-oriented processes in the CCI. Topics can include: case studies of how CCI aesthetics and/or logic can be utilised in order to provide innovative and competitive services; examination of the relationship between digital technology and service providers; examples of cross-sectorial process of innovation between CCI industries and more.

Conveners
Atle Hauge – Lillehammer University College
Taylor Brydges – Uppsala University

Paper Submission
If you are interested in presenting a paper in this session, please send your abstract (of 250 words) to Taylor Brydges (taylor.brydges@kultgeog.uu.se).
D Education

Session D1

Geography and Education

Research on geographical education can be approached from various perspectives, all of which are welcome in this session. Possible themes include practical and theoretical takes on the teaching, studying and learning of geography in schools and in higher education. Curricula, teaching methods and materials as well as questions of evaluation and assessment, values in geography education and teachers' and students' conceptions of geography as a subject are among the themes that can be brought up. The session will also highlight the challenges for geography education in line with the conference theme of geographies of inequalities. We especially welcome papers on education concerning unequal living conditions and anthropocene geographies. This session is the sixth one combining Geography and Education at NGM. By establishing a session on geography and education we want to continue a discussion on educational themes in the Nordic context. (Paper Session)

Conveners
Gabriel Bladh, Karlstad University and Lena Molin, Uppsala University

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E Environment and sustainability studies

Session E1

Environment and Sustainable Development in India: Challenges for Future

In India, rapid growth of population, poverty, urbanization, industrialization and several related factors are responsible for the rapid degradation of the environment. There are many environmental issues in India. Air pollution, water pollution, garbage, and pollution of the natural environment are all challenges for India. The main environmental problems in India relate to air and water pollution particularly in metropolitan cities and industrial zones, degradation of common property resources which affect the poor adversely as they depend on them for their livelihood, threat to biodiversity and inadequate system of solid waste disposal and sanitation with consequent adverse impact on health, infant mortality and birth rate. The Government has recently started emphasizing the combined use of regulatory and economic instruments for improving environmental quality. India makes up 2.4 percent of the world's land, while supporting 16 percent of the world's population. The compounding result is a severely unsustainable use of natural resources for several generations. Currently, India is experiencing rapid and widespread environmental degradation at alarming rates. Tremendous pressure is placed upon the country's land and natural resources to support the massive overpopulation. Mismanagement and overuse of India's once abundant forests has resulted in desertification, contamination, and soil depletion throughout the sub-continent. This has serious repercussions for the livelihoods of hundreds of millions of Indians that live off the land. There is a need for coordination between government agencies, NGOs and the public for the proper management of environment quality and to achieve sustainable development in the country.

Keywords: Environmental Awareness, Conservation, Biodiversity

Conveners
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Session E2

Geographies of Death and Remembrance: place-making, mobilities, diversity and sustainability

Death is something which comes to us all, but the death of others and associated bodily disposal and mourning rituals also have a significant impact on individuals, families, society, urban and rural landscapes and the wider ecosystem. Within geography, death-related issues have mainly been studied as part of population studies rather than focusing on the individuals, communities and places affected. Public authorities tend to take an instrumentalist approach to death. However, the spatial consequences and implications of death has recently gained significant attention by geographical scholars e.g. Kong (1999, 2012), Foote (2003), Maddrell
and Sidaway (2010 Deathscapes), Marjavaara (2012), Klaasens and Groote (2014), Jassal (2015), Stephenson et al’s (2016) special issue of Social and Cultural Geography. This body of scholarship has brought a spatial lens to the spaces and practices associated with dying, death and remembrance, highlighting individual and communal experience and relational places.

This special session at the 7th NGM in Stockholm, addresses a spatial aspects on death, dying, mourning and remembrance particularly those related to the conference theme of inequalities. Geographers from every specialism have much to contribute to understanding the intersection of socio-economic, cultural, political and environmental issues associated with the spaces and spatial practices associated with death, loss and consolation. These sessions also offer the opportunity to elaborate on these issues from an interdisciplinary perspective, by bringing together researchers from other fields such as anthropology, ethnology, sociology, psychology, history, religious studies and planning. Papers are sought which inform theoretical, empirical or policy debates.

The special session will seek papers that address (but are not limited to) the following themes:

- Socio-economic inequalities, death and remembrance
- Death and diaspora in multicultural and globalized societies
- The ways in which gender, ethnicity and religion inflect dying, death and remembrance
- Death and remembrance-related mobilities
- Cemeteries and crematoria as ‘green’ spaces
- Legislative and Planning perspectives on death and deathscapes

Conveners
Dr. Avril Maddrell, Department of Geography and Environmental Management, University of the West of England, Bristol, United Kingdom. Avril.Maddrell@uwe.ac.uk
Dr. Roger Marjavaara, Department of Geography and Economic History, Umeå University, Sweden. Roger.Marjavaara@umu.se

Abstracts of no more than 250 words should be submitted by email by 15th December to Dr. Roger Marjavaara at: Roger.Marjavaara@umu.se

Session E3

Knowledge inequalities in the transition to sustainability

The aim with this session is to explore how a more inclusive view on knowledge dynamics can play a role in the transition to sustainability. Such a transition needs a variety of knowledge, norms and values from different stakeholders in planning, policy and innovation processes e.g. through a widening from triple to quadruple helix in innovation systems. However, the involvement of civil society i.e. NGOs, labour unions and users have been limited in such processes, mainly because citizen-knowledge is seen as diffuse and difficult to embed in the processes. It is therefore important to address this knowledge inequality and develop new methods and understandings of processes of knowledge dynamics. Knowledge and learning are driving forces behind innovation and challenge driven innovation, which are
important in the transformation to sustainability. This session calls for papers with an inclusive view on knowledge dynamics in the transformation to sustainability for example dealing with methods for a transformation to circular economy and/or bioeconomy, methodologies of transdisciplinarity in relation to sustainability transformations, eco-innovations, social innovations, living labs, stakeholder involvement and participatory planning.

Conveners
Professor Margareta Dahlström and Ida Grundel, Department of Geography, Media and Communication, Karlstad University together with Jukka Teräs and Gunnar Lindberg, Nordregio.

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Session E4

Inequalities in eco-friendly behaviours and practices

The session is aimed at identifying behaviours and practices, by individuals and institutions across societies, which knowingly or unknowingly harm the environment. Past research indicates a moderate correlation between environmental consciousness and eco-friendly behaviours and attitudes. These findings clearly contradicts the wide-spread assumption that people with high ecological awareness are likely to also behave in eco-friendly ways. Since, consumption by individuals and households has a tremendous impact on the environment, contemporary social research tries to understand the situational conditions and circumstances under which environmental awareness would lead to the selection of more eco-friendly consumption alternatives.

Primitive societies were closer to nature, being more eco-friendly and also energy-efficient. Due to restricted access to technology and capital, traditional societies and less-developed economies, unknowingly used eco-friendly products, and thereby exhibited eco-friendly behaviour. As societies matured, with increasing access to higher technology and greater wealth, the flowering of eco-unfriendly products and practices increased, thereby harming the environment.

The panel is specifically interested in individual or comparative case studies, based on primary survey, which identifies eco-unfriendly behaviours and practices; and suggests possible eco-friendly solutions, for example, tub or shower bath versus bucket bath; aerosol-based chemical perfumes versus flower-extract based natural attars; incandescent bulbs versus LEDs; petrol and diesel versus CNG as automobile fuel; organic farming; paper-less institutions etc. Other descriptive and analytical studies based on secondary data, or qualitative interpretations and criticisms of practices and situations or government policies are also welcome.

While, the wealthier nations, and prosperous individuals in poorer nations, are consuming more resources; the poorer nations and individuals do not have access to basic facilities. Prior understanding of such inequalities in consumption, form a background of our session.
Identifying simple solutions to these inequalities, could in a long way improve the environment and human health, and bring about equality and human dignity.

Conveners
Dr. Soma Sengupta, Associate Professor, Department of Commerce, Kamala Nehru College, University of Delhi, Dr. Anjan Sen, Assistant Professor Department of Geography, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi

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Session E6

Political ecologies of nature conservation
Although most agree that it is essential to care for our environment, there is simultaneously much disagreement concerning the concept of nature conservation generally, and protected areas specifically. Historically and today, various forms of nature conservation, including establishment processes, have met with resistance and been accused of ignoring various interests. They have also been questioned in terms of sustainability and relevance both from a social and ecological perspective. A political ecology approach to nature conservation aims to explain land use conflicts and clarify power structures that guide and control benefits from the utilisation of conservation resources. An important aspect is how inequality is manifested in the landscape through different visible and invisible power relations. To this may be added the important aspect of how different forms of conservation, and subsequent use of the landscape, affects the natural environment itself. This session aims to explore these and related issues from multi-scalar temporal and spatial perspectives. The session may include global examples on nature conservation dimensions in a broad sense, but we specifically encourage constructive experiences from the Global North concerning protected areas. Presentations may deal with specific case studies, have a theoretical approach, or a mix thereof.

Conveners
Annika Dahlberg, Department of physical geography, Stockholm University
Jarkko Saarinen, Department of geography, University of Oulu
Sandra Wall-Reinius, Department of tourism studies and geography, Mid Sweden University

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Sandra Wall-Reinius (sandra.wall-reinius@miun.se)

Session E7

Geographies of the Anthropocene-in-crisis: Twilight of humanity or Accelerando?
The Anthropocene is represented as either the twilight of the human race or the launch-point of the techno-optimist “Accelerando”—the “speeding up” of development where humans (and post-humans and their machines) complete the geophysical transformation of the planet and cast their eyes to the Solar system. We interrogate the inequality and re-valuation of values
human ingenuity and machination have brought forth under advanced capitalism. The increased fascination in popular culture with figures like the zombie, the vampire, the robot, or the computing singularity, might have to do with the fact that “we” are becoming more aware that capitalism does not need the human to secure its profit-seeking ends. Is it that the machine is making the human increasingly redundant—and not only in the workplace—while market relations are alienating humans from one another and creating conditions of planetary annihilation? Are aspects of social and environmental dystopias visioned in apocalyptic novels now materializing to make our lives dismal and dolorous?

Themes: anthropocene and biopolitics (and necropolitics); global population decline and capitalist accumulation strategies; the wasting of the human and the non-human; the commodification of human relations and the transformation of kinship, love, and the family; the trans-humanist and post-humanist re-imagining and re-toolings of human (and animal) bodies; the transformation of the life of work and industrial processes by the emergence of robotized production, maker-movement ‘fab-labs’, and cyborgic workers (per Ramez Naam’s idea of “wired or fired”); the transformation of cities in the era of information network integration, ubiquitous surveillance and policing; and the uncertain futures that climate change represents for human and non-human.

Conveners
Richard Ek, Lund University; Heidi J Nast, DePaul University; Alex Papadopoulos, DePaul University; Mekonnen Tesfahuney, University of Karlstad.

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Alex Papadopoulos (apapadop@depaul.edu)

Session E8

Valuable natural resources in an unequal world: What works in addressing inequality in accessing valuable natural resources and their revenues?

Valuable natural resources – such as oil, diamonds, and many minerals – are unequally distributed over the Earth’s surface. Likewise, the access to these resources and revenues they generate is unequal, shaped and cemented by marginalization, power struggles, and patronage networks only to name a few. Existing inequality – at the different scales and between different groups – both reinforces and is reinforced by Nature’s lottery, and the unequal access to resources and their revenues has a range of negative social and economic consequences for the host communities and countries in which the resources are located. Challenges and consequences related to valuable natural resources are well documented and so are the many unsuccessful attempts to address these. Less attention has been directed at the ways and initiatives that at least partially have been successful in addressing the unequal access to resources and revenues or that have resulted in revenue spending that benefits the whole community or all citizens rather than just certain individuals or groups.

This panel invites contributions that seek to highlight what works and under what conditions when it comes to 1) addressing the unequal access to valuable natural resources or revenue flows; 2) mitigating the negative social and economic consequence of natural resource riches; and 3) securing increased welfare for broader segments of the population.
Convener
Päivi Lujala, Department of Geography, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Trondheim

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F Gender studies

Session F2

Gender, the heterosexual decent family and everyday urban geographies

Gender-related inequalities are not only manifested in spaces, but also genders are constructed in and through spatial practices. Hence, the panel draws on the idea that genders and spaces are co-constructed. The panel deals with urban spaces and everyday geographies with a special focus on the heterosexual family. The panel labels the heterosexual family as decent due to the reason that urban spaces across the so-called public and the private are design by taking the heterosexual family as the norm that which makes the heterosexual family as a treat of gender inequalities. Besides, both political and social spaces of the heterosexual family are also spaces where scripts of decent masculinities and femininities are either constructed or performed. The practices in which urban spaces are designed turn urban spaces into heterotopic places that exclude or more frequently temporise those individuals and groups who do not fit into the picture of the decent family, such as sex workers, LGBTI, single men or women. The panel welcomes papers focusing on the constructions and the productions of heterosexual (decent) family and linking them with impacts on mobilities of genders in urban spaces, including both public and private, in particular eras such as nation-building or neoliberal urban transformation.

