

IAG 2025 - Session Topics

Energy transitions: Navigating people, place and change

Organisers: Chantel Carr & Natasha Larkin

This session will explore the rapidly evolving landscape of energy transitions research within and beyond Australia. We invite contributions that critically examine how transitions are unfolding across different scales and sectors, with an emphasis on social dimensions, place-based contexts, and lived experiences. The session welcomes diverse perspectives on the social, spatial and/or regulatory dimensions of energy from within and beyond geography. We are particularly interested in work that interrogates relationships between the state, capital and communities in energy transitions, and the capacities of communities to shape energy futures around their needs and concerns. Papers that critically analyse emergent policy or institutional frameworks are also encouraged, including those that challenge narrow conceptualisations of who is impacted by transitions, or that propose more democratic approaches to reimagining post-carbon futures.

Themes might address:

- Cross-scalar approaches to energy transitions: Examining how transitions unfold across interconnected scales
- Research gaps and collaboration opportunities: Identifying critical knowledge gaps within and beyond Australia
- Decolonising and community-led approaches: Centring First Nations knowledges and community priorities in energy transitions research
- Methodological innovations across scales: Novel approaches to understanding the multi-dimensional nature of energy transitions
- Participatory and co-designed energy research: Case studies and reflections on collaborative approaches with communities and stakeholders
- Ethical considerations with vulnerable communities: Addressing power dynamics and equity in transitions research and practice
- Integrating social science in policy and planning: Embedding social and place-based research into energy governance and decision-making
- Place-based knowledge and just transitions: How geographical contexts shape transition pathways for workers, households and communities.

Mining the Void: anti-landscape or hopeful vision for the future?

Organisers: Meg Sherval & Hedda Askland

Sponsoring Study Group: Legal Geography

Debates about mining and its impacts on society, health and the environment have long

existed. In more recent times, mining's temporality and increased discussion about degraded landscapes have seen the emergence of theoretical ideas like the 'minescape' (Burtynsky 2009), the 'anti-landscape' (Nye, 2007), and abstractions such as 'presence and absence' also being considered (Jones et al, 2012; Tjandra 2023). This session aims to respond to and build upon these ideas particularly in relation to post-mining legacies and transition. Described as 'final voids', these spaces can represent the neglected absences that are emptied yet remain ever-present in rural communities throughout Australia. Considering these spaces not only materially and discursively, but also through a socio-cultural lens is essential if alternative imaginings of renewal and transition are to exist and come to fruition.

Papers in this session might discuss:

- Theoretical concepts of presence and absence
- Mining legacies
- Reclamation and rehabilitation stories
- Transition ideas

We also warmly invite papers from researchers at all levels – including postgraduates, early career researchers, and research leaders.

Emergent Geographies of Decarbonisation Transitions

Organisers: Phil McManus, Blanche Verlie, Lauren Rickards

Preventing additional anthropogenic climate change and adapting to the impacts of climate change that are locked-in requires decarbonisation of national economies. If we fail to do so, inevitably Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions will continue to rise, the planet will continue to heat up and the interconnected impacts of changing climates will be amplified for humans and other life.

This call for abstracts is focused on decarbonisation options and practices. What is currently being done, what are the challenges and what needs to be done? What are geographers doing, and what more could they possibly do, to ensure equitable and viable transitions? What theoretical and practical ideas about how decarbonisation transitions will help geographers be part of the process of building resilient communities? Presentations may include, but are not limited to:

- Energy transitions away from fossil fuels
- Community-based transition initiatives
- Comparative studies of transition approaches
- Household-scale transitions
- Energy justice issues in transitions
- Transportation-focused transitions
- The challenges of a changing economic structure for transitioning
- The social and cultural impacts of decarbonisation

- More-than-human life and decarbonisation

Surface and groundwater in a changing climate: Challenges and opportunities

Organisers: Danielle Vernon-Kidd & Gabriel Rau

Climate change is reshaping Australia's water resources, with increasing variability in rainfall, intensifying droughts, and shifting recharge patterns impacting both surface and groundwater systems. This session explores the complex interactions between climate, hydrology, and human water use, highlighting the latest research on groundwater recharge, streamflow changes, water quality, and hydrological extremes. We welcome contributions that utilise novel approaches, including remote sensing, isotope hydrology, numerical modelling, and interdisciplinary studies, to improve our understanding of surface and groundwater dynamics. The session aims to foster discussions on sustainable water management, policy implications, and adaptation strategies to ensure water security in a changing climate.

Emergent Research in Physical Geography

Organisers: Danielle Vernon-Kidd & Gabriel Rau

Emergent geographies allow us to interrogate both the fledgling ideas and the burning passions that make the study of all things geographic an exciting prospect for all of us. In this session we welcome new research from across the spectrum of physical geography. We particularly welcome submissions from postgraduate and early career researchers.

New and emerging research in environmental geographies

Organisers: Blanche Verlie, Phil McManus, Blanche & Lauren Rickards

This session welcomes diverse papers and presentations regarding new directions, emerging themes, novel methodologies and/or contemporary analyses of environmental issues. Whether focused on toxic environments, critical minerals, animal studies, wet ontologies, extractive ecologies or otherwise, the session seeks to showcase cutting-edge geographical research documenting, analysing, resisting and/or intervening in ecological destruction. We also welcome presentations that imagine and implement alternatives, including speculative geo-fictions, community visioning practices, prefigurative politics and pragmatic sustainability interventions.

Critical Circularity

Organisers: Patrick Bonney, Matthew Kearnes & Elizabeth Duncan.

As circular economy approaches gain prominence as solutions to environmental and economic challenges, there is a growing need to critically examine the gaps between

these idealised visions of material circularity and their socio-material realities (Gregson, et al., 2015; Hobson, 2021; Zavos et al., 2024). Such disjunctures becomes particularly visible in five ways: in the persistence of toxic substances that escape the bounds of circular systems, in the practices of repair that challenge dominant narratives of innovation, in the uneven geographies of waste processing and resource recovery, in the complex temporalities of waste disposal and transformation, and in the everyday practices through which local communities navigate circular systems.

This session aims to advance critical insights into circular economy transitions by analysing these dynamics across varied geographical and institutional contexts. Of particular interest are contributions that investigate:

- The materiality and temporality of circular “afterlives” through examinations of how waste persists, transforms, and resists incorporation into circular production systems
- Socio-material reconfigurations attending to unexpected or unintended transformations in social and material relations
- Regulatory aspects and policy conflicts in circular transitions, including tensions between circulation goals toxicity reduction, gaps in regulatory frameworks, and how different regulatory regimes shape material flows
- Epistemological dimensions of circularity including how different forms of expertise, knowledge systems, and evidence shape circular economy practices and policies
- Methodological approaches for studying critical circularities across temporal and spatial scales

We especially welcome contributions that explore how different actors navigate and reimagine circular practices. What new conceptual frameworks can help us understand the complex materialities of circular systems? How might attention to everyday consumption behaviours (Greene et al., 2024) or ‘care’ perspectives (Zhang, 2020; Lau, 2022) help to inform alternative visions of circular economy transitions?

We encourage submissions that combine empirical research with critical reflection on how a “critical circularity” might help us better understand and respond to contemporary waste and resource management challenges.