Conveners
Ayça Kurtoğlu, Sociology, Acıbadem University; Mine Egbatan, Gender and Women’s Studies, Middle East Technical University

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Session F3

Migration and Mobilities at the Nexus of Race, Gender, and Sexuality

Migration and mobilities are embodied processes (DasGupta, 2014; Gorman Murray, 2007; Mai & King, 2009; Lewis, 2014). Embodiment is not just psychic or a social process but also a spatial process (Thomas, 2012; Mckittrick, 2006; Cotten, 2011, Wimark 2016). Building on these two key geographic claims, this panel calls for an intersectional understanding of queer and transgender migratory experiences across different routes. The panel seeks to highlight how the movement of the body in space is framed through long histories of gendered, racialized and sexualized border regimes, and that such regimes inform national narratives and shifting welfare regimes. From this perspective, the recent terror attacks in Bangladesh, Belgium, France, Germany, Turkey and the US can be understood as racialized and sexualized events. We welcome paper presentations that consider questions and themes such as:

- Sexual identity formation and migratory processes. What are the shifting queer migration patterns?
• Border control and national/international security as sexualized and racialized processes.
• What kinds of spatiality is effected through such processes?
• Migration, mobility and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender asylum seekers
• Queer nationalisms in the global north and how they respond to (or are constituted in and through) migration from global south.
• Queer migration, globalization, and shifting centers of global capital
• Migration, mobilities, neoliberalism, austerity and welfare reforms
• Islamophobia, racism, and queer Muslim experiences with migration
• Migration, disability, mobility and health

**Convener**
Debanuj DasGupta, Department of Geography and Women’s, Gender, Sexuality Studies. University of Connecticut, Thomas Wimark, Department of Human Geography. Stockholm University.

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**Session F4**

**Unequal Scales of Global/Local and the Sexuality of Development in South-Asia**

Gender identity and sexuality politics in South Asia can be conceived of as spatial, temporal, and corporeal convergences. In recent times South Asia has been witness to major environmental disasters such as the earthquakes in Nepal, major floods in India and Bangladesh, as well as regional imbalances in the circulation of global capital. These disparate nature-culture-capital interactions potentially converge to create specific spatial/sexual formations such as dislocations and relocations of diverse queer subjects. This panel builds upon scholarship related to sex and development (Banerjea, 2014; Boyce, 2007; Dutta & Roy, 2014; Hossain, 2012; Leigh Pigg & Adams, 2005; Nagar & DasGupta 2015) in South Asia through connecting the local and the global, nature-culture and capital. Since the 1990’s international development projects in South Asia have begun to think about the interconnections of economic inequality and sexuality largely through reproductive health and HIV/AIDS issues. This panel invites new thinking about how international development, unequal scales of globalization, rural/urban dislocations, and disaster management remain inter-imbricated with sexual(ity) politics in South Asia.

**Convener**
Debanuj DasGupta. Assistant Professor, Department of Geography & Women’s, Gender, and SexualityStudies. The University of Connecticut.
Paul Boyce. Senior Lecturer in Anthropology and International Development. The University of Sussex.
Rohit K. DasGupta. Lecturer in Media and Creative Industries, Loughborough University.
Session F5

Women in geography: is there a disciplinary glass ceiling?

Research shows small disciplines as geography tend to be homosocial making the career progress of men much smoother than that of women is plentiful (Crang 2003; Trimble 2013; Mott and Roberts 2014; Leslie et al 2015). Men in academia tend to have stronger and wider networks which allow for the placement of early career researchers within their network (Moss-Racusin et al. 2012; Sâdl 2009; Hanson 2000). Set in a backdrop of increasing neoliberal policies at universities, we see an increase in teaching and administrative loads coupled with an ever competitive funding panorama. In this situation, women find it even more challenging to reconcile work and family care (Lund 2015; Gill and Donaghue 2015; Davis and Bansel 2005; Husu 2010)

We wonder: are women in geography victims of this system, does geography remain a male dominated discipline or how have women learnt to bypass these hindrances? And for those who have succeeded, what were the main factors in their successes and finally, what obstacles did they encounter as they navigated their career paths? Which strategies do early career women geographers put in place nowadays to avoid falling trap of the “leaky pipe”? We will invite to our panel four to five women geographers at different stages of their careers to discuss the lingering inequalities of academic recruitment and advancement in our discipline.

Conveners
Natasha Alexandra Webster & Martina Angela Caretta, Human Geography Dept., Stockholm University

Please send your paper abstract to
Natasha Webster natasha.webster@humangeo.su.se and Martina Caretta (martina.caretta@mail.wvu.edu) (please send papers to both conveners)
G Geographies of inequality: Theory/methodology

Session G1


Panel session
Panel debate between authors and readers, and the audience.
Authors: Margit Mayer, Catharina Thörn, Håkan Thörn, Anders Lund Hansen, Mustafa Dikec, Miguel Martinez
Readers: Carina Listerborn, Irene Molina, Erik Swyngedouw
Moderator: Guy Baeten

Conveners
CRUSH – Critical Urban Sustainability Hub Contact: Guy Baeten, Department of Urban Studies, Malmö University, Contact: Guy Baeten, Department of Urban Studies, Malmö University

Session G2

Conceptualising a Trans-species Carceral Geography

Carceral geography has concerned itself with spaces of confinement very broadly conceived and operating at every scale from the global to the personal. Although incarceration has conventionally come to refer to the legal confinement of sentenced offenders under the jurisdiction of the state, the carceral has also come to be understood as embracing the myriad ways in which persons could be confined by other means – spaces of detention of refugees, noncitizens, asylum seekers, the trafficked and the renditioned – as well as embracing those ‘transcarceral’ spaces into which the more formally carceral constantly seeps. In this paper session we propose to engage with interpretations of ‘the carceral’ as also including spaces of non-human confinement. In so doing we bring together carceral geography and critical animal studies to engage with both human and nonhuman forms of confinement, enclosure, and captivity, be they state-sanctioned, quasi-legal, ad-hoc, illicit, spatially fixed, mobile, embodied or imagined, at various scales. What is it that makes us think of confinement of various kinds, human and nonhuman, as being carceral or not? The session’s objective is to think through what a trans-species carceral geography might be with a view to further consolidating the subdiscipline of carceral geography.

Conveners
Karen M. Morin, Office of the Provost, Bucknell University, US
Dominique Moran, Department of Geography, University of Birmingham, UK
Session G4

Geographies of trauma: spatialities, effects, inequalities

The emotions associated with suffering caused by terrorism, war, genocide, violence, disasters, exploitation or famine can play a crucial role in producing spatial effects (relocation, production of boundaries, transformation of daily routines and practices, practices of memory such memorials, ceremonies or tourism...), transforming sometime the relationship with space and place, and challenging geographical representations at different scales and times (Ursano and al. 1994, Baer 2002, Nigel 2010, Fassin, Rechtman 2009). Trauma is a defining human experience embedded in global (geo)political relations (Eskins 2003, Bell 2006). Such damage occurs at the individual level but affect social landscape and politics (Jeffrey 2012, Hutchison 2016). This session aims to investigate from conceptual work and/or empirical studies case the link between trauma and geography. This session also seeks to discuss the interests of notion of trauma for geography, the methodological and ethical framework to work with, and the possibilities of.

Possible topics and themes include, but are not limited to:

- Mapping trauma: place, space, scale (from the body to the world)
- Place and space related with traumatic experiences (camps, prison..)
- Geographies and spatialities of trauma and traumatic experiences
- Evidences and materialities
- Effects -or none effects- of traumatic events on daily routines, relocation, migration...
- Individual and community responses after trauma: (trans)national empathy, solidarity and recognition, adaptation, forgiveness and reconciliation but also indifference or denial...
- Remember traumatic events and commemoration (museum, memorial, ritual, ephemeral tributes, tourism, voyeurism...)
- Trauma, space and representation (personnal narratives, social discourses, images, medias, fiction, arts...)
- Heuristic dimension and limits of this notion for geography
- Ununderstanding trauma: Methods, approaches and ethics
- Interest and limits of narratives (autobiography, testimonies and memory)

Particular attention will be given to proposals that address inequalities (global south/north, gender/class/race, rural/urban...) and geographies of trauma

Convener
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Session G7

Histories and geographies of Nordic Geographies

We have over recent decades seen an upsurge in analyses of geographical thought and practice. Often from a critical perspective, such analyses bring out rich historical and geographical variations in the academic field of Geography. Not only does this help to situate past and present geographical thought and practice; probing historical-geographical trajectories can also uncover how geographers produce and reflect material as well as ideological power relations. Nordic geographers participate in this endeavour, but our notions of historical-geographical lineages in Geography are generally heavily dominated by experiences in specific places, notably in Germany, France, Great Britain and the United States. Influences of this knowledge topography should not be neglected, of course; but it is worthwhile to further probe ‘minor’ geographical traditions and practices. This session seeks to bring together contributions on the histories and geographies of Nordic university geography. As the heavily pluralised title suggests, ‘Nordic’ should in this respect be treated as an open label. Place and space matters, and contributions set at (and across) all spatial scales – ranging from individual practitioners to the (supposedly) Nordic – are warmly welcomed.

Convener
Henrik Gutzon Larsen, Department of Human Geography, Lund University

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Session G8

Beyond Displacement: Conceptual and Methodological Issues

Displacement is a catch-all term to capture processes through which households are forced to leave their home due to conditions that make continued occupancy impossible, hazardous and unaffordable. Displacement as a consequence of gentrification processes in 1980s New York was famously problematized and politicized by Chester Hartman et al. through their provocative publication “Displacement and how to fight it”. This original understanding of displacement is no longer adequate to capture today’s multiple manifestations of displacement. We invite papers that help us to rethink, reformulate and reconceptualise ‘displacement’ in all its contemporary guises to make it fit 21st century challenges. Since Hartman’s analysis, shifting housing policies, changing housing markets and economic conditions, new processes of migration and new forms of resistance, or large-scale renovation processes of the 1960s Swedish housing stock, are but a few examples of new important contexts that require more nuanced understandings of contemporary displacement processes. These understandings and conceptualizations also need to be framed beyond Anglo-American empirical evidence.

How can we enrich the existing conceptual apparatus to make sense of contemporary displacement processes, based on empirical research in different contexts? New concepts are surfacing: Roy (2016) proposes to speak of (racial) banishment in the aftermath of housing foreclosures in South Chicago, and Baeten and Listerborn (2015) suggest the concept of ‘city-
less citizenship’ to describe processes of government-led indirect displacement processes in the south of Sweden. Are there other concepts to capture displacement today? What are the different manifestations of displacement in different places? How do we define displacement in the light of its contemporary varieties?

The aim of this session is to bring together researchers working in the fields of urban studies, housing, citizenship and migration studies to discuss exclusionary policies and governance practices at the urban scale, particularly in the field of housing.

Conveners
CRUSH – Critical Urban Sustainability Hub
Guy Baeten, Department of urban studies, Malmö University
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Session G9

Power of Space: Urban research in an age of Anglo-American privilege

Panel session
Colonial practices are also located within academia, and even within Europe. As Gregson, Simonsen & Vaiou (2003) remind us, “British/British-North American journals appear to write contemporary Europe out of their spaces, casting Europe instead through the homogenizing lens of 19th-century colonialism. Other European countries are to be written about and framed by distant, dislocated commentator-viewers”. Theory development is a privilege. Albers (2004) has also pinpointed how some references are worth more than others, when publishing in academic journals. Authors from non-English speaking countries need to translate their conceptual framework to an acknowledged colonial frame, which may lead to conceptual confusions (Hancock 2016). French and German philosophers may also come back to their original countries translated via English interpretations. Non-Anglophone European case researchers have no option but to position themselves with respect to the dominant discourses about cities of the “North” or the “West”. This delineates a form of “Anglo privilege” within international debates which needs to be untangled since it increasingly burdens scholars who are pressured to publish “internationally”, i.e. in a language other than their own, and have to either put in twice the amount of effort, or choose between local relevance and global recognition. The vocabulary of “privilege” is probably more appropriate here than that of “imperialism” or “hegemony” since, while many of our Anglophone colleagues recoil from the idea that they are exerting any kind of power, and certainly do not knowingly engage in discrimination, they nonetheless benefit from the situation.

In this session we will discuss how to make sense of unequal relations of domination and subordination in contemporary academic practices in Europe, while at same time acknowledging the value of exchanging urban research. The session does not aim to be an
outlet for non-Anglo-American resentment but wants to seek ways to productively organize ‘the margins’.

Panel participants
- Professor Guy Baeten, Department of Urban Studies, Malmö University, SWE
- Professor Bernd Belina, Institut für Humangeographie, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt a.M, DE
- Professor Lawrence Berg, Department of Geography, University of British Columbia, Okanagan, Kelowna, CA
- Professor Claire Hancock, Department of Geography, Lab’Urba, Paris-Est-Créteil University, FR
- Professor Loretta Lees, Department of Geography, University of Leicester, UK
- Professor Kirsten Simonsen, Department of People and Technology, Roskilde University, DK

Moderator
Carina Listerborn, Department of Urban Studies, Malmö University, SWE

Conveners
CRUSH – Critical Urban Sustainability Hub
JEDI - Justice, Espace, Discriminations, Inégalités
Guy Baeten, Department of urban studies, Malmö University
Claire Hancock, Paris-Est-Créteil University, Lab’Urba
Carina Listerborn, Department of urban studies, Malmö University

Session G10

Swedish Geography, the Anglo-american academe, and a more than Anglophone world.

Panel session
This panel takes its starting point from the view that if knowledge is power it becomes crucial to think about the geographies of knowledge, and that, as an English-speaking conference in a non-Anglophone country, the Nordic Geographers’ Meeting, provides an apt venue for such a conversation. Recent years have seen an intensification and proliferation of critical and reflexive thought on a system of geographical knowledge-production that has its power center firmly rooted in Euro-America (see e.g. Jazeel and McFarlane 2007, 2009). Nordic academia can herein be imagined as an appendage to this largely Anglophone Euro-American academe - a margin more central than other wider margins. But within this structural position, what does it mean to produce geographical knowledge that is democratic, representative, responsible and truly cosmopolitan? How does one navigate the global and the local, the universal and the specific? Which cases are taken for granted as always relevant and which cases’ relevance must one justify? What role does language play in these navigations, and how are navigations altered as careers are increasingly built on publishing articles in Anglophone journals? And how can we work to learn with and learn from knowledge systems that exist away from this dominant edifice of Geography? These are some of the questions that our panel will discuss.
Conveners
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Srilata Sircar, Department of Human Geography, Lund University

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Session G11

Visualizing Inequalities. Engaging with (critical) visual methods in Geography

A growing body of geographers has been using visual research methods as a way of posing and pursuing research questions by producing images, coproducing visual materials with research participants, analyzing found visual materials and disseminating research outputs. Many are in fact the possibilities, but also the challenges for those researchers who undertake visual methods as part of their research process. In this session, we aim to share experiences, provide inspirations, raise questions and critically reflect on the visual as a methodology to unfold visible and invisible power relations, inequality and injustice. Furthermore, the session engages with the epistemology of the visual i.e. processes of knowledge production using visual methods. Embracing Rose’s (2012) invite to engage with the power relations embedded in the ways of seeing, we welcome presentations through different kinds of media on, but not limited to:

- Ethical considerations and the use of the visual for eliciting participation towards a more inclusive research process; visual methods as a ‘sensitive’ method; who may be included and excluded (based on age, gender, class, ‘race’, ethnicity, sexuality, disability…), willingness to take part.
- Critical understandings of how (visual and non-visual) knowledge is produced and presented; the relationship between words and images and what is gained through the visual; the role of the researcher.
- Visual communication of research within and beyond academia; the visual as a representation and perhaps a simplification?

Conveners
Sara Forsberg, Department of Social and Economic Geography, Uppsala university
Tina Mathisen, Department of Social and Economic Geography, Uppsala university
Chiara Valli, Department of Social and Economic Geography, Uppsala university

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Reference
H Housing studies, segregation and well-being

Session H1

Comparative studies of segregation

Residential segregation has for considerable time been an important topic in urban studies. The physical separation of groups into different neighbourhoods may have negative effects, such as decreased chances on the labour market among minority groups and other forms of social exclusion. However, a lack of comparative studies on segregation levels has made it difficult to test theories, analyse factors that contribute to segregation and examine effects of segregation.

This session explores how neighbourhoods defined from around individual instead of being based on administrative borders opens up for comparable segregation measures, over time, across urban areas and between countries. Mapping the variation in geographical contexts in the urban areas in North-western Europe using comparable ethnic and socio-economic indicators will open up new possibilities for addressing questions of central importance for urban analysis and urban policies.

Many of existing studies use the dissimilarity index, but it is generally acknowledged that this index is not invariant to the differences in areal subdivisions. Geographical units often differ in size, function and distribution between regions and over time, known as the Modifiable Area Unit Problem, which is aggravated in comparative studies. Moreover, neighbourhood effects may operate at different scales. Over the life course, the size of the neighbourhood relevant to the individual may increase, and depending on the type of segregation, different scales may apply. This session discusses a solution to the lack of standardised measures and comparative data that have hindered progress in segregation studies.

Convener
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Session H2

Enabling and disabling spaces – Spatial perspectives on functional variations

Bodily and functional variations are active in processes of how people make use of, experience and create spaces. Societies meet these variations in different ways. In this session we encourage papers that approach disability perspectives in a multitude of ways, to achieve a better understanding of where we are and what has to be done ahead in disability studies with
spatial perspectives. Planned, ongoing and already performed research is of interest and we welcome empirical, theoretical and methodological contributions.

Empirically based knowledge might include perspectives of people with impairments, as well as of those of relatives or planners. Papers may discuss how individuals with impairments understand their living environments and how functional variation interacts with different physical, social and cultural environments. Mobility, accessibility, confinement and participation are a few examples of useful concepts. As the Nordic societies are facing increasing demands on accessibility in all social sectors - such as housing, the labor market, public transports, health issues and public space design - we also see a need to discuss how public policy is created and implemented. Papers may thus also contain discussions of planning for an inclusive citizenship.

Conveners
Cecilia Bygdell, Uppsala County Museum / Department of Social and Economic geography, Uppsala University, Susanne Stenbacka, Department of Social and Economic geography, Uppsala University

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Session H3

Housing market change and housing construction in the 21st century: Segregation, inequality, public housing, marketization, gentrification

In this paper session we put the focus on housing market change and housing construction in the 21st century. Housing markets change concerning proportions of tenure forms due to conversion of rental housing into ownership, public rental ownership into private rental ownership and new construction of dwellings of various tenure forms. Changes take different forms across countries as well as regions and cities in countries. All changes will have consequences for a development of segregation and inequality. We would like to invite, qualitative as well as quantitative papers that are based on changes in the housing market and housing construction that develop into several fields of research including but not limited to:

- Marketization of public housing
- Public housing and integration
- Housing mix and segregation
- Residualization and poverty
- Segregation of foreign born in European cities
- Income inequality and the housing market
- Disadvantaged neighborhoods
- Gentrification and hyper-diversity: Contrasts in urban development?
- Neighborhood dynamics

Keywords: housing market, housing construction, segregation, inequality, public housing
Conveners
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I Landscape studies

Session I1

Ethnographic explorations of ecological transformation of landscapes under commercialization

This panel will focus on exploring ecological transformation of landscapes under commercialisation and its social consequences. Environmental degradation “is not an unfortunate accident under advanced capitalism, it is instead a part of the logic of that economic system” (Peet, Robbins, and Watts 2011, 26). In particular, we invite papers that use ethnographic methods - i.e. aim for a holistic study of people’s life-worlds to grasp the interactions between capitalist transformation of landscapes and environmental change, and the types of inequalities that are produced or negotiated in the terrains under investigation. Of special interest are, for example, studies that discuss the ways in which local environments and local livelihoods are entwined; investigate the historical trajectories of current environmental inequalities and how such contestations are challenged or resolved; the ways in which climate change may exacerbate, or conflict with, environmental degradation under industrialisation. In sum, we ask participants to reflect on the various ways in which inequality can be produced and/or renegotiated in landscapes seeing drastic environmental change in a global capitalist economic system.

Conveners
Camelia Dewan, University of London (Birkbeck, SOAS), Elisabeth Schober, Oslo University,

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Session I3

Impact assessments in contested landscapes: indigenous rights, resistance, and co-management

This session explores the politics and performativity associated with impact assessments in contested landscapes. We focus on industrial and infrastructure developments on indigenous lands. Particular emphasis is placed on contrasting the situation in Sápmi - the customary lands of the Sami now located within the nation states of Sweden, Norway, Finland, and Russia - with international experiences.

Despite recent advances in international norms on indigenous rights, it remains an unsettled question what indigenous self-determination and associated rights of communities and traditional land users concretely imply in the context of impact assessment. The notion of contested landscapes is drawn upon to conceptualize landscapes as constituted by multiple and competing rights claims, entitlements and uses, which are exercised through the everyday
performance and relationships between people and places. Permit processes and impact assessments are often important loci of struggle in rights-based politics and the social performances that serve to question what the confirmation or denial of these rights means in practice.

The session welcomes papers with both theoretical and/or empirical focus, including interdisciplinary work, addressing questions such as: How do permit processes for new developments silence the voices of indigenous peoples and extinguish their rights to govern their landscapes? What new strategies of resistance are emerging to address inequalities in how decisions are made regarding such developments? What implications do principles of indigenous self-determination have for impact assessment practice, e.g. as regards impact co-management? Presentations will be followed by a facilitated discussion addressing key insights from the presentations and contributions from other participants.

Conveners
Rasmus Kløcker Larsen (Stockholm Environment Institute), Kaisa Raitio (Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences), Rebecca Lawrence (Department of Political Science, Stockholm University)

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Session I4

Landscapes ahead! - ongoing (PhD) research on landscape and place in the Nordic realm

This session will be a forum for presenting and discussing ongoing (or recently finalized) PhD projects broadly affiliated with the Nordic realm, focusing on landscape and place. Rather than offering general presentations of PhD projects, we ask you to focus on more narrowly on particular sets of critical ideas, issues, and problems dealt with in the research process. Challenges associated with the right to landscape, justice, power, environment, heritage, and various forms of social inequality, are particularly welcome. One aim of the session is to stimulate possible future exchange and cooperation among PhD-students and early career scholars through a consideration of crucial theoretical, methodological, and empirical issues within landscape studies.

Conveners
Tomas Germundsson (Lund University) and Tom Mels (Uppsala University – Campus Gotland)

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Session I5

The Unequal Arctic

This session aims to problematize the currently powerful discourse of the Arctic as a space that is open for business by asking whether the construction of its physical, human, and economic geographies reinforces or challenges inequality between different groups of people. Today there are important questions to answer regarding who has the authority to represent the Arctic as both a natural and a social environment, and why. How do representations of the Arctic as a homeland, as a frontier, or as a wilderness frame the kinds of narratives that can be constructed about its future? Under what circumstances can local and indigenous communities assert privileged rights within broader political and economic geographies? How do environmental and social impact assessments construct physical and human geographies that encode values from non-Arctic polities upon Arctic spaces? Can historical geographies of Arctic industry help to challenge assumptions of inevitable development in the present? Our intention is to bring together scholars working on different areas of the Arctic, and from different perspectives, to reveal and challenge the inequalities that continue to frame contemporary discussions about the Arctic. We welcome submissions from all fields of geography (and from interdisciplinary perspectives) that address how Arctic geographies are constructed, and to what ends those constructions are put. In addition to individual papers, we are also happy to consider other forms of presentation, such as short films.