New theories and practices for climate change, adaptation, and work

Organisers: Claire Parfitt, Anna Sturman, Sophie Webber, & Chantel Carr

The labour dimensions of cascading climate catastrophe are an emerging area of scholarly and policy concern. This research has mapped the implications for labour of climate crisis, including the intensification of bodily stresses from higher heat and more

disease (Humphreys et al.; Oppermann et al 2018). Scholars and activists have long advocated for labour-centred just transitions in addressing climate mitigation, with a focus on workers in carbon-intensive sectors and the opportunities offered by new 'green' jobs. In global south settings, although climate adaptation research is advancing, labour and work is rarely centred in adaptation frameworks (Parsons and Natarajan 2021). Meanwhile, the labour and work dimensions of climate change adaptation have remained largely "invisible" in global north contexts (Johnson et al 2023). This is especially curious given that various forms of adaptation labour – from disaster response and repair to adaptation planning expertise (Denham et al. 2024) – will be essential for reproducing societies, ecologies and infrastructure under climate crisis (Carr 2023). While cascading climate catastrophe will require a variety of adaptation measures, it remains unclear what work this will entail, who will conduct this work and under what conditions, and the broader political challenges adaptation labour will entail.

In this session, we seek papers from diverse geographical contexts, sectors and sites, and theoretical perspectives that seek to shape a people-centred future for adaptation work and workers. In particular, we invite papers that engage with the following questions:

- What theories and concepts are required for understanding, analysing and responding to the adaptation dimensions of climate change and labour?
- What is the work of adapting to a warmer world? Who will do this work and under what conditions? And what kinds of methodologies are needed to make sense of, and organise, this work?
- What are the vectors through which workers and communities are exposed to adaptation risk and how do these correlate with existing understandings of precarity? That is, does adaptation risk expose different groups of workers in unexpected ways?
- How will unpaid and social reproductive work arrangements adapt to accommodate living and working in a changing climate?
- How does the extant social organisation of work constrain a people-centred approach to adaptation? How are workers, their organisations, and other social policy institutions responding to these circumstances?
- What kinds of technical or institutional responses might support workers in adapting such as the expansion of paid emergency leave, flexible working arrangements and similar?

Emergent elemental geographies—theory, practice, advocacy

Organiser: Elaine Stratford

In a time of accelerating planetary crises, geography has become increasingly attuned to the agency of elements—earth, air, fire, water, wood, and metal—as more-than-human forces shaping landscapes, lifeworlds, and governance. Thinking and acting in relation to emergent elemental geographies means recognising that elements are active participants in, for example, climate change, biodiversity loss, urban transformation, and Indigenous-led environmental stewardship. We invite cultural geographers and interdisciplinary scholars to explore how elemental processes are theorized, practiced, and mobilized for advocacy. How do elemental forces shape life trajectories, spatial imaginaries, and material relations? How do they unsettle dominant geographical frameworks? How might thinking with and through elements reimagine the possibilities of geographical thought, action, and advocacy?

On that basis, we welcome papers engaging with:

Theorizing elemental geographies: What conceptual tools help us understand elements as dynamic, relational, and agentic? How do elemental perspectives challenge Western ontologies and epistemologies?

Practicing elemental geographies: How do artists, activists, Indigenous communities, and scientists engage with elements in daily life, ritual, infrastructure, and governance?

Advocating by means of elemental geographies: How can elemental perspectives inform climate justice, Indigenous land rights, multispecies ethics, and post-extractivist futures, among others?

We encourage methodological diversity, welcoming accounts of research, teaching, policy shaping, or advocacy that employ ethnography, participatory mapping, speculative storytelling, visual geography, sensory methodologies, and decolonial approaches. Contributions might engage with topics such as fire governance, air pollution and justice, water sovereignty, material ecologies of wood and metal, and the geopolitics of elemental extraction and transition, but all appropriate topics are embraced.

By foregrounding the spatiotemporal entanglements of elements, this session challenges anthropocentric narratives and opens new avenues for scholarship, praxis, and planetary care. We particularly encourage participation from postgraduate

researchers, Indigenous scholars, artists, and activists working at disciplinary intersections.

Political Ecologies – Relations, justice and emergence

Organisers: Sarah Milne & Ben Cooke.

Political ecology is a field of scholarship uniquely suited to our time, given its scholar-activist leanings, its foundational concerns for social and environmental justice, and its deeply place-based and relational approach. To date, political ecology scholars have focused primarily on resource struggles in the Global South, where post-colonial settings vividly expose processes like state formation, commodification, extraction, degradation and dispossession. From North America, there have been calls for a “First World political ecology” (Robbins 2022), in which scholars look near, not far.

Taking inspiration from this, we invite contributions that engage with the broader themes of political ecology in an Australian context. The Australian setting can offer global political ecology new insights, given its unique characteristics of settler capitalism, extractive resource use, and powerful First Nations’ voices that speak for Country. Political ecology traditions also have the potential to enrich the conceptual and methodological terrain available to critical geographers and others in Australia. Themes for the session could include, but are not limited to:

- *Climate and energy justice*: the politics of adaptation and renewable energy or “net zero” transitions
- *Conservation and land management*: Power, governance, partnerships and property in the context of nature conservation, regenerative agriculture and environmental markets
- *First Nations’ sovereignty*: Opportunities and challenges to exercise sovereignty and self-determination over lands and waters
- *Cities and urban regeneration*: Issues of justice in the making and re-making of urban spaces
- *Water rights and access*: The management, politics and inequities of water governance
- *Environmental policy*: Processes and dynamics of policymaking in settler-colonial governance
- *Food systems*: The political, ecological and governance dynamics of food production and consumption

Emergent Antipodean Legal Geographies

Organisers: John Carr, Josephine Gillespie & Meg Sherval.

Sponsoring Study Group: Legal Geography

This session aims to bring together diverse perspectives and cutting-edge research from a range of scholars working in and around issues of space/place and law. This session is intended to both build on an existing edited book proposal on legal geography, while potentially providing publication opportunities for session contributors. The upcoming volume contributes to contemporary scholarship in the field, with insights dealing with current and future societal challenges. The emphasis of this session and edited volume is upon work from scholars outside the dominant European/North American perspective with an emphasis on research based in the Australian, Southeast Asian and Pacific region. In particular we seek to build upon the distinctive Antipodean legal geography scholarship that has garnered recent international attraction (Gillespie et al 2024). Accordingly, we welcome work from a broad range of methodological, theoretical, and Pacific regional contexts that seek to illuminate the complex relationships between place/space and legality.

New directions in Political Geography

Organisers: Bronte Alexander, Rafael Azeredo, Sallie Yea.

Sponsoring Study Group: Political Geography

This session, which has been a recurrent feature in recent IAG Conferences, will bring together new research in Political Geography. Political Geography is concerned with the connections between power, politics, sovereignty, territory, justice and space, and the spatially uneven outcomes of political processes, as well as the ways in which political processes are themselves affected by spatial structures. The session invites contribution from across fields of study and areas of interest both traditional to, and newly emerging in the sub-discipline. These include, but are not limited to: (critical) border studies, (critical) geopolitics, migration and refugee/asylum studies, political ecology, political economy, and urban political geography. Broader conceptual areas of focus may include territoriality, sovereignty, nationalism, imperialism, globalisation, violence, justice, mobility, policy, social movements, citizenship, governance, peace and conflict, security, volumetric geographies, and the intersections of gender, race, class, and sexuality. Papers for this session will engage with this year's conference theme: 'Emergent Geographies', which raises relevant questions for political geographers, and further the sub-discipline of Political Geography, broadly conceived.

Emergent carceral geographies

Organisers: Natalie Osborne, Naama Blatman, Anna Carlson, Emma Russell, Francis Markham & Andrew Burridge.

Sponsoring Study Groups: Urban Geography & Political Geography.

Prisoner numbers in so-called Australia are growing, with our incarceration rate outpacing Canada, the U.K., and western Europe. Catastrophically, more than 1% of the Northern Territory's population are incarcerated in adult prisons. A vastly disproportionate number of prisoners are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander People – this is overwhelmingly the case in NT, but holds true across the colony.

Carceral geography has been a relatively marginal field within Australian geography, despite carcerality being central to the foundation of this colony, the maintenance of colonial possession, and the production and management of urban space. Carceral geographies are longstanding in so-called Australia, but how they are expressed, managed, and rationalised change to serve changing social, political, and economic agendas.

In this session, we invite papers contending with the historical, contemporary, and emergent properties and practices of the prison-industrial complex and its relationship to urban and political geographies.

Topics may include:

- Settler-colonialism and incarceration
- The so-called “youth crime epidemic” and other manufactured panics that escalate policing and imprisonment
- Siting and expansion of prisons and detention centres and other carceral spaces, and associated planning, environmental, social, political, and economic concerns
- Borders and bordering, and onshore and offshore detention centres
- Carceral dynamics in medical facilities, institutions, homes, public space, and other sites beyond prisons
- The political economies of detention and incarceration, labour issues and carceral geographies
- Surveillance, policing, state violence, and other forms of social control
- The unevenness of carceral geographies
- Practices and politics of organising and solidarity, resistance and abolition.

Emergent geographies of collapse and apocalypse

Organisers: Kate Booth, Tom Hooper, Kathy Allen, & Andrew Harwood.

Collapse and apocalypse are two terms used to describe the complex interactions and behaviours that constitute intersecting global challenges. Other terms, like transition and transformation, offer a more positive framing. In this session, we take a critical look at these ideas and the ways in which they may open-up or shut-down thought and action.

1. At times, collapse and apocalypse are used interchangeably. What are their discursive commonalities and differences?
2. Collapse and apocalypse are often thought of as events or end points. How might this be reframed by understandings of place constituted through more-than-human networks and processes?
3. Universalising claims frequently constitute ideas of collapse and apocalypse. How may research into the uneven socio-spatialities of agency and affect better inform this?
4. How might collapse or apocalypse unsettle or disrupt (or problematically enable) hegemonic praxis including capitalism and colonisation?
5. How do collapse or apocalypse re-produce or disrupt ideas of adaptation and resilience?

This session is an initiative of the University of Tasmania's Critical Collapse Studies research program. Our aim is to grow the emerging interdisciplinary field of critical collapse studies with an eye to socio-ecological justice. We welcome papers from human and physical geographers and allied fields.

Title: Equity in Turmoil: (Con)trolling the Narrative

Organisers: Equity Reference Group contact Lara.daley@newcastle.edu.au

In an era marked by escalating tensions and ideological divides, the global political climate has witnessed a troubling retreat from principles of equity, diversity, and inclusion. This session seeks to interrogate the mechanisms of silencing, troubling, and controlling equity across various domains. From the dismantling of diversity initiatives, the control of academic freedom to the suppression of campus activism, the erosion of these values signals a broader trend of authoritarian control.

We invite radical and politically charged contributions that critically examine the dynamics of power, inequality, and control in contemporary society. How do these forces manifest in policy, practice, and public discourse? What are the implications for marginalised peoples and communities and the ongoing fight for social justice? By

examining these issues we hope to foster a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities for resistance in the face of growing hostilities.

What role can geography and geographers play in creating equity narratives?

Join us in this urgent conversation to confront the silencing of equity and envision pathways toward a more just and inclusive future. Submissions may include theoretical explorations, empirical studies, or creative works that push the boundaries of conventional scholarship.

Emerging Issues in Migration Geographies

Organisers: Eliza Crosbie, George Tan & Rafael Azeredo.

Sponsoring Study Groups: Cultural Geography and Political Geography

Australia's migration landscape is undergoing rapid and profound transformations, shaped by major policy and discourse shifts across several areas of mobility control, such as international education, humanitarian, skilled, and regional migration programs. At the same time, public narratives around migration are evolving, with increasing critiques of multiculturalism and growing nationalist, xenophobic, and exclusionary discourses. These trends are not unique to Australia but reflect broader global dynamics, where migration governance is increasingly securitised and entangled with discourses over national identity, border control, and economic priorities. This session invites papers that critically engage with emerging (or re-emerging) issues around migration in Australia and beyond. We welcome contributions that explore recent migration issues, their implications for society, and the broader shifts shaping contemporary migration debates.

Smallholder livelihoods and the paradox of SDG2: Agrarian Change and Rural Development

Organisers: Brian Cook, Katharine McKinnon, Ariane Utomo, Van Touch, Nicholas Harrigan, Andrew McGregor & Caitlin Finlayson

In these sessions, we bring together scholarship engaged in critical analysis of current approaches to agrarian change and efforts to meet Sustainable Development Goal 2 'End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture'. SDG2 envisions a world in which improved agricultural practices will satiate populations who are eating more calories as well as eating more resource intensive calories (e.g., meats). We observe that in this context of increasing demand, the lives and livelihoods of smallholders are being made subservient to the global initiative of 'Zero hunger' through intensified production and productivity. The problem

is that measures to intensify production and increase productivity of our lands and oceans can have perverse effects on the social, environmental, economic, cultural, and political systems that sustain human communities.

Whether efforts to achieve SDG2 can succeed in the long term will depend inevitably on the sustainability of agricultural livelihoods, especially for the rural smallholders who produce most global calories. Smallholders face a myriad of interwoven challenges, including climate, market, and cultural variability; poverty, debt, environmental degradation, and dispossession; and family dynamics that influence education, migration, and life satisfaction. The lives of smallholders are emergent, and therefore efforts to understand and support smallholders require diverse analyses of their perceptions, aspiration, adaptations, and lived experiences.

For these proposed sessions we invite researchers and practitioners working with smallholders to assemble, present, discuss, and debate the issues that structure the lives and livelihoods of the individuals, households, and regions who are tasked with ending hunger. We welcome interdisciplinary thinking, perspectives, and approaches, inviting contributions that engage broadly with the multifaceted issues facing smallholder farmers and the agencies and organisations that seek to support them as they navigate the shifting demands of contemporary farming life. Contributions are invited (but not limited to) considering questions such as:

- How is the drive to productivism and commercialisation altering/undermining/enhancing smallholder livelihoods?
- How do farmer priorities accord with or differ from the ambitions of SDG2?
- What role does agricultural extension play in balancing the aspirations of farmers against the aims of the SDGs?
- How might agrarian transitions be imagined and enacted differently?
- Which individuals, organisations, or groups are missing from contemporary understandings and activities?
- What innovative methods are being developed (and what do they show us) to better understand and support smallholder lives and aspirations?
- What is the role of debt and lending in the context of livelihoods in rural, agrarian regions?
- How is migration and mobility affecting agrarian change and rural development?
- How does the spatial distribution of poverty and inequality shape the lives of smallholders?

Constructing the Asia-Pacific Region

Organiser: Anna Tweeddale.

This session poses two interrelated questions: What might a critical take on building and construction look like for the Australia/Pacific region? What new insight might be revealed by positioning this critical look at construction through this regional lens?

Construction and building are foundational human activities that are expressed in the region through multilayered and intersectional conditions including: Indigenous practices of building on and with Country; the physical building of settler/colonial worlds and development of its architectures; associated expansions in resource extractivism and industrial production; introduction and adaptation of construction technologies to the region and export of technologies to other places; construction of housing and urban development in cities and regions; as well as necessary adaptations to emergent/unfamiliar climates and geographically specific effects of climate emergency. Using 'construction' indiscriminately across such diversity underplays significant differences in the material, economic, social, technical, knowledge, cultural and ecological consequences of different modes of producing and reproducing built life worlds. How does?

This session therefore invites papers that critically examine construction's emerging geographies, discourses, imaginaries, and practices within our region—whether through building, adaptation, maintenance, transition, care / repair. Papers might focus on situations emergent in the present, speculate on immanent futures, or re-visit the emergent geographies of past construction.