Conveners

Peder Roberts and Dag Avango (both Division of History of Science, Technology and Environment, KTH Royal Institute of Technology), Gunhild Rosqvist (Department of Physical Geography, Stockholm University)

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Session I6

Landscapes of California and the Geographies of Inequality

California operates in a mutually dependent relationship based on goods, laws, and resources with the rest of the United States (and the world), yet is different from other parts of the USA in the shape of its neo-liberal economic policy, the predominance of the tech sector, the nature of its urban strategies, and the scale of its agricultural production. Its infrastructure extends to an unparalleled scale that encompasses most of the American West. It also operates a massive budget dependent on the output of Silicon Valley, the entertainment industry, tourism, and agriculture. Yet, for all its virtues, California is rife with problems. Up to one in three of its residents receives welfare. The state hosts the largest homeless population in the country. Soil subsidence, salination, and drought threaten agricultural operations throughout the state (as well as massive infrastructure like the State Water Project). As natural disasters such as wildfire and drought have threatened much of the state, only segments of the population have responded to the call for responsible resource use, and public policy has lagged behind. The result is a landscape that is always a site of struggle.
This paper session aims to generate discussion on the landscapes of California—often a bellwether for the rest of the USA and the world—that are integral to its intense productive output yet cause inequality within the varied populations of the state. We request papers that examine California specifically through the lenses of political ecology and the cultural and political economy of landscape, that are historical or contemporary, that focus tightly on specific places or examine California landscapes in their regional and global context, and that focus on the rise of enclaves of incredible wealth as well as ongoing places of deep poverty.

Conveners
Don Mitchell, Professor (Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University)
Kathleen Kambic, Assistant Professor (Department of Landscape Architecture, University of New Mexico)

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Session I8

The dilemmas of living with landscapes of renewable energy

Faced with the stark reality of climate change, the world is searching for new and carbon-neutral ways to fulfil its seemingly ever-growing energy needs. Renewable energy technologies are being deployed on a massive scale in many countries. Inevitably, this transition affects landscapes in many ways. New ‘energy landscapes’ are being created, in some cases radically changing iconic natural-looking landscapes, and often altering familiar everyday landscapes that may have great cultural and historical significance. Planning professionals and engineers struggle to find ways to integrate landscape concerns into their plans for new energy projects, as proposals for the location of such projects are sometimes met with scepticism and even hostility by the public. The transition towards renewable energy brings into sharp focus various questions: of global vs. local responsibilities; of who gains or loses when new energy projects are realised; and of what values exactly are being gained or lost.

We seek contributions that address these dilemmas in diverse ways, for example about how public attitudes towards the new energy landscapes are formed; how planning processes for renewable energy are equipped to take landscape concerns on board; and the prospects for a successful completion of the energy transition that has already started.

Conveners
Karl Benediktsson, Department of Geography and Tourism, University of Iceland
Edda Ruth Hlín Waage, Department of Geography and Tourism, University of Iceland

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J Migration and mobility studies

Session J1

Disciplining (im)Mobilities’

Starting from Beverley Skeggs’s (2004, 49) argument that, ‘Mobility is a resource to which not everyone has an equal relationship’, this session aims to bring together scholars working within migration, border and mobility studies to focus on the processes and agency by which (im)mobilities are ‘disciplined’. The issue of who can move, or, conversely, can stay, and under what conditions, has been central to research on transnational mobility. In addition to earlier work on cultural expectations of cross-border migration as a rite of passage in some communities, in recent decades attention has been paid to the diversification of legal statuses and technological tools disciplining such mobility. In exploring such increasing complexity of border regimes, border researchers have for their part stressed especially the encroachment of bordering processes into everyday life within the territorial borders of nation-states. Geographers have thus juxtaposed the proliferation of obstacles to everyday movement for many migrant subjects with increased easing of other subjects’ passages through global space. One the other hand mobilities literature was marked for a long time by the absence of questions of power, as e.g. Moran et al (2012) point out in their paper on prisoner transport in Russia. Recent years have, however, witnessed the emergence of critical mobility studies. Despite privileging urban scale motility, this line of work now grapples more explicitly with questions of difference, inequality and inequity - often conceived through the framework of social justice. This session then - seconding Mimi Sheller’s call for multi-scalar conceptualizations of issues of motility and justice - offers further space for migration, border and mobility researchers to discuss and think more explicitly about lines of existing convergences as well as potential future research agendas that center on unevenness of processes and multiplicity of actors shaping or ‘disciplining’ different bodies’ access to territory. [299 words]

Possible topics include (but are in no way limited to):

- migrants and “host” society mobility cultures (vacationing, commuting etc)
- affect and disciplined mobilities
- migrants’/enforcers’ experiences of everyday bordering
- displacement and privilege of ability to stay put
- contestations of unjust mobility regimes
- academia and expectations of mobility

Conveners
Kathryn Cassidy (Geography, Northumbria University) & Tatiana Fogelman (Geography, Roskilde University)

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Session J2

Everyday mobilities: family and individual experiences of translocalities

With increasing rates of migration and mobility, more and more families are living daily translocal lives. Families, both nuclear and extended, as well as households are stretched between spaces and places while at the same create connections and flows. At the heart of these practices lie everyday experiences of individuals. These experiences as practices are collectively shared and at the same time differ between family members, for example children, spouses, and grandparents. Technologies, food, vacations are among the many ways translocal daily practices are created.

This session seeks to explore the ways in which everyday life experiences become translocal and to investigate the diversity of experiences and practices and possible inequalities inherent in them. Central to this is an exploration into negotiations of belonging in multiple places.

We welcome papers from a diverse empirical base which explore the myriad of ways of doing translocalism and the multiple, and sometimes contradictory, perspectives that can co-exist within a family or household. Gender, inter-generational, sexuality, age or family positions shift and change the negotiation of belonging in a translocal practice. Papers which explore methods and ways of investigating translocalism are also strongly encouraged.

Conveners
Pihla Siim (Department of Estonian and Comparative Folklore, University of Tartu/Department of Social Sciences, University of Eastern Finland)
Natasha Webster (Department of Human Geography, Stockholm University)

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Session J3

Migration and the Spaces of Sanctuary

On September 5, 2015, Pope Francis stood in St. Peter’s Square and called on the European religious community to offer sanctuary to some of the tens of thousands of migrants fleeing war and devastation in the Middle East and Africa. “May every parish, every religious community, every monastery, every sanctuary of Europe, take in one family,” he said. From the provision of refuge to fugitives in medieval times, to safe haven for war resisters, to protection for irregular migrants and rejected asylum claimants, the offer of sanctuary has a long history. Sanctuary is an idea, an ethics, a narrative, and a set of practices. We need to know more about sanctuary in all of its incarnations, and in historical perspective, in order to analyze how it is understood and practiced today. In this session we will explore the following types of questions: a) the faith-based nature of sanctuary and its implications: How do sanctuary proponents use their faith to justify their civil disobedience? b) the spatial dimension of sanctuary: How is political power exercised and negotiated through the spatial claims, rhetoric, alliances, and conflicts associated with giving and receiving sanctuary? c) diverse forms of political rationality: What are the rationalities of humanitarian governance vis-à-vis giving and receiving sanctuary? We hope to advance understanding of the wider
context of sanctuary, asylum, and safe haven through this analysis, paying particular attention to how these practices articulate with larger questions of social and economic inequality, including the provision of resources or changing laws and policies that enable greater participation in society. We propose a workshop model in which participants prepare and circulate paper drafts ahead of time, for discussion at the meeting. This is with an eye towards future publication in an edited special issue or volume.

Conveners
Katharyne Mitchell, Department of Geography, University of Washington
Alison Mountz, Canada Research Chair in Global Migration, Wilfrid Laurier University

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Session J4

Migration: Inequalities and belonging

There is a hypothesis that a positive sense of belonging motivates people to participate in society. However, what constitutes belonging differs between people and is conditioned by factors like participation in the labour market, housing and civil society. Yet, participation in these arenas does not guarantee belonging. Peoples’ assessment of their participation is, among other factors, conditioned by whether they feel they get a possibility to develop and use their competencies on conditions making entry into society possible.

Migration patterns have changed over years and vary between regions and countries. So do the conditions for structural integration, inclusion and exclusion between countries, cultures and generations.

In this working group, we ask how conditions of structural integration and inclusion/exclusion interplay with immigrants’ sense of belonging in and between rural/urban regions in specific countries and between countries and world regions. A related question is how politics from the global to the local interplay with these processes?

We welcome theoretical as well as empirical papers, comparative studies as well as case studies, and quantitative as well as qualitative studies. In order to develop this topic further, we hope for a broad specter of papers with different approaches and from different geographical regions.

Convenors
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Session J5

Post- and de-colonial perspectives on the European refugee ‘crisis’

As the innumerable impacts of the ongoing refugee ‘crisis’ in Europe unfold in front of us - the simultaneous threat to Schengen and hardening of the external boundaries of ‘Fortress Europe’, heightened anti-immigration tensions, new mobilisations of support for refugees - the post-colonial dynamics of the European project are becoming more pertinent than ever. This session seeks to foreground the postcolonial dimensions of this ‘crisis’ and its ramifications, asking how it is entrenching existing postcolonial norms, discourses and asymmetries within and without the continent, and also how it is destabilising them, creating new post-colonial landscapes.

Whilst we wish to draw on established post- and de-colonial literatures, from Fanon to Said to Spivak, we are keen to interrogate more closely these incarnations of the ‘crisis’ in present day Europe and how they potentially re-shape our understandings of the colonial present. In short, how does the current ‘crisis’ challenge our understanding of the post-/de-colonial, and vice versa?

Key discussion points could include, but are not restricted to:

- The wider geopolitics of neo-colonial and neo-imperial projects, borders and responsibilities
- Internal European orientalisms - persistence of core/periphery tropes, othering of post-socialist spaces
- How particular spaces/places (external colonial 'enclaves', islands, post-socialist spaces) are relationally enfolded within the ongoing ‘crisis’ in different ways
- Everyday experiences, responses to and understandings of ‘crisis’ – as an ongoing and unfolding condition, rather than a singular moment
- Can the refugee speak? Responses to and depictions of refugees in a European context – including visual, audio, vocal and more-than-representational geographies of the crisis

The session aims to connect these sometimes disparate but always interrelated topics together, reframing what the refugee crisis means for post-colonial European space, what it has changed, and what it has reinforced.

We welcome short papers and interventions (5-10 minutes) which speak to these themes - please send an abstract of no more than 150 words on your proposed contribution.

Conveners
Dr Kathy Burrell and Dr Andy Davies, Department of Geography and Planning, University of Liverpool

Please send abstracts to
kburrell@liverpool.ac.uk and addavies@liverpool.ac.uk
Session J6

The New Geography of Immigration and Integration in the Nordic Region

The Nordic countries have long been net recipients of international migrants. In the past decade these flows have increased considerably, with many of the new arrivals coming as refugees or asylum seekers. Along with the increase in immigration has been an increase in the diversity of sending countries, posing a challenge to their well-established integration policies. There has also been an increased diffusion of destinations of these newcomers within the Nordic countries. No longer are all immigrants concentrating in the capital city regions as many are moving to the more remote and periphery regions. Nordregio (the Nordic Centre for Spatial Development) has been analyzing immigration trends and integration policies in the Nordic region and welcomes the collaboration of others working in this area. Papers based on several key research and policy questions are particularly welcome: What are the new patterns of immigration into the regions within the Nordic countries? What are the patterns of internal migration of the foreign-origin population? and, What are the regional differences in integration among the regions within the Nordic countries? Papers on other related aspects of immigration are welcome, as are papers analyzing immigration and integration at various geographic scales.

Convener
Timothy Heleniak, Senior Research Fellow, Nordregio, timothy.heleniak@nordregio.se

Please submit paper abstracts to
timothy.heleniak@nordregio.se

Session J7

The Politics of Movement

The politics of movement – entanglements of power, social inequality and mobilities – is an abiding preoccupation in social geography and critical mobilities studies. Both scholarly fields identify mobility as a fundamental structuring dimension of social life. They also demonstrate that the capacity for movement under conditions of one’s choosing is a valuable resource that is unequally distributed in social contexts structured by hierarchies of power. In other words, movement is socially differentiated; it reflects and reinforces structures of power to configure inequitable social hierarchies. Critical geographers and mobility scholars are tracing the ways in which relations of gender, race, class, sexuality and citizenship shape discourses and practices of mobility that produce beneficial movement for some people and too little or too much movement for others.