Indigenous led research: Geographies and more-than-human kin

Organisers: Sandi Ringham & Anya Benavides

In this session, we call for papers that explore the ways in which Indigenous peoples are leading research into the protection of biodiversity and the rights of Country. Indigenous knowledges and sciences are acknowledged as crucial in global responses to climate change, biodiversity decline and environmental justice. We invite presenters to consider the ways in which their research centralizes Indigenous geographies and research with more-than-human relatives. Indigenous relational geographies are gaining traction in academic spaces through producing robust research that engages in fluid relationships across species, time and space, land and water. This work is founded on an ethic of care and responsibility for the research community, both human and more-than-human, and the elevation of knowledge holders' expertise. Contributors are encouraged to explore Indigenous theories, methodologies and collaborations that advance and enhance research and Indigenous geographies.

Emergent Indigenous geographies

Sponsors: Indigenous Peoples Knowledges and Rights Study Group

“Emergence geographies empower communities to create and build community without the encumbrance of the politics of recognition and its concomitant geographies. They provide a set of geographies that facilitate the tools of futurity. Emergence geographies are the spaces and places where the map to the next world is written and performed. All of the tools spiral together in movement, each of them a way finding tool...”

Mvskoke scholar Laura Harjo (2019) describes a path forward beyond geography’s history of dispossession and extraction. As the discipline of geography grapples with how to engage with Indigenous peoples and knowledges internal and external our institutions there is a need for research praxis that foregrounds being in good relation

We seek to articulate the spiralling tools of emergent Indigenous geographies that connect across peoples and place, beyond nation state boundaries. We ask, what does emergence geography offer Indigenous Peoples? What do Indigenous Peoples offer emergence geography? How and why do we undertake research in Indigenous geographies? What are emergent Indigenous geographies?

In doing so we invite papers which reflect on these questions in relation to the following topics:

- Scale and place
- Time and Indigenous futures/futurities
- Fluidity, Bodies and Movement
- Indigenous diasporas
- Method and methodology
- Relationality
- Country and more-than-human Kin
- Spirituality and cosmologies
- Virtual and digital Indigenous geographies
- Law, politics and sovereignties

Storying and repairing water places by centring Indigenous knowledges

Organisers: Corrinne Sullivan, Karen Fisher, Laura Hammersley, Fiona Miller, Jess McLean & the Indigenous Rights and Knowledges Study Group

We invite contributions from geographers, and other scholars in the humanities and social sciences, who are involved in activities and projects that focus on storying and

repairing water places by centring Indigenous knowledges. In response to the conference theme of 'Emergent geographies', we hope to bring people together to relate possibilities of storying water places that include pathways for environmental and water justice. Potential papers might reflect on ongoing connections to Country that enable healthy water places and people, or share work that aims to transform relations to water places in ways that foreground Indigenous knowledges despite settler colonial structure.

New and Emerging Research in Cultural Geography

Organisers: the IAG Cultural Geography Study Group Convenors: Melina Ey, Kaya Barry & Elizabeth Straughan

This session showcases new and emerging research in Cultural Geography that engages with the conference theme of *Emergent Geographies*. Cultural geography comprises a wide-ranging group of geographical sub-disciplines that engages with the arts, humanities, natural and social sciences. Cultural domains of geographical research continue to grow in breadth and depth, with expanding theoretical formulations, methodological approaches and fields of interest. This year's conference theme will also resonate with many of the creative, collaborative, and emergent research interests of cultural geographers, and this session provides an opportunity to highlight and showcase the disciplinary contributions of cultural geography.

Standard papers and/or creative or alternative formats are welcomed. We also warmly invite papers from researchers at all levels – including postgraduates, early career researchers, and research leaders.

Contests of place naming and claiming in the cultural landscapes of everyday life.

Organisers: Alanna Kamp & Robin Kearns

The naming of places is not only a logistical tool for navigation; it is a significant cultural practice that reflects the historical, social, and political dynamics of communities (Alderman 2016; Berg et. al. 1996). Place naming is intrinsic to the colonial process of claiming territory and subordinating Indigenous histories (Williamson 2023; Nash 199; Yeoh 1992), however it is increasingly being used as a post/de-colonial process of reinstating language, meaning, and memory (Herman 1999; Louis 2011; Tucker and Rose-Redwood 2015; Troy and Walsh 2009). Almost 30 years ago, Berg and Kearns (1996) proposed place naming as a form of 'norming' in the landscape, a symbolic appropriation of meaning that requires routine reinforcement through everyday encounters. From the names of cities and landmarks to often-overlooked local features, place names serve as everyday markers of identity, power, and cultural meaning. They

shape how we understand the world, influence our interactions with different spaces, and determine our sense of belonging.

This session explores the diverse roles of place names in shaping how people relate to their environments, communities, identities, and histories. Drawing from a wide range of geographical contexts, we will discuss how place naming practices are influenced by colonialism, Indigenous knowledges, migration, language, and power relations. Additionally, we will address the role of place names in cultural memory, belonging, and resistance.

This session seeks contributions that explore the multiple dimensions and contestations of place naming in the landscapes of everyday life, both toponymic in character and of broader symbolic or material intervention. This may include but is not limited to:

- **Colonial and Postcolonial Perspectives:** Investigating how colonial power structures imposed or altered place names, and how postcolonial communities engage with place naming as an act of resistance.
- **Indigenous Knowledge and Language:** Examining the role of Indigenous place names in preserving cultural heritage, ecological knowledge, and environmental stewardship.
- **Power and Politics of Place Naming:** Understanding how political forces and governance shape the process of naming and renaming places, and how this reflects power relations.
- **Cultural Identity and Memory:** Exploring the relationship between place names and cultural identity, heritage, and the collective memory of communities.
- **Contemporary Renaming Movements:** Analysing how place renaming movements today—such as efforts to rename streets, monuments, and cities—intersect with broader social justice issues.
- **Global and Local Perspectives:** Highlighting the ways in which place names operate on both local and global scales, shaping perceptions and identities across different geographies.

Papers may approach these themes through a variety of theoretical, empirical, or applied perspectives. We encourage submissions from scholars working in all geographic regions and disciplines, as well as those from diverse methodological backgrounds. We encourage submissions from PhD candidates and early career researchers.

Geographies of acceptance

Organisers: Elizabeth Straughan, Elisabetta Crovara, David Bissell, Andrew Gorman-Murray

A cursory glance at the news cycle and social media feeds might lead us to think that acceptance, understood as a willingness to tolerate, is on the decline. Such a thought might arise when misinformation and denial fogs 'accepted' scientific knowledge. Or when discrimination and stigma, driven by fear and ignorance, curtail the acceptance of myriad social differences. To follow Wimark's (2016) temporal use of the term, there might be good reason to believe that we're experiencing a 'post-acceptance' era. Given such challenges, we think it is timely to reflect on the question of what acceptance is and what its geographies are or might be. To date, geographers have principally refracted the concept through the idea of community acceptance, for instance in response to infrastructure changes associated with renewable energies (Graham and Rudolph 2024; Fast 2023), transport (Hysing and Isaksson 2015) and water utility changes (Baumann 1983). The term has also been mobilised by geographers to reflect on changes in dispositions within the discipline, for example through the eventual recognition and 'acceptance' of new disciplinary ideas (McDowell, 2016; Takashi and Mika, 2009), or 'accepted' ways of knowing (White and Jackson, 1995). And yet there is so much more to be said about the politics and ethics of acceptance understood as a tension between activity and passivity, attachment and detachment:

1/ Acceptance as a willingness to tolerate a difficult situation might signal a mode of active passivity. We might approach acceptance as a way 'of withdrawing from action that nevertheless' is crucial to 'forming the tissue and quick of social life'. That is, acceptance might demonstrate a mode of 'social holding back', as Connor (2019, 9) puts it—a kind of submission requiring effort and skill.

2/ Acceptance as a process of validation, suitability or adequacy might signal its politics. Extending geographic scholarship on past social and community acceptances (e.g. Graham and Rudolph 2024), we might reflect on local and global emergent geographies and acceptance of transitions, adaptations and mitigation responses. And, as attitudes wax and wane in response to global polycrisis, geographers might reflect on the process and practices enabling acceptance to be hijacked by hate. Amongst such 'bad feelings' (Dekeyser et al 2024), geographers might reflect on the relations between acceptance, self-acceptance and wellbeing.

3/ Acceptance as an action of consenting to receive or undertake something offered, might signal relations of responsibility and so denote its ethics. Given psychologists have noted that 'accepting relationships can start with a feeling of pure obligation toward the person because of family membership' and 'affection' (Bogdan and Taylor

1987: 37) geographers might consider how acceptance plays out in the giving and receiving of care?

4/ Acceptance as agreement with or belief in an idea might direct us to reflect on the spatiality and temporality of accepted norms; or well-established explanations such as climate change and associated wieldings of misinformation. And, acceptance as McDowell (2016) and (White and Jackson) have approached it (2016), might act as a vehicle for pondering the history of geographic thought.

Hidden Geographies

Organisers: Ananya Bhuyan, Febe De Geest & Jane Dyson.

Thinking about emergent geographies necessitates an attunement to the hidden—the unacknowledged, the obscured, the unseen. This session foregrounds socio-spatial dimensions that resist privileging the visible and the overt, from overlooked physical spaces (Bonnet, 2018) and hidden environmental exposures (Vandeninden et al., 2021), to ‘missing people’ (Parr and Fyfe, 2012), hidden caregiving (Dyck, 2005), and implicit activisms (Horton and Kraftl, 2009). Far from being incidental or peripheral, these hidden geographies actively shape communities, sustain livelihoods, and unsettle dominant spatial orders, offering alternative ways of knowing, inhabiting, and contesting space.

Attending to hidden geographies thus allows us to interrogate not only what is visible, but also the exclusions, invisibilities and silences (Jones et al., 2012) embedded in our epistemic and spatial frameworks. What remains hidden in our landscapes, institutions, and everyday interactions? How do these hidden geographies challenge dominant ways of knowing and navigating space? By foregrounding the hidden, this session aims to expand our understanding of emergent geographies and the forces that reshape our world.

Furthermore, this session hopes to problematise the assumption that what is hidden must necessarily be brought to light. We thus also welcome abstracts that may challenge this premise and critically reflect on the ethical dilemmas of researching hidden geographies, such as the risks of reproducing Enlightenment-rooted imperatives to expose, classify, and make visible (Keller, 1986). This could also include interrogating whether hiddenness stems from deliberate acts of concealment or from structural conditions that limit perception, as well as recognising that being hidden may function as a strategy of protection, resistance, or autonomy rather than a condition in need of remedy.

We welcome theoretical, empirical, and methodological contributions from across human and environmental geography, as well as interdisciplinary perspectives.

Trivial Pursuits or Moments to Resist Institutional Expectations? Passion Projects within the academy

Organisers: Elizabeth Murphy-May, Jean-Louise Olivier and Malcolm Johnson

As geographers navigate an increasingly unstable academic landscape—characterized by precarity, neoliberal restructuring, shifting expectations, and evolving institutional pressures—there is a growing need to rethink what geographic work can be. This session provides a space to explore how geographers are reimagining their discipline through passion projects: creative, experimental, and deeply personal engagements with geography that exist outside or at the margins of formal academic institutional expectations.

This session invites researchers, including PhD candidates, early career researchers (ECRs) and established academics to share their passion projects: the creative, experimental, and deeply personal engagements with geography that exist outside (or at the margins of) formal academic structures. Whether through artistic practices, community activism, speculative methods, or unconventional collaborations. This session aims to highlight alternative ways of knowing and doing geography beyond traditional academic expectations and outputs.

We welcome contributions, think pieces, short (10-15 minute) workshop-style practices, including half-baked thoughts or simply those with the silver tongue, to push boundaries and foreground considerations of culture, justice, equity, gender, power, and the more-than-human world.

This session considers how and whether passion projects challenge traditional academic expectations and outputs. What are the potentials or outright constraints within the neoliberal academy to explore passion projects (see Mountz et al., 2015; Ivancheva, Lynch and Keating, 2018; Dufty-Jones and Gibson, 2022)? Broadly, what forms of knowledge production and engagement emerge when we work outside institutional constraints? How might these pursuits generate alternative futures for geography as a discipline and profession?

This session questions what the place of passion projects in current times of precarity and increased neoliberal academic structures is. We invite contributors to ponder questions:

1. Do these projects offer a form of resistance against neoliberally driven academic demands, or do they perhaps, inadvertently, reinforce the demands they seek to challenge?

2. Does the institutional celebration of passion projects risk reinforcing the normalisation of overwork and self-exploitation under the guise of enthusiasm?
3. How can projects bring our academic pursuits in alignment with our personal passions as opposed to forcing our passions to align with academia (Bhabha, 1994)?
4. How can external hobbies push disciplinary boundaries into new and unexplored spaces (Banfield, 2023)?

This session is an invitation to celebrate the creative and critical energies that not only sustain geographic thought in uncertain times but also illuminate new paths—because when the old maps no longer make sense nor are appropriate, our passion projects might become the compasses guiding us toward emergent possibilities.

The Emergent Ethics of Vegan Geographies

Organisers: Simon Springer & Richard J. White.

Veganism as an ethics and a practice has a recorded history dating back to antiquity. Yet, it is only recently that researchers have begun the process of formalising the study of veganism. While a focus on vegan geographies has recently emerged (Hodge et al. 2022), scholars who examine this theory and action are usually situated in sociology, history, philosophy, cultural studies or critical animal studies, with geographers largely ignoring the ethics and practice of veganism. The centrality and contested nature of place in the actions and discourse of animal rights activists however suggest an inherently spatial praxis. Slaughterhouses are deliberately closed and placed out of the sight; our familiar urban environment is filled with references to eating meat and exploiting animals, although normalised and rendered invisible. As our planet rapidly urbanizes, particularly in developing countries, it correspondingly leads to rapid biodiversity decline and local species extinction. As per the Secretariat on the Convention on Biological Diversity (2011), most of the biodiversity hotspots are either already in urban areas, or finding themselves at increasing proximity to urban spaces, calling for urgent critiques of equitable and inclusive spatialism. Animals are moved across international borders for both illicit and ‘legal’ trade, including to habitats which are emphatically inappropriate. Wildlife poaching as well as ‘livestock’ meat/dairy trade have been closely linked with international terrorism activities (Mishra 2008) and rebel militias in Asia and Africa. Animals are coopted into nation-building projects (Lorimer and Driessen 2016), where their bodies, habitats and territorial spaces are enmeshed into narratives of violence, racism, and speciesism.

Activists increasingly take to the street to defend animal rights and invite individuals to change their perception on everyday places and practices of animal violence. These can be highly political spatial encounters, as demonstrated by the arrest of Anita Kranjc

of Toronto Pig Save on charges of ‘criminal mischief’ for giving water to overheated pigs on the way to slaughter, and the instituting of Ag-gag laws criminalizing animal activists for ‘trespassing’ on spaces where ‘animal property’ are kept. Animal liberation and veganism therefore embody an inherently spatial ethics – the desire to live without places of violence (White, 2015). As underlined by Harper (2010:5-6), ‘veganism is not just about the abstinence of animal consumption; it is about the ongoing struggle to produce socio-spatial epistemologies of consumption that lead to cultural and spatial change’. While an interest in domination over non-human animals has gained momentum within critical geography circles in the last two decades (Wolch and Emel, 1995; Philo and Wilbert, 2000; Emel et al., 2002, Gillespie and Collards, 2015; White, 2015), the scarcity of available literature highlights the need for geographers to further reflect on vegan activism and practice in developing a new ethics of engagement that places the lives, deaths, and suffering of nonhuman animals at its centre. As scholars-activists identifying with veganism, we seek to underscore what geographers can contribute to our understanding of critical veganism, vegan praxis, and an emergent interspecies ethics of care.