We are seeking papers from geographers and critical mobilities scholars that attend to the multi-scalar relationship between human corporeal movement and power in its everyday, official and multifaceted manifestations. Papers might, for example, (a) delineate a particular set of power relations (of gender, race, class, sexuality, citizenship) that are operating to produce differentiated movement with particular inequitable social effects; (b) explain how mobility exclusions operate and are experienced; (c) examine formal policies that regulate human movement and thereby produce social hierarchies; or (d) identify mobility strategies and practices employed to negotiate inequitable fields of movement.
Convener
Dr. Nancy Cook, Department of Sociology, Brock University Dr. David Butz, Department of Geography, Brock University, Kanada

Please submit paper abstracts to
ncook@brocku.ca

Session J8

The ACME Journal Lecture: “Browning Europe – dehumanized migration policy and the resurrection of fascism”

Moderator: Sarah De Leeuw (University of Northern British Columbia / University of British Columbia, Canada)

Presenter: Professor Irene Molina (Uppsala University, Sweden)

Thousands of desperate people try to enter Europe on daily basis through the few interstices left by Frontex. Simultaneously, we are witnessing a resurrected fascism from North to South and from Eastern to Western Europe. People are secluded into refugee camps at the outskirts of the region under inhuman living conditions. Precariousness, maltreatment, sickness, death, desperation are some of the words describing the cruel destinies of children, mothers and fathers escaping from war and oppression. My lecture will be a combination of cultural and political geographical reflection on the current state of the arts for European migration policy in times of an exacerbated institutionalized racism.

Discussants: TBD

Convener
Lawrence D. Berg (Institute for Community Engaged Research, University of British Columbia, Canada)

Contact
Lawrence D. Berg, Lawrence.berg@ubc.ca
K Political geographies

Session K1

Arctic energy: Hydrocarbon riches and local energy vulnerability

According to the U.S. Geological Survey 2008, an estimated 13% of the world’s undiscovered oil and 30% of gas resources are located beyond the Arctic Circle. These abundant energy resources are distributed unevenly, so that many Arctic communities are exposed to energy security risks. Remote settlements rely largely on diesel for energy production, which results in high consumer prices and a negative impact on the environment and public health. These systems are also very vulnerable to severe weather conditions and accidents. In the past few years, local governments in Canada, Russia and the US have had pilot projects for switching remote villages from diesel-generated to wind- and solar-diesel hybrid power. Yet, renewables do not take hold easily in the Arctic.

This panel sets to unveil how Arctic energy inequality is produced and how it can be addressed by pondering:

1) How does the narrative of ‘resourceful Arctic’ affect local energy security?
2) How do regional authorities and communities engage with federal governments and transnational businesses in renewable energy projects?
3) How can policy making help remote off-the-grid areas to benefit from renewable energy systems?

We invite contributions from established scholars and early career researchers that provide a better understanding of the interconnectedness of different levels and dimensions of renewable energy governance in a geographic space governed by fundamentally conflicting rules and interests.

Convener
Daria Gritsenko (Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki)

Please submit paper abstracts to
daria.gritsenko@helsinki.fi

Session K2

Brexit Futures

Roundtable Discussion

Since the referendum result for 'brexit' in June 2016, the UK has entered a period of potentially seismic change. While most obviously this threatens to reconfigure the UK's relationship with the rest of the European Union and European mobility regimes, the political and economic restructuring that brexit is likely to entail brings with it many other possible and equally fundamental uncertainties.
There is a sense of history in the making in front of us - the question is how this history will unfold, how well we are going to be able to understand it, and how attentive we are going to be to how it plays out in people's lived experiences.

This roundtable discussion seeks to explore these possible 'brexit futures', asking what it means for the EU and the wider continent of Europe, but also what it might mean for people living in the UK in their day to day lives and the futures they foresee in front of them.

Key questions include:

- what does brexit mean for mobility, and mobility equalities, within Europe and the EU?
- how might brexit impact on European imaginaries in the UK?
- what implications are there for EU migrants in the UK - does it herald a new type of precarity?
- how might brexit be experienced socially in the UK?
- what hidden inequalities might be revealed as a result of Brexit?
- what does brexit mean for an Austere Europe?
- how might brexit be understood as something lived and experienced?
- how might brexit impact on the way people imagine the future - their own but also national and European futures?
- how might brexit be understood as part of a prefigurative politics?

We welcome expressions of interest from potential panel members.

*Conveners*

Name Dr Kathy Burrell, Dept. of Geography and Planning, University of Liverpool and Dr Sarah M Hall, Geography, University of Manchester

*Please send a paper abstract to*

kburrell@liverpool.ac.uk and sarah.m.hall@manchester.ac.uk

*Session K3*

**Doing Critical Praxis-Oriented Research: Responses to Geographies of Inequality in Canada**

This session’s participants understand critical praxis-oriented research as an approach informed by post-positivism and by related discussions that explore the power relations between researchers and those being researched. We see critical praxis-oriented research as a mobilization of the interconnection of knowledges derived from theory, everyday practice, and political advocacy. The distinctiveness of this approach lies in its efforts to iteratively engage all three components more or less equally within the same initiative. Whereas we see theory as typically being more heavily emphasized within scholar-driven research and advocacy among community-based efforts, a critical praxis-oriented approach draws on both while ensuring research is grounded in value-driven, everyday practices.
Participants in this session will highlight relevant place-based research that involves efforts to address and reduce socio-spatial inequalities in a Canadian context.

Convener
Fran Klodawsky, Carleton University

Please send a paper abstract to
fran_klodawsky@carleton.ca

Session K4

More than just energy - perspectives on justice in current and future energy systems

With climate change a major concern in the environmental sciences, and a renewable energy transition in its early stage, questions of energy consumption and production have become a crucial research topic. Integral to these developments is an increasing concern for questions of energy justice, including considerations over access and distribution of energy and energy resources, attention to energy-related conflicts and trade-offs, and scrutiny of the (unequally distributed) costs and benefits of energy production and consumption. Who, in other words, decides who has access to (scarce) energy resources, who gains from developing them, and who bears the burden when the development and consumption of these resources have unintended consequences?

This paper session aims to put the focus on the differentiated geographies of energy justice from an interdisciplinary perspective. It seeks to bring together presentations on energy justice from presenters with a variety of disciplinary backgrounds, in order to foster a constructive debate on the intersection of energy-related environmental and social sustainability concerns.

Possible topics could include:

- Energy-related conflicts and tensions between North/South, rich/poor, urban/rural or between current and future generations
- Investigations of the water–food–energy nexus that focus on justice aspects
- Uneven geographies of energy production and consumption
- Justice implications of concrete fossil fuel and renewable energy development projects
- Social and environmental sustainability trade-offs in renewable energy developments and their justice implications
- Discourses on energy production and sustainable development
- Theoretical/philosophical contributions on ways to understand and conceptualize energy justice

Conveners
Henner Busch (1), Mine Islar (1), Vasna Ramasar (1), Sara Brogaard (1), Wim Carton (2)
1 Lund University Centre for Sustainability Studies (LUCSUS),
2 Department of Human Geography, Lund University
Please send a paper abstract to
Henner.busch@lucsus.lu.se

Session K5

Inequalities and realities: reflections on ontology and politics

During the last decade and a half an array of works in the social sciences and humanities have emphasized multiple ontologies, ontological politics, and reality as made through practices (Blaser, 2013; Latour, 2008; Mol, 1999, 2002; Law, 2009, 2015). Meanwhile works questioning the productiveness of such an ‘ontological’ turn have also surfaced, fearing that conceptualizing multiple ontologies or remade realities could signal an abandonment of critically scrutinizing the power-permeated ways that lives connect on a single, actually existing, earth (cf. Graeber, 2015; Hornborg, 2016; Ingold, 2016; Pellizzoni, 2015). Taking these distinct standpoints seriously, we in this session want to gather both empirically oriented and conceptual papers engaging with these debates to grapple with what they could mean for thinking about geography and inequality. What counts as a world, and how do worlds extend or contract? What kind of world-making interventions does current critical-geographical scholarship offer? How can spatiality and ontology best be thought together? What kind of political action does ‘politics’ denote within ontological politics and political ontology, and is this a fruitful conceptualization of politics for understanding, and combating, inequalities? Rather than formulating a clear-cut answer to such complex questions, the session is guided by a search for an engaged, continuous, conversation around these topics.

Conveners
John Elrick, Geography, University of California Berkeley
Erik Jönsson, Department of Geography, Lund University
Megan Martenyi, Politics Department, University of California Santa Cruz

Please submit abstracts to
jelrick@berkeley.edu, mmarteny@ucsc.edu, and erik.jonsson@keg.lu.se.

Session K6

New European geographies of nationalism: racist social movements and the increasing power of the new right

The European Union is in turmoil. The so called „refugee crisis“ has been constructed as a social, economic and cultural threat, triggering fear and loathing in both middle- and working classes. Racist social movements and parties of the far right are (newly) successful in organizing these fears. In some places they have already moved into the center of the parliamentary state apparatus – in other cases they are indirectly successful as conservative as well as socialist/social democratic governments turn towards nationalism and chauvinism in populist reaction to these movements. The migrations of 2015 and 2016 have not caused this new success of the far right. Rather, they have acted as a looking glass for developments much older. Since the 1980s, the rise of neoliberalism and neoliberal globalization plus the end of the Soviet Bloc have allowed the ‘national’ to become a seemingly legitimate and very successful ‘answer’ to the social question once again. With few exceptions in southern
Europe, the political left refrains even from the attempt to develop new answers of its own, beyond nationalism and racism. And as ‘Brexit’ has shown, even neoliberal forces seem to be in shock about the force with which the ‘national’ has been put back on the European map. So far, Political Geography has largely remained silent about this dramatic situation unprecedented in the history of the European Union. This has to change now. We invite geographers from all subdisciplines to participate in the debate, presenting papers and talks about the spatial implications and localized strategies of the neo-national and radical right movements and parties in different parts of Europe, about the role of Political Geography in analyzing these racist and anti-democratic forces and in finding political answers to them.

Conveners
Thomas Buerk, Dept. of Geography, University of Hamburg/Germany, Mathias Rodatz, Dept. of Geography, University of Frankfurt/Main/Germany

Please send a paper abstract to
thomas.buerk@uni-hamburg.de
rodatz@geo.uni-frankfurt.de

Session K7

Legal & Spatial Inequalities of Indigenous Territorial Rights

Legal reforms throughout the many parts of the world have addressed the rights of indigenous peoples to territory (land and its resources). Law has been a key force in creating, directing and limiting opportunities for indigenous individuals and collectives to exercise their rights to use, exclude others from, and inherit territories. Law both enables and constrains indigenous territorialities through its discourses and practices.

Indigenous legal norms (governing land and resource use in many cases still function to a degree and operate alongside imported system of property law. Multiple, and at times conflicting, legalities can occupy the same jurisdictional space.

Meanwhile indigenous communities in most parts of the world face increasing pressures from resource extraction and industrial development projects. They often attempt to deal with these through invoking the law passed to protect their ‘traditional’ activities, but also sometimes through ignoring or circumventing the law.

We especially invite papers that critically address:

- how state law regarding Indigenous rights to territory has evolved as a significant site for the production of both indigeneity and territory;
- the societal values that underpin law on indigenous territoriality;
- the details of such law-making as part of the production of space and place;
- assessments of situations of legal pluralism regarding indigenous territoriality;
- empirical case studies of how laws are invoked, interpreted and implemented in place and time, and how this leads to variegated geography of experienced rights (and wrongs);
- case studies of efforts to (de)territorialize indigenous peoples/communities via legal means; and
• how those targeted by such law use, evaluate, and sometimes creatively circumvent it.

Conveners
Viktoriya Filippova (Institute for Humanities Research and Indigenous Studies of the North)
Gail Fondahl (Geography Program, University of Northern British Columbia)
Antonina Savinnova (Geography Department, Northeastern Federal University)

Please send a paper abstract to
gail.fondahl@unbc.ca

Session K8

Post-politics: New forms of Governing, Rationalities and Effects

Over the past three decades, the relationships between politics, administration and the market have undergone significant changes in liberal democratic states. These shifts are related to the adoption of New Public Management (NPM) as well as the introduction of new forms of governing, new political rationalities and practices. Competitiveness and efficiency, innovation and entrepreneurialism, knowledge and expertise have emerged as linchpins of the governing rationalities of post-political politics. These rationalities are articulated in different ways on various spatial scales and with varying effects. Scholars have shown how ‘political systems slowly and gradually change from hierarchically organized, unitary systems of government that govern by means of law, rule and order, to more horizontally organized and relatively fragmented systems of governance that govern through the regulation of self-regulating networks’ (Sorensen 2002).

Research into new forms of governing, rationalities and their effects in various spheres is a vibrant and expanding academic pursuit. The session invites papers that for example, explore the spatial rationalities of new forms of governing, explorations of the processes of politicization and de-politicization, and of inclusion and exclusion of different groups stratified by class, ethnicity/race, gender and sexuality. The session invites empirical as well as theoretical contributions.

Conveners
Malin Rönnblom and Mekonnen Tesfahuney
(Department of Political, Historical, Religious & Cultural Studies/Department of Geography, Media & Communication, Karlstads University)

Submit your abstract to
malin.ronnblom@kau.se and mekonnen.tesfahuney@kau.se

Session K9

Performing urgency: space, performance and politics

‘Art is not a mirror held up to reality, but a hammer with which to shape it’ (Bertolt Brecht).
In recent political and social movements - among them those involving EU crises, uprisings in the Arabic world, insurgencies in Greece and Spain, and Occupy - artists have played prominent performative roles, seeking creative means of self-empowerment. This session explores performance as an aesthetic political relation to the world, where ‘aesthetic’ is understood as ‘perception by the senses’ (Dikec, 2015). Performance is here addressed as an aesthetic form through which to make sense of, engage with and possibly shape the world. It is considered as a means of learning, storing and transmitting sense-making practices; a forum for examining, challenging and transgressing the relationships, rites, and rituals of everyday life; a place for creating, shaping, contesting and changing identities and spaces, for generating unexpected encounters and for forging agendas.

The session invites papers from academics, artists and activists in order to explore performance in these broad terms. Questions for discussion potentially include but are not limited to: How can performance expand what we understand by ‘knowledge' and ‘knowing' in relation to how we think about and act in the world? What is the political potential of performance as a means of destabilising and denaturalising taken-for-granted social and spatial practices, meanings and representations? How may performance allow us to scrutinize the contingent nature of spatial identities and practices as well as material places and worlds? How can performance be seen not only as that which exists in the present and then disappears, but also as that which remains and accounts for what is absent? What kinds of impact and knowledge can performance generate that activism and theory alone cannot?

Convenors
Cecilie Sachs Olsen (Royal Holloway, University of London) and David Pinder (Roskilde University)

Please send paper proposals by 15 December 2016 to BOTH Cecilie Sachs Olsen (cecilie.sachsolsen@rhul.ac.uk) AND David Pinder (dpinder@ruc.dk).

Session K10
Policy mobilities in and beyond the Nordic countries

Almost a decade on from McCann’s (2008) coining of the term ‘policy mobilities’, this session will reflect on the ways in which policies, ideas and expertise circulate in and between places. It aims to be a reflective as well as forward-looking session, considering how the literature has evolved theoretical, empirically and conceptually and the directions it should take. It is a geographically inclusive session, considering policy mobilities in and between different places and scales. However, as there has been a limited focus on the Nordic countries in the policy mobilities literature thus far, a number of papers – but certainly not all – in this session will hopefully explore the role of Nordic actors, institutions, places and models in the mobilisation of policies.

Conveners
Ida Andersson, Department of Human Geography, Stockholm University
Ian R. Cook, Department of Social Sciences, Northumbria University
Session K11

The ICE LAW Project: Law, Territory, Resources, and Mobilities in Frozen Environments

The ICE LAW Project (http://icelawproject.org) explores challenges that emerge when notions of territory, law, resources, and mobility inherited from temperate, continental areas are applied to the Arctic. How are normative ‘Western’ understandings of these concepts upended by the Arctic’s geophysical environments and the livelihoods that these environments make possible? How have alternate perspectives, rooted in the region, sought to frame these concepts differently? What conceptual frameworks, legal norms, and regulatory instruments might best address the region’s (rapidly changing) environment?

The ICE LAW Project, a Leverhulme Trust-supported network of geographers, anthropologists, legal scholars, and political scientists seeking to understand the relationship between geophysics and geo-politics in frozen environments, invites papers that address these themes. We welcome papers from participants at past ICE LAW Project events as well as newcomers who would like to be involved in the network and contribute to its discussions.

Convener
Philip Steinberg (Geography, Durham University)

Please send a paper abstract to
Philip.steinberg@durham.ac.uk

Session K13

Producing precarity: Food security, food justice, and labour in food systems

This session addresses issues of precarity and injustice within food systems, especially in relation to the embodied labour that has come to be exploited in ever-more-intense ways for the production of food under capitalism in late liberalism. The session starts from the position that the present capitalist food system (re)produces an uneven landscape of food (in)security. The session will draw on an explicitly Food Justice perspective that includes food security — but unlike the liberalism inherent in food security approaches — aims to shift the power relations within food systems into the hands of those most marginalized by racial capitalism, and various forms of marginalization such as heteropatriarchy, ongoing colonialism, and ableism. The purpose of the session, therefore, is to move beyond the ‘food security’ position to explore the specificities of how the systemic and structural unevenness and inequality works in practice in the capitalist food system to produce inequities across communities, regions, and borders.

Topics might include:

- disparities in food security based on race, class, gender, ability,
• initiatives for food justice
• farm work and food justice
• temporary foreign agricultural labour
• neoliberal food and agricultural policies
• global food regimes
• emergency food, charity/food aid, and the right to food
• the character of equitable food regimes
• agriculture, health and the environment
• post-Brexit border regimes and agricultural labour migration
• food (in)security for refugees and migrants

Presenters will have 10 minutes for presentations, then the panel will open to audience participation in an extended discussion.

Producing precarity: Food security, food justice, and labour in food systems

Convenors
Robyn Bunn, Institute for Community Engaged Research, University of British Columbia, Canada
Lawrence D. Berg (Institute for Community Engaged Research, University of British Columbia, Canada)

Those interested in participating in the session should contact
Robyn Bunn: robynbunn129@gmail.com or Lawrence D. Berg: Lawrence.berg@ubc.ca
L Rural studies

Session L1

Interpreting agrarian change in the era of globalization: Making sense of farm-level transitions and the role of locality

Interpreting agrarian change has followed quite different approaches in different contexts of the world. While attempts in developed countries have been made to generalise agricultural regimes which shifted from post-productivism to multifunctionalism, debates in developing countries have focused on how agriculture adapts to new challenges from climate change, food security and sustainability issues. Either approach has increasingly found their shortcomings without enough empirical understandings of farm-level transition processes with a global perspective. Existing research suggests that, diversified types of farms are emerging ranging from smallholders, large agri-business to hobby farms, and different types of farms do not exist independently from one another but instead interact in conflicting and complimentary ways. However, it is unclear how the opportunities, choices, pathways and ultimately transitions of different types of farms are affected by their relations to other types of farms and global food regimes, especially when different scales and types of farms neighbour each other in a locality. Therefore, this session invites those who are interested in exploring agrarian change as farm-level transitions with a global perspective, the impact of inter-farm relations on farm-level transitions in a local context, and the implications of agrarian change for local development and equality. Empirical studies from both international and Nordic contexts are welcomed.

Conveners
Qian Zhang, Department of Human Geography, Stockholm University
Anders Wästfelt, Department of Human Geography, Stockholm University

Please send your abstract of no more than 250 words to Qian Zhang (qian.zhang@humangeo.su.se) and Anders Wästfelt (anders.wastfelt@humangeo.su.se) by Thursday, 15 December 2016.

Session L2

Peripherality and Remoteness

The session will explore the concepts of peripherality and remoteness from theoretical, empirical, and policy perspectives; and will address the central question: Are extremely remote areas, per se, peripheral?

Peripheral regions are often described as economically weak, politically dependent, and are stigmatised in comparison with their more successful, empowered, and ‘central’ counterparts. Extremely remote regions are characterised by physical features such as poor accessibility, low population density, and harsh climate; and are categorised as ‘rural’, ‘northern’, and ‘mountainous’.
While remoteness and peripherality often overlap, these two phenomena should not be seen in a direct causal relationship. We understand peripheralisation as a process caused predominantly by economic, political, and cultural (rather than physical) factors. Although physical remoteness appears to be a lasting condition, it is not eternal, as accessibility can change with natural factors (e.g., climate change) and/or advances in transportation or communication technologies. While remoteness is considered a hindrance to economic development, remote locations may have advantages of access to valuable resources and strategic regions (e.g., Svalbard as a gateway to the Arctic).

As a focus of study, remote and peripheral areas can highlight the relationships between the structural (location, climate, economic base) and institutional (politics, governance, cultural perception) conditions for the production of space and spatial inequalities.

Possible themes and contributions might include, but are not limited to:

- Conceptualisation of peripherality and remoteness;
- Economic development in peripheral and remote regions;
- Priorities of spatial justice vs. economic productivity;
- Policy responses at the EU, national, and local levels.

As an outcome of this session, we envisage the publication of a special issue—on Peripherality and Remoteness—in Europa Regional, a peer-reviewed scientific journal published quarterly by the Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography. Research articles may contain up to 8000 words and may be written in English or German. Authors’ guidelines are available via the link: http://www.ifl-leipzig.de/en/publications/journals-and-series/europa-regional.html.

Conveners
Nadir Kinossian, Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography, Leipzig, German and Dr Markus Grillitsch from Lund University, Lund, Sweden.

Please send a paper abstract to
N_Kinossian@ifl-leipzig.de

Session L3

Rural entrepreneurship – Knowledge, innovations, diversification and value creation – strategies for coping with a changing world

Over the last decades changing market structures and incentives, new technologies (for example IT), socio-economic changes and an ongoing renegotiation of the relationship between urban and rural spaces have created new opportunities for some rural entrepreneurs. At the same time others have not been able to cope with changes and are being increasingly marginalized.

Departing from current challenges and opportunities for rural areas, the aim of this session is to discuss and shed light on the strategies used by rural entrepreneurs to cope with current challenges in Nordic ruralities, by authorities and policies to promote rural entrepreneurship.
and rural development, the role of new technologies and socio-economic changes that promote or hinder rural entrepreneurship and rural development. Some of the proposed theoretical and empirical topics are:

- The role of knowledge, new technologies and innovations on inclusion and exclusion.
- Examples of implementation and impact of rural development policy schemes.
- Territorial dimensions of entrepreneurial development.
- New entrepreneurial strategies – for example new business innovative models, diversification strategies, forms of value creation, crowd-funding, community supported agriculture, consumer’s co-production and re-production of agro-food products and related services.
- New/changing gender contracts or patterns related to the changing rurality.
- Emerging branches and economic activities as well as displaced ones.

Although the emphasis of this session is on Nordic ruralities, contribution from other parts of the world are also welcome.

**Convener**

Paulina Rytkönen, School of Natural Sciences, Technology and Environmental Studies, Södertörn University, and Birgitta Schwartz (birgitta.schwartz@sbs.su.se) & Jessica Lindbergh (jessica.lindbergh@sbs.su.se), Stockholm Business School, Stockholm University

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**Session L4**

**Whose development? Competing development models and growing inequality in access to natural resources in rural Africa**

Discussion on how to realize development goals in Africa has been ongoing and the proposed models for development are manifold. In recent years, it has been pointed out how some of these models conflict with the interests of communities in rural areas. Most commonly, projects limit communities’ access to a variety of natural resources, as these are appropriated for the overarching goal of development. Foreign investments especially, are claimed to bring benefits through increased tax revenues, raised agricultural production, job opportunities, technology transfer and conservation gains (directly linked to tourism and/or payments for environmental services). However, these same investments are characterised by critics as ‘land/green/blue grabbing’ – the illegitimate appropriation of natural resources by external players. Amidst serious questions surrounding the legitimacy of resource use, possible detrimental effects to local livelihoods and environments, and the distribution of benefits, national (and local) governments have continued to initiate or at least support projects based on external investments in natural resources. This session welcomes contributions which interrogate and reflect on the tensions between national policy goals and local communities’ livelihoods as they materialise in increasingly unequal access to natural resources. We are open to papers exploring how inequality in access to natural resources as a result of the described processes is challenged, fought against and/or resolved, with a special interest in those taking a multi-scalar and/or historical approach.
We welcome abstracts for papers from both social and natural scientists interested in this topic.

Conveners
Chris de Bont and Tola Gemechu Ango, Department of Human Geography, Stockholm University

Please submit paper abstracts to
tola.gemechu@humangeo.su.se
M Tourism

Session M1

Arctic Communities and Tourism Development: Local Responses to Global Change

Panel discussion
The Arctic features prominently in discussions on global climate change, with increased attention paid to the geopolitics surrounding the region’s energy resources, minerals and tourism development prospects. The tourism industry is both a producer and a target of subsequent local impacts and inequalities of global change in the Arctic. Therefore, in the context of evolving tourism and long-term sustainability there is a need to examine the nature and drivers of change in Arctic communities, but also think how the global community could and should respond to future changes. This workshop addresses the manner in which the Arctic is transforming and re-envisions the research needs specifically for Arctic tourism and its sustainability. It brings together scholars, experts and policy-makers to map out long-term sustainability in the Arctic with a specific focus on tourism development and visitor management. The workshop provides comparative insights between select localities in the Arctic and different branches of the tourism industry. Particularly it focuses on indigenous empowerment through tourism development. Overall, the workshop aims to provide conceptual insights to grasp greater trends and factors impacting possible tourism development trajectories in the Arctic periphery.