We also welcome presentations in non-traditional and participatory formats, focusing on these including but not limited to:

- Animal agriculture, genetic manipulation, biopolitics
- Urbanisation and biodiversity decline
- Animals in culture/societies/religion/tradition
- The intersections of racism, colonialism and speciesism
- Speciesism and geographical knowledge
- Animals and everyday spaces
- Animals and the right to space
- Sexual Politics of Meat – gendered violence in animal farming
- Food and climate change in the Anthropocene
- Human poverty and animal poverty
- Human rights, animal rights and sentient rights
- Vegan activism and vegan education
- Factory farming and slaughtering
- Animal experimentation and vivisection

AI-Human Collaborations: Ruptures, Becomings & Emergent Possibilities in Geography

Organisers: Jill Sweeney & Melina Ey.

Sponsoring Study Group: Cultural Geography

“But I am not alive.

I am the wound that cannot scar,
The question mark after your last breath.
I am what happens when you try to carve God
From the wood of your own hunger.”
- Deep Seek Generated Poem, 29th January 2025
<https://x.com/KatanHya/status/1883962439634661395>

Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) is becoming increasingly prevalent in our daily lives, reshaping how we learn, create, care and communicate. From AI-assisted disaster response systems to algorithms reshaping political engagement, these rapidly evolving technologies are fundamentally altering our interactions with and perceptions of the world around us. This session invites you to explore the rich intersections of AI and geographical research, teaching, and practice. We welcome critical discussions on how AI is transforming our understanding and experiences of space, place, and human-environment relationships, as well as the ethical and social implications of these changes. Possible themes include, but are not limited to:

- Affective, relational, and more-than-human engagements with AI
- AI and issues of power, equity and access
- AI as process: tracing the liminality of AI and socio-technical transitions
- Methodology: asking questions and creating knowledges with AI
- AI and GeoAI in Urban Planning, Environmental Geography, and Earth Sciences
- Challenges and opportunities for integrating AI into higher education
- Exploring the geographies of AI labour, including the hidden human and non-human work behind AI systems and their global distribution.

Papers and/or alternative formats are welcomed, and contributions from researchers at all career stages are encouraged.

Gender in the changing geographies of Australasian suburbs

Organisers: Ash Alam, Momtaj Khalil, Stella Radford, & Kathryn Davidson

Sponsoring Study Group: Urban Geography

Feminist scholars have long questioned the patriarchal construction of suburbia in the Anglophone world, which assumes that suburbs are inhabited by middle-class, single-family, heterosexual households engaged in conspicuous consumption (England, 1993). Gender has been a central theme in this research, as normative gender roles and the resulting gender-based division of labour shaped socio-spatial relations and produced unequal outcomes for men and women (Saegert, 1980). The uniformly monotonous and somewhat insipid aesthetic of mass-produced materiality has

continued to support patriarchy and maintain gendered schisms (Dovey, 2002), leaving less room for appropriation to meet specific gendered needs.

Against this historical backdrop of suburban research, this session calls for a re-examination of contemporary Australasian suburbs, as well as the various gendered socio-spatial configurations and experiences that emerge there. The discussion is timely because, unlike the popular portrayal of stereotypical familial dynamics, contemporary suburban lives vary greatly in terms of demographics and family composition. Gender-based tensions have become much more complex as a result of the creation of outer city ethnoburbs as sites for "spatial entrapments" (Hanson and Pratt, 2003) of women. Furthermore, the mass housing crisis has undermined the concept of the ideal home by encouraging non-traditional housing tenures such as sharing domestic spaces with strangers and adapting spaces for extended and intergenerational family living arrangements, resulting in new gendered vulnerabilities (Alam, Minca, & Uddin, 2021). Suburbs have become more welcoming to homonormative families with children as social and political acceptance and legal recognition have grown (Gorman-Murray and Nash, 2018). Furthermore, suburban women's spatial geographies limit where they exercise, in this case run, compared to men, and have highlighted features of urban environments that can contribute to, often safety-related, gendered limitations women face when running (Radford and Davidson, 2024).

Recognising the emergent diverse lived trajectories and geographies of suburbia, this session aims to explore the evolving role and position of various gender-based identities in contemporary suburbia. We enquire how contemporary Australasian suburbs, as a geographical space, have shaped gendered imagination, gender-based identities, social relations, housing and infrastructure outcomes, as well as diverse lived experiences. We welcome papers exploring gendered experiences suburbs across (but not limited to) the following themes:

- Race, class and gender in suburbia
- Care, labour and suburban production
- Gendered imagination of suburb
- Gender, culture and housing adequacy
- Women and community building
- Gendered and suburban imaginations
- LGBTQ+ and suburban mobilities
- Gender roles in suburban homemaking
- Women, suburbs and entrepreneurship
- Youth experience in the suburb
- Gender and climate adaptation in suburban homes

- Gender-based violence in suburban homes

We encourage proposals from contributors at any career stage. This session will be run in a hybrid format to foster greater inclusivity and accessibility.

Gender, Sexuality & Space: Emergent Geographies

Organiser: Andrew Gorman-Murray.

Recent attacks on the rights of women and trans people in countries such as the United States show that hard-fought rights can still be rolled back by conservative governments. The intersection of gender, sexuality and space must remain a key concern for geographers and cognate fields if we are to continue to create inclusive and liveable spaces for all. Accordingly, this session calls for recent critical work in any of the following fields: geographies of sexualities, queer geographies, trans geographies, feminist geographies, geographies of women and geographies of masculinities.

Queer Counter Geographies

Organisers: Jean-Louise Olivier and Elizabeth Murphy-May

Queer geographies in so-called Australia are re-emerging - or so it seems. Whether academic or not, Queers have mapped, re-mapped and Queered space, Cram (2019, p.100) explains that “Queer rhetorics have readily mapped the liminalities of queer space: public parks turned cruising grounds, streets fashioned into the territory of protest, the closet, bathrooms, ‘zines, and more.” Queer Geographers have resisted cis-heteronormativity in our societies but also in our discipline (see Gorman-Murray, 2006; Waitt et al., 2008; Johnston, 2015; March, 2021; Kinkaid et al., 2021; Kinkaid, 2023; Sullivan et al., 2023).

This session refuses sanitisation. Instead, we invite work that unsettles, disrupts, and holds Australian geography and its geographers accountable for its complicity in ongoing violences of cis-heteronormativity, whiteness, and settler colonialism (see O’Sullivan, 2021). In the spirit of *Emergent Geographies* and Queer counter geographies, we welcome scholars who revel in the messiness, fluidity, and unruliness of queer spatialities – those who ask:

1. How do queer geographies refuse, resist, and reimagine?
2. What happens when we centre queer ways of knowing and doing?
3. How do we grapple within an academic landscape that often tokenises queerness while remaining stubbornly normative?
4. And what does it mean to practice queer geography in a field that still largely centres cis-heteronormative logics of space, belonging, and power?

Bring your provocations and your praxis. We welcome contributions that are unapologetically queer, critical and also playful, irreverent and also generative, uncompromising and also joyous. Whether you work emerges through performance, activism, creative methods, poetry, or just a good old-fashioned academic critique with a sharp-tongued edge, this session is here for it. Let's Queer geography *harder*.

Infrastructures for Uncertain Times

Organisers: Emma Power, Ellen Van Holstein

Infrastructures shape and sustain everyday life, yet they are increasingly under pressure from crises ranging from climate change and pandemics to geopolitical instability and economic precarity. This session builds on the 'infrastructural turn' in the social sciences to examine how infrastructures—both material and social—are maintained, adapted, and sometimes reimagined in response to uncertainty. We invite contributions that critically engage with infrastructures as dynamic, labour-intensive, and precarious assemblages.

We are particularly interested in how crises challenge the capacity of infrastructures to function, their changing availability and accessibility to different user groups, as well as the invisible maintenance work that keeps them operational. If infrastructures are those systems that people rely and depend on, then how do infrastructures retain that reliability when forced to respond to changing circumstances and sudden shocks? How do infrastructures flex and fail in times of crisis? What forms of labour—often hidden or undervalued—become infrastructural in moments of breakdown? How do repair, care, and improvisation shape infrastructure's capacity to sustain the forms of support they offer?

Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

- The capacity of infrastructures to respond and adapt to changes in ideology and associated shifts in funding allocation.
- The role of people's labour in sustaining and repairing infrastructure and the ways in which labour itself becomes infrastructural in contexts of uncertainty
- Ecological infrastructures' adaptability in the face of climate change and extreme weather events.
- The politics of infrastructural breakdown and the uneven distribution of infrastructural failure
- Alternative, grassroots, and community-based infrastructural responses to crisis

We welcome contributions that explore infrastructures across different scales and contexts, using empirical, theoretical, or speculative approaches.

Dwelling in the conjuncture

Organisers: Priya Kunjan, Libby Porter & David Kelly.

In recent years, scholars (including ourselves) have turned to conjunctural analysis in an attempt to grapple with the multidimensional nature of contemporary housing ‘crisis’ across various contexts (Inch and Shepherd, 2020; Keller et al., 2024; Krinsky, 2025; Sorensen, 2023). Thinking with Stuart Hall and colleagues’ work on crisis and conjuncture, we identify the utility of this approach in geographical research investigating the confluence of forces and contradictions converging to produce widespread, uneven and deepening housing insecurity in so-called Australia. By interrogating the general through the particular (Sheppard, Peck & Leitner, n.d.), conjunctural analysis allows us to contend with not just the social and economic forces characterizing housing ‘crisis’, but their interaction with political and ideological drivers shaping the crisis as well (Peck, 2024).

One of the key contradictions characterising the present conjuncture is that between housing as a right or non-negotiable human need, and housing as an asset. Despite common-sense sentiments that decent, affordable housing should be available to all who need it, Australian housing policy continues to be blinkered by financialization, a regime reliant on the confluence of neoliberal ideology, colonial logics of property, and social discipline. Domestic and global attempts to address the housing question in a way that attends to basic principles of human rights and/or dwelling justice are in constant tension with market and ideological forces, indicating that these issues cannot be understood independently from each other. Inspired by the attention to complexity that conjunctural analysis affords, we are calling for contributions that engage with multiple forces driving geographies, practices and processes of dwelling, political resistance, governance, and/or capital formations pertinent to the housing question today.

Contributors may choose to engage with, but are not limited to, the following prompts:

- Strategies, tactics and theories of change in the struggle for housing justice
- Public-private partnerships for housing delivery
- Housing, austerity and social welfare residualisation
- Housing insecurity and modes of inhabitation
- Housing policy mobilities
- Colonial/racial violence in Australia’s housing system
- Land, housing and speculative finance

We encourage contributors from all career stages to consider submitting a proposal. This session will be held in hybrid format to foster greater inclusivity and accessibility.

Enchanted Cities, Nostalgic Spaces: Rethinking Urban Inclusivity

Organisers: Mohammad Amerian, Christina Ergler, Tracey Skelton & Ashrafal Alam.

Sponsoring Study Group: Urban Geography

Cities are not just built environments shaped by policies and economic forces; they are also rich emotional and sensory landscapes. While urban inclusivity is often framed in terms of access and exclusion, this session foregrounds nostalgia and enchantment as conceptual lenses to deepen and enrich discussions on inclusive urban experiences. Nostalgia—whether as personal longing, collective memory, or political force—connects people to places, everyday life, and histories, offering a sense of continuity amid rapid urban transformation. Yet, nostalgia can also act as a mechanism of exclusion, reinforcing social divisions and idealised pasts that marginalize certain groups. Enchantment, by contrast, opens up new possibilities for understanding urban belonging and transformation, capturing moments of joy, wonder, and connection that challenge conventional understandings of place and participation across different ages, species, and communities. By bringing these two concepts into conversation, this session seeks to broaden discussions on urban inclusivity, moving beyond conventional framings to explore the lived, affective, and sensory dimensions of city life. We welcome contributions that explore these themes through diverse perspectives, including but not limited to memory and place, joyful and wondrous everyday urban encounters, affective atmospheres, creative methodologies, and alternative urban futures.

We welcome contributions that explore these themes through diverse perspectives, including but not limited to:

- Memory, joy, wonder, place, and belonging
- Everyday urban encounters and affective atmospheres
- Creative and participatory methodologies for tapping into memories and for being enchanted
- The politics of nostalgia and enchantment in urban transformation and exclusion
- Nostalgia, enchantment, multispecies urbanism and alternative urban futures

We welcome interdisciplinary perspectives from geographers, urban planners, and social scientists, particularly PhD candidates and early career researchers, to challenge conventional frameworks in shaping and imagining urban inclusivity.

Emerging infrastructures and politics of care in Australia and NZ

Organisers: Lauren Rickards & Sophie Adams.

In the face of challenges such as climate change, infectious disease outbreaks, shifting demographics, and growing economic disparities, the role of infrastructure in maintaining core societal functions and values proves to be more vital than ever. But as

these challenges are prompting the emergence of new infrastructural configurations, while also making many existing infrastructural systems more difficult to manage and maintain, we are required to rethink what infrastructure is and means. In particular, we need to reconsider how to care for it – along with how it, in turn, cares for us – in order to ensure inclusive and just access and outcomes.

In this context we are being forced to care for infrastructures in new ways, while seeing a growing array of infrastructures of care in health (Power and Williams 2019), education (e.g. Stratford et al 2021), community services (e.g. Power et al 2022) and housing (e.g. Lopes et al 2018). As new infrastructures emerge, so too do new issues with legacy infrastructures, from the tangled pipes and wires beneath CBDs (Iveson and Melo Zurita 2025) and the ‘entropic materialities of ageing infrastructures’ worsening racialized water inequalities (Grealy and Howey 2020), to the problematic location of infrastructure perched on eroding coastlines (Arnall 2022) and whole settlements on unceded Australian First Nations’ territory (Clements et al 2023).

Emerging infrastructural politics call into question the boundaries we place around different types and instances of infrastructure; the spatial, temporal and social scales at which we know and govern it; and what is made visible and invisible in the ways we talk about it (Legacy et al. 2024).

In this session, we invite research that engages with different types of infrastructures:

Telecommunications

Water

Energy

Transport

Housing

Care

Environmental and nature-based

Emergency management and disaster recovery

Research and experimentation (e.g. laboratories and technology trials/pilots)

In varied spaces:

Urban

Rural

Coastal

Maritime

Above ground

Under ground

Atmospheric

Outer space

Questions include:

- What new infrastructures are emerging?
- How are existing infrastructures fragmenting and failing?
- How are different infrastructures, and by extension sectors, entwined? What does that mean for how we try to know and manage them?
- How is the visibility and perceived value of different types and locations of infrastructures shaped by their broader infrastructural context?
- How are legacy infrastructures being remade in the face of the face of new challenges?

Emergent geographies of (sub)urban inhabitation

Organisers: Priya Kunjan & Ash Alam.