Panelists
Michael Hall, Canterbury University
Dieter Muller, Umei University
Dimitri Ioannides, Mid-Sweden University
Jarkko Saarinen, University of Oulu
Daniel Laven, Mid-Sweden University
Edward Huijbens

Conveners
Edward H. Huijbens (Icelandic Tourism Research Center) Dimitri Ioannides & Daniel Laven (Mid-Sweden University) Jarkko Saarinen (Oulu University), Finland

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Session M2

Critical geographies of tourism development in the Nordic peripheries
Tourism is often framed as a solution to communities facing socio-economic strain. Studies have however illustrated that the impact of tourism development is far from certain to be positive. This session invites papers that will critically deal with tourism development in the...
Nordic peripheries where tourism may represent the commodification of landscapes, ways of living and cultures. The papers should emphasise the production of inequalities through commodification in tourism development. The session will focus on the impacts of touristic commodification, i.e. who benefits therefrom and how, and on the flipside who lose out. The process of commodification in tourism is not only about value added, as it impacts other issues, such as conservation, planning, development, cultural and natural heritage and politics. This process is thus complex and primarily emergent from the relations that actors co-constitute with others and their material surroundings. Therefore a plethora of impacts can be observed. Papers that deal with this impact of tourism development on nature, culture, peoples and their sense of place, conceptually or empirically, are welcomed. Through this session a map of the critical tourism geographies of the Nordic periphery should manifest. Therein the spatial differentiation produced by tourism should become evident.

Conveners
Professor Gunnar Thór Jóhannesson University of Iceland, Reykjavík, Iceland, Professor Edward H. HuijbensIcelandic Tourism Research Centre University of Akureyri, Professor Dieter K. Muller Dept. of Geography and Economic History Umeå University, Sweden, Professor Jarkko Saarinen Department of Geography University of Oulu, Finland

Session M3

Tourism destinations as terrains of inequity: critical perspectives of uneasy development strategies

Tourism is touted as a panacea for regions affected by the woes of economic restructuring. Its proponents regard it as a quick fix in absence of other options and because it promises quick returns for the level of investment involved. We know now that such positive reflections relating to tourism’s potential for economic recovery are often based on naïve assumptions and yet remarkably many places persevere with their desire to become attractive destinations. Human geographers, regardless of their specialization, have actively investigated various aspects relating to tourism, leading observers to comment that by now we have the emergence of Tourism Geographies. This session invites participants to present work that critically evaluates tourism’s uncomfortable position as a key tool for socio-spatial transformation. Contributions could, for instance, examine aspects of inequities arising between hosts and guests or between various groups of visitors. Thoughts about tourism’s position within overall sustainable development as well as its contribution to community resilience are also invited.

Convener
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Session M4

The Inequalities of Tourism: The Unequal Distribution of the Costs and Benefits of Tourism and Mobility Capital in the Twenty-First Century

There has been increasing focus upon inequalities of wealth and income distribution in the social sciences in recent years. Tourism is intimately bounded to such concerns. Characterised as an activity for those who are both money and time rich, tourism acts as a form of mobility capital allowing for networking and status as well as personal pleasure. However, tourism is also touted as a mechanism for employment generation and poverty reduction at many destinations, although empirical study of such claims raise many questions as tourism may also exacerbate inequalities with respect to income distribution, unpriced externalities and gender equity. The session therefore raises political and economic concerns about what, how and by whom tourist activities and outputs are valued, especially when framed by concerns over social and economic justice and sustainable futures. Accordingly the fundamental meaning of tourism-led economic development and the continued focus of growth in visitor numbers for consumption and social practices requires examination. The session therefore welcomes paper presentations on:

- lack of or differential access to tourism opportunities
- the distribution of the economic, social and/or environmental benefits and costs from tourism development within destinations
- inclusive development in tourism
- the contribution of tourism to gendered inequity
- the distribution of tourism related externalities
- north-south divides in tourism
- tourism and the processes of contemporary capitalism
- tourism spaces of inequality
- tourism and urban and rural gentrification
- tourism and capital
- tourism ethics
- tourism and economic, social and/or environmental justice

Conveners
C. Michael Hall, Department of Management, Marketing & Entrepreneurship, University of Canterbury, Department of Geography, University of Oulu; School of Business and Economics, Linneaus University
Jarkko Saarinen, Department of Geography, University of Oulu; School of Tourism and Hospitality Management, University of Johannesburg

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N Urban studies – urbanities

Session N1

Challenges of the Green City – Policies, Practices and Innovations

In the intersection between climate change mitigation and rapidly increasing urbanization, the issue of urban sustainability is developing as one of the key concerns for many local and regional governments across the globe.

With the ‘urban turn’ in sustainability policymaking, concepts such ‘green cities’, ‘smart urban specialization’ and ‘low carbon communities’ have become buzzwords in both policymaking and academia. Yet the main issue at hand - how to - decrease the impact of urban settlements on the eco system, whilst maintaining growing populations and expectations of economic growth, is indeed a major challenge.

The often proposed solution to this urgent task is presented as a mix of new, more effective and strategic policymaking alongside innovative technological development. To this session, papers are invited that challenges and problematizes this view on what constitutes green cities and how cities can be organized in order to achieve sustainable development.

Examples of topics for papers to be presented for this planned session:

- Policy processes and the role of local government
- Eco innovations and sustainable urban development
- Physical planning and social inclusion in the sustainable city
- Critical perspectives on the development of eco cities
- ‘Best practice’ places and the role of knowledge-sharing

Convener
Ida Andersson, Department of Human Geography, Stockholm University

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Session N2

Cities and Ethnicities: Encounters, conflicts and power

Interactions between cities and ethnicities and cross-cultural urban encounters have increasingly become a contested issue in European countries. Immigrants, refugees, indigenous people and native-born ethnic minorities have become an integrated part of urban life. The multiplicity of encounters constituting urban sites of contact frame the everyday experiences of ethnicity; the prosaic moments and daily rhythms of social life that have decisive impact on racial and ethnic practices. The everyday city provides prosaic negotiations that drive interethnic and intercultural relations in different directions – oscillating between ‘cosmopolitan hope’ believing in hybrid cultures, bursting with creative
potential, and ‘postcolonial melancholia’ emphasizing cultural racism and stigmatization of ‘foreigners’. Different modes of physical, symbolic and institutional violence emerge. These processes and paradoxes have in recent years put banal everyday (individual or group) encounters and their emotional registers on the academic agenda. Fascination, excitement hope, anger, fear, security and atmosphere are all emotions being connected to urban life. This paper session invites papers on theoretical, empirical and methodological engagements with:

- Encounter with authorities in the city and power
- Resistance, community and everyday politics
- Experiences of discrimination and exclusion
- Temporal, spatial and material mediations of encounters
- Emotionality of encounters with alterity
- Modes of relations in everyday encounters
- Fear and security in cross-cultural urban life
- Symbolic, physical and institutional violence in urban everyday relations
- Methodological insights into undertaking research with encounters

Convener
Lasse Koefoed and Kirsten Simonsen, Department of People and Technology Roskilde University, Denmark.

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Session N3

Cities, geopolitical violence and everyday sensitivities: Towards affective and emotional urban geopolitics

The multidisciplinary literature of urban geopolitics has bridged political geography, urban studies, planning and architecture in order to trace the complex connections between the socio–material fabric of cities, violence, and global politics (Graham 2004, 2010; Fregonese 2009, 2012; Yacobi 2009). Critiques to the urban geopolitics agenda have denounced its tendency to limit analysis to extreme case studies of heavily militarised conflict, and to maintain a technocentric and disembodied approach to urban violence. Meanwhile, spaces and practices beyond militarised conflict remain under-investigated. Everyday and embodied accounts of urban geopolitics have been called for (Fregonese, 2012; Harker, 2014), but there is still a paucity of research on the intensities of feeling through which urban space is experienced amidst conflict, division, political emergencies and geopolitical change (Navaro-Yashin, 2012; Laketa, 2016).

This paper session aims to cover this lacuna, by innovatively joining perspectives from geographies of affect and emotion with those from urban conflict and violence working more generally towards an urban geopolitics that appreciates the fine-grained connections between everyday sensitivities, urban space, and global politics.
Contributions are sought from broad range of themes on everyday embodied experiences of urban geopolitical violence including:

- Affective, atmospheric and emotional geographies of (post)-conflict cities
- Feminist approaches to urban geopolitics: from “banal terrorism” to securitization of cities
- Embodiment and affective atmospheres of urban violence and peace
- Urban emergencies: sensing, coping, feeling and grieving
- The engineering of affect and urban space: managing public emotions, affect and atmospheres
- Historical affective geographies of urban conflict

Conveners
Sara Fregonese (School of Geography, Earth and Environ. Sciences, University of Birmingham) and Sunčana Laketa (Dept. of Geography, University of Zürich)

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Session N4

‘Creativity from below’? Urban elites and creative/cultural producers in the contested socio-political construction and practice of urban ‘creativity’

This session will bring together researchers critically analysing competitive ‘creative’ urban policy in a range of cities. The specific focus will be, first, on the highly differentiated socio-political construction, contestation and co-production of notions of ‘creativity’ among key actors (cultural producers and urban elite policy-makers and administrators). Second, the session will address the implications of this variegated construction for a more progressive politics and policy-making which attends to the asymmetrical power relations between urban administrators and creative and cultural producers. We thus seek to develop understandings of how notions of creativity are formed at the intersection of globally mobile ‘creative city’ policy and locally-contingent, everyday practices of developing notions of creativity among city authorities and planners and those in ‘creative sectors’, and how this underpins and/or ameliorates socio-spatial inequalities in the city.

We welcome papers which address the points above through papers focusing on any of the following:

- The complex (and often multi-scalar) ways in which urban plans, strategy and city marketing documents construct place-specific notions of creativity and/or how these were implemented in urban space;
- The everyday practices of key urban actors in urban administrations and/or practitioners in ‘creative’ sectors (however defined);
- The urban network ecologies underpinning the differentiated and contested construction of notions of ‘creativity’.
Session N5

Nordic light on the suburb as place, discourse and planning project

If you want to see how a city is developing and what goes on there, what the main planning problems are and the expressed ideas of how to solve them, taking a look at a city’s periphery is a good approach. Whether this periphery is of low or high status, whether it is the ‘edge city’ (Garreau 1992) or the ‘urban frontier’ (Neil Smith 1996), it is where both the contrasts of everyday life and the latest urban development endeavours can be observed.

This paper session wants to shed light on this peripheral but central location for contemporary cities and urban development, and open up for research and discussion on “the suburb” as place, discourse and planning project in the Nordic countries. What goes on in Nordic suburbs in the form of development projects or ways of life? What are the dominant narratives or images concerning the suburb in the public discussion in the Nordic countries? Who is participating in these discussions or planning projects, and how? What types of places are at the centre of the debate, or of contemporary planning practice? What agendas are pursued? What are the implications of the (sub)urban discourses in the Nordic countries respectively?

Convenor
Moa Tunström, Nordregio

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Session N6

Promises of participatory and communicative planning. Nordic practices of and perspectives on participatory urban planning

Contemporary cities are spaces of difference. They are mixed – or segregated and unjust – economically, spatially, ethnically etc. The differences manifest themselves in such as accessibility or inaccessibility to jobs, housing tenure forms, or in available commercial services in a certain area. In urban planning these differences are at the same time framed as ideal since social mix is considered a basis for dynamic, lively, and democratic cities. Still, planning grapples with the issue of how to involve and interact with a diverse citizenry in order to democratize planning practice. To date however, ambiguous conclusions are drawn regarding the impact of participation. From the optimistic perspective, proponents of citizen participation and collaboration often advocate participation in order to enhance legitimacy, justice and efficiency of public decision processes. Pessimists argue that initiatives for citizen participation rarely empower or increase citizens’ influence or result in more efficient public
services. Critical theorists regard the consensual ambitions of participative politics as counteracting progressive social change.

In this session we invite papers giving insights and perspectives on how participatory practices influence planning processes in Nordic cities, how frequently they are deployed and designed. What impacts have the implemented communicative planning practices had in planning processes and in the built environment? What are the ‘alternative’ or ‘new’ methods in different planning cultures? Is there space in the formal planning process for trying new methods? How can they be discussed as efficient, legitimate or just? How can these practices be improved in order to promote more just, efficient and legitimate planning processes?

Conveners
Moa Tunström, Nordregio, Nazem Tahvilzadeh, The Multicultural Centre & Division of Urban and Regional Studies, KTH Royal Institute of Technology and Stig Montin, Gothenburg university School of Public Administration

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Session N7

Smart for whom? An exploration of the social and environmental aspects of smart urbanism

Over the last decade, the smart city has emerged across the world as a model of urban development and regeneration, with considerable repercussions across environmental, social and economic spheres. Much of the emphasis of smart cities is on economic development and innovation while very little is known about the impacts of ‘actually existing smart cities’ on societies, economies, and ecological systems. This session builds upon the main theme of the conference, inequality, to examine the distribution of the socio-economic and environmental burdens and benefits produced by smart city initiatives. Appropriate topics for the session include smart interventions as they relate to environmental impacts, community cohesion and empowerment, local economic development, policymaking and governance, and related issues.

Conveners
Federico Cugurullo (Trinity College Dublin) and Andrew Karvonen (KTH Royal Institute of Technology)

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Session N8

Artist strategies and methods of resistance in the regenerated city

Urbanism as process and product is the source and profit of capital production. Hence the city, its urban fabric and socio-spatial structure manifest and correlate with its economy. Artists
and art have long been at the centre of the economic transformation of the city with a well-established relationship between the arts sector and the private (commercial) sector of urban regeneration and gentrification. This varies from the temporary inhabitation of post-industrial urban areas and buildings under disrepair, as studios, galleries, and sites for temporary art works, through to the flagship tenant status of educational, gallery and museum institutions, and the commissioning of public artworks within urban redevelopment and regeneration projects. Their presence builds a positive image of a cultural ‘creative hub’ that both attracts a different social set and adds value to the area. This added cultural and commercial capital value asset for the developers render art and artists as complicit agents in social and economic injustices and inequalities effected through regeneration and gentrification processes. Their actions valorise the decanting of low-income residents and independent businesses, and help to striate the socio-economic make up of urban areas from which they eventually also end up excluded.

This panel seeks to bring together researchers from across disciplines such as artists, geographers, curators, spatial and socio-economic theorists and practitioners to question and propose how might art, and artists contribute as agents for positive long-term socio-political change? One in which their actions and artworks do not give credence to developer and governmental neoliberal regeneration and gentrification strategies. Contributions are invited in the form of papers, presentations, and performances/readings that challenge the current status quo and propose alternate strategies, and methods of resistance and action for artists and art in the regenerated city.

**Convener**
Dr Pat Naldi (Art Programme, Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts London)

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**Session N9**

**Taking on Urban Fragmentation**

The last two decades, urban areas, both in the Global North and the Global South, have experienced a rapid increase in ‘urban fragmentation’. Urban fragmentation has been defined as ‘a spatial phenomenon that results from the act of breaking or splitting up of pre-existing forms, structures and communities within urban areas’. Key drivers of this process of ‘breaking or splitting up’ have been historic and current income, wealth, mobility, skills and power differentials. At the same time, the spatial outcomes of these processes (high-density slums, luxury estates, gated communities and ‘complete new cities for the rich’ within the same urban area) have fuelled and further deepened the fragmentation. While the resulting urban landscapes of privilege and despair have provided a fertile ground for investigation and exploration, and have resulted in the production of a sizeable body of research and advocacy writing, there has been a limited engagement with and reporting on attempts at doing something about this phenomenon.

This paper session specifically invites papers on individual and collective endeavours aimed at breaking down or reducing ‘urban fragmentation’. Such endeavours could include, but are not limited to:
- Local struggles from below;
- Plans, policies and strategies introduced by urban administrations suffering from such fragmentation, including incentives, spatial targeting, land release, infrastructure provision and/or land use development restrictions;
- Legal interventions and policy measures introduced ‘from the top’ by national or regional administrations; and
- Methods to measure urban fragmentation and its impacts on quality of life and community well-being.

Of crucial importance is that the papers deepen our understanding of what may assist in taking on and arresting fragmentation and its divisive and destructive impacts. Papers that are the outcome of comparative research in cities in the Global North and the Global South are especially welcome.

Conveners
Mafalda Madureira, (Department Urban and Regional Planning and Geo-Information Management, University of Twente, the Netherlands)
Javier Martinez, (Department Urban and Regional Planning and Geo-Information Management, University of Twente, the Netherlands)
Mark Oranje, (Department Urban and Regional Planning, University of Pretoria, South Africa)

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Session N11

Urban contestations

Conflicts, contestations and confrontations are increasingly recognised as common elements of life in contemporary cities across the globe. The exacerbation of inequalities, on various registers, has contributed to this, and characterised in multiple intersecting ways by complexity, segregation, informality and unpredictable flows of people, goods and information, the city is a locus for contestations around space itself, foregrounding the importance of geographical perspectives and analyses. While neoliberal capital after the global financial crisis has in some contexts reshaped itself through austerity regimes, broader processes of neoliberalisation continue to propel conflicts over urban resources, infrastructures, participation, income and other opportunities in cities in highly varied geographical contexts. These contestations can take a variety of forms – ranging from low-profile everyday forms to the more ‘spectacular’ violence of riots and repression. They can also operate as catalysts for new subjectivities, initiatives and imaginaries of urban life. Can we learn from the nature, dynamics and aftermaths of urban contestations to identify opportunities for more equitable urban futures? And what conceptual, methodological and theoretical tools might geographers need to progress in this task? We welcome papers examining these processes and challenges in cities in both the Global North and South, East and West. The format for the session will consist of presentation of papers.
Conveners
Ilda Lindell (corresponding convener), Department Human Geography, Stockholm University, Email: ilda.lindell@humangeo.su.se
Anthony Ince, School of Geography and Planning, Cardiff University, Email: InceA@cardiff.ac.uk
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Session N12

Urban demolition and urban regeneration in the context of inequality.

The overview of literature on spatial, social and cultural transformations in cities allowed us to put forward the following hypothesis: Demolition/ruining process of cities is a regular part of their history, consists in irrevocable damage to spatial, functional and above all social structure irrespective of time, place and reasons behind it. Under specific circumstances such actions may become rational elements of urban transformations, which support revitalization, urban regeneration and sustainable development. Whether ruining/demolishing is destructive or constructive to a city depends on physical, geographical, economic, geopolitical, ideological and cultural context. Ruining/demolition as a tool of urban regeneration allows to introduce radical improvement of the degraded areas.

Taking into consideration that the process of urban regeneration should eliminate inequalities and create the stability of a given area the following issues are worth discussing:

- Under what conditions urban regeneration leads to the occurrence of inequalities in urban areas?
- In what way are those inequalities visible in the urban landscape?
- How can they be identified?
- How to plan and implement urban regeneration programs to prevent the emergence of social inequality?
- Can demolition be considered a part of the process which supports the elimination of inequalities in urban space?

Convener
Sylwia Kaczmarek (Urban Regeneration Laboratory, University of Lodz, Poland)

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Session N13

Urban living labs, between hype and inequalities: how to support sustainability transformations in an everyday geography of collaboration?

Urban living labs (ULLs) have received significant hype as a methodology and framework with great potential for urban research and innovation actors intent on responding to calls to tackle societal challenges in contemporary urbanisation. ULLs are supported and promoted by JPI Urban Europe, an initiative where European member countries coordinate research and innovation for capacity building, and they are seen as an important example of transdisciplinary co-creative approaches to innovation in cities and urban areas. However, inequalities exist in the design and operation of ULLs, which are highlighted both within the ongoing practical and theoretical discussions:

- Design: various crises and events (e.g. sudden climate events) affect urban populations (whether human or not), where marginalised groups and disadvantaged communities generally are more vulnerable. How can ULLs ensure that they amplify benevolent effects for all?
- Operative: a long-standing dilemma in public participation is that the ‘usual suspects’ (well educated, well-to-do citizens) dominate representational space. ULLs may serve to reinforce the voice of already fortunate groups in diverse urban societies. This may be aggravated when participation is set up as voluntary work. How can ULLs strive to mitigate these ‘geographies of uneven participation’?

The implications of these inequalities are under review in the work to develop the thematic priority Urban Governance and Participation in the JPI Urban Europe Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA).

This session on ULLs will relate to the issue of various kinds of inequalities and their complex interactions in the frame of three questions:

- How do we learn from ULLs and use such learning to shape policies for urban innovation?
- How do ULLs engage with local urban communities?
- How does the way in which ULLs are supported by JPI Urban Europe help or hinder social equity in ULLs?

Conveners
Colette Bos, JPI Urban Europe / NWO
Jonas Bylund, JPI Urban Europe / IQ Samhällsbyggnad

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Session N14

Walking Through Urban Geographies

This session explores the ways in which the act of walking in cities can provide avenues for studying different geographical topics: from memory and identity construction, to neighbourhood transformation, urban legal governance and inequalities in mobilities and beyond. It will build on the large number of geographical studies that have already investigated walking, and which hint towards the emergence of a field of ‘walking studies’, by framing walking more as a departure point than a destination. The suggestion here is that walking, although regularly present in the purview of all sorts of urban geographers, remains for many of them a peripheral issue. Thus this session aims to encourage scholars to pay more attention to walking, not only in order to study the understudied —that is, the act of walking itself — but also in order to give rise to new perambulatory connections and through them new understandings of urban social life. In other words, given the pre-existing scholarly interest in walking, can we now use this particular socio-spatial practice as a means to think (or walk) through and theorise a wider variety of different geographical themes? To answer these questions the session will bring walking studies into dialogue with other – often more established – fields of geographical enquiry by involving an array of academics for whom walking has either been a central or peripheral concern.

Discussant: Tim Edensor (Manchester Metropolitan University)

Convener
Tauri Tuvikene (Centre for Landscape and Culture, Tallinn University)
Sam Merrill (Department of Sociology, Umeå University)

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Session N15

Disappearing Acts: Urban Social Justice & the Visibility-Invisibility Dialectic

Our goal in this paper session is to explore, illuminate, and critique the co-constitutive dialectic of the visible and the invisible as they mutually and reflexively operate towards the production and re-production of social injustice in the city. Drawing from, inter alia, the work of Merleau-Ponty and Anselm Strauss, who point out the inseparability of the visible and the invisible in post-industrial, neoliberal society, and influenced by the cultural and functional theories of the ‘spectacle’ provided by Guy Debord and Walter Benjamin (among others), the session seeks original contributions that, collectively and respectively, explore and discuss the following.

I. How ‘urban spectacles’ (or hyper-visibility):

- produce, and render less invisible, social injustices;
- permit and justify the reproduction of invisible social injustices;
• are themselves constituted and enabled by, and draw meaning from, invisible social injustices;
• function as distractions to draw public attention and critique away from more invisible social injustices.

II. How invisibilities:
• are produced, both literally and discursively
• produce, enable, and give meaning to the hyper-visible;
• are themselves constituted and enabled by, and draw meaning from, the hyper-visible;
• can be identified, mapped, and rendered visible.

The session welcomes papers from diverse urban settings and contexts, exploring a variety of phenomena whose patterns, forms, or functions reflect or function towards the visible-invisible dialectic as described here.

Conveners
Alec Brownlow (Geography, DePaul University) & Winifred Curran (Geography, DePaul University)

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Session N16

The right to urban green space: issues of access and use

During the 19th and early 20th centuries urban public parks were recognised as essential elements in the creation and maintenance of humane cities. They offered a variety of types of green space for expanding populations, whether for cultural, leisure and recreation or the proportion of physical and mental health and well-being, these ‘lungs of the city’ were promoted, created and maintained as essential elements of urban social and physical infrastructure (see Whitaker and Browne, 1971; Nicholson-Lord, 1987; Rosenzweig and Blackmar, 1992; Clark (ed.), 2006; Zieleniec, 2013).

As the global population expands and increasingly becomes urbanised, there is mounting pressure on access to and use of urban green space. Whilst the need and desire, whether as public parks, private gardens, recreation grounds or for urban gardening remains undimmed, many local governments struggle to fund their upkeep and maintenance or to provide other appropriate resources and opportunities for their citizens to access and use green space. This session calls for papers that explore any aspect of research or activism associated with developments and innovative possibilities of any form of urban green space as a ‘Right to the City’ (Lefebvre, 1996; Harvey, 2008) for ensuring either new means and methods to preserve expand access and use.

Convener
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Bibliography
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