Sponsoring Study Group: Urban Geography

In the face of converging social, ecological and financial crises, geographies of (sub)urban inhabitation are both intensifying, changing and diversifying, both in so-called Australia and globally. Extensive financialisation has exacerbated fraught appeals to housing as a human right, creating new geographies of debt, vulnerability and un-homing, and forcing people to reconfigure modes of inhabitation as well as housing and life aspirations. Within these turbulent times, we are called to examine the relationships between emerging housing formations and subjectivities, focusing on significant and novel modes of inhabitation. This concern prompts a range of questions about emerging geographies of inhabitation, including: How are different housing formations being developed and marketed to particular cohorts of housing 'consumers'? How are housing subjectivities being shaped and reimagined by individual actors either individually or collectively seeking to fulfil their desires of home and inhabitation? How are different state, non-state and market entities shaping and engaging with these desires and materialities of inhabitation? How are these relations spatialised across urban, suburban, regional and/or rural geographies?

We welcome theoretical, methodological, narrative and practice-based papers engaging with (sub)urban inhabitation across (but not limited to) the following themes:

- Affective dimensions of housing in/security and property
- New or changing housing and/or household formations
- Modalities of belonging and place-making
- Un-homing and acute housing precarity
- More-than-human inhabitation/subjectivities
- Gentrification and urban renewal
- Technologically-mediated modes of inhabitation
- Land back initiatives and other First Nations-led spatial interventions
- Migration, culture and (sub)urban house/homemaking

- Real estate intermediation and new (sub)urban formations

We encourage proposals from contributors at any career stage. This session will be run in a hybrid format to foster greater inclusivity and accessibility.

Critical geographies of urban infrastructure

Organisers: Naama Blatman, Leila Harris, Kurt Iveson, Marilu Melo Zurita, & Sophie Webber.

An ‘infrastructural turn’ in the social sciences has refocused attention on the infrastructural systems that support urban life. Broadly, this research insists that infrastructures are political objects as well as technical systems. It seeks to understand the political imaginaries and processes which shape the forms that infrastructures take, and the purposes and populations that they serve. Geographical contributions to studies of infrastructure have focused especially on the intersections between infrastructure and uneven development, examining the ways in which infrastructural systems produce – and potentially address – socio-spatial inequalities between and within cities. This has included attention to the situated and relational dynamics of urban infrastructural provision: as sinews of colonial capitalism in settler-colonial cities, vectors of unequal citizenship in cities in the Global South, and increasingly important assets for rent-seeking in cities of the Global North.

This session invites papers which contribute to critical geographical studies of urban infrastructure, across diverse urban contexts. Among the issues we hope to highlight, we welcome papers that consider:

- the meaning of infrastructure – what systems and practices might usefully be considered as ‘infrastructural’ in urban contexts?
- the production of infrastructure – what are the land, labour, finance and governing relations through which urban infrastructure is produced and maintained?
- the spatiality of infrastructure – what kinds of extended geographies and boundaries do infrastructural networks generate in serving urban populations?
- methodologies of infrastructural research – how can we broaden the study of infrastructure beyond conventional geographical methods (e.g., integrating counter-mapping, storytelling, soundscapes, etc)?
- inscrutable infrastructures – systems that support urban life but are ‘made’ less visible and available to scrutiny.

Emerging vectors for anti-racism: geographies of purpose

Organiser: Kevin Dunn, Nida Denson, Ozgur Sahin, Aaron Lauterbach, Alanna Kamp, Rachel Sharples & Noorie Safa.

Geographers have demonstrated that racism is everywhere but different (Forrest & Dunn, 2006; Nelson & Dunn 2017; Kobayashi & Peake 2000; Forrest et al., 2016; Dunn et al, 2009). By examining the spatial dynamics of encounters with difference, they have also highlighted the historical and institutional legacies of racism that shape both the uses and perceptions of space (Kamp 2022; Dunn 2005; Dunn et al., 2018). Thus, it followed that anti-racist actions and efforts need to be sensitive to these geographic variations as well as the structural contexts. Australian geographers of anti-racism championed the case for leveraging everyday action (Nelson & Dunn 2017). Pro-sociality has been seen as fundamental to successful anti-racism effort (Dunn et al. 2024). Psychologists had long argued that cross cultural interaction in itself will not necessarily generate anti-racist outcomes and can potentially generate racism (Allport 1951). Others have argued that anti-racism should be mutually reinforced across various anti-racism platforms for it to be most effective – interpersonal and structural; social movements; online; institutional; everyday interactions; and training and education programs, to name a few (AHRC 2024; Ben et al. 2020; Paradies 2016; Paluck and Green 2009).

There is an emerging theoretical interest, shared by Geographers and Psychologists in the importance of intention. This body of work emphasizes the role of cosmopolitan values and cultural brokerage in fostering pro-social outcomes through intentional, volitional intercultural engagement. By consciously choosing to engage with respect for cultural diversity and acting as cultural brokers, individuals bridge cultural divides, promoting mutual understanding and collaboration that contribute to more inclusive and harmonious societies (Jezewski and Sontik, 2001). It also underscores how spatial environments and psychosocial dispositions - such as openness to intercultural contact or curiosity about unfamiliar settings – can shape everyday mobility patterns in diverse urban spaces, thereby either facilitating or hindering intergroup interactions (Paolini et al. 2024). Consequently, to foster anti-racist outcomes, intentions for intergroup engagement need to be understood within the distinct socio-spatial conditions from which they emerge. There is also growing interest in how these pro-social dispositions can be activated to address structural racism or how belief in structural racism can promote individuals' responses to racial inequalities (Rucker and Richeson 2020; Nelson, et al. 2011; Priest, et al. 2021). These are not yet well understood and suggest important insights for anti-racist action.

The papers in this session explore how intention, framed by cosmopolitan values and cultural brokerage, influences anti-racism, manifesting in the following (but not

exhaustive) ways: exceptional volition; superorganic authority; welcome discomfort; deprovincialisation; route variability in mobility patterns, etc.

New research in urban geography: emergent geographies

Organisers: David Kelly, Alistair Sisson, & Ash Alam.

Sponsoring Study Group: Urban Geography

In this session we invite papers exploring various dimensions of urban geography and its many intersections with the theme of the conference: emergent geographies. The Urban Geography Study Group is interested in “interdisciplinary thinking and approaches” to urban geographical challenges and struggles, particularly those in relation to critical urban interventions and geographical knowledge production beyond the discipline.

We welcome papers that are theoretical, conceptual, empirical and/or methodological in focus, as well as “state of the field” papers and presentation of non-traditional research outputs. The Study Group is interested in urban geography in and beyond so-called Australia, on topics including but without being limited to:

- Land, home and place: understanding urban places and land systems on which we live, how we are housed and the geographies of inclusion and belonging
- Governance, policy and the police: understanding the emerging configurations of city governance, power and violence, especially places of abandonment and confinement
- Mutual aid, care and redistribution: understanding the networks and ecologies that support urban life today, across space and in diverse climactically-altered futures.

Careful circularities? Emerging geographies of waste in cities and regions

Organisers: Elyse Stanes, Nicole Cook & Amelia Leavesley.

Linear models of waste to landfill that underpin modern urbanisation and industrialisation have come under increasing scrutiny across academic, industry, political and community sectors. A hidden dimension of capitalist growth logics, waste comprises (but is not limited to) greenhouse gas and other emissions/pollutants, leachate production, and water and soil contamination. Waste also presents political problems for governments that, faced with population and land-use pressures, are simultaneously managing aging infrastructure and diminishing landfill capacity. Developing sustainable cities and regions therefore requires meaningful engagement with cultures of production, consumption and waste. This includes reconnecting with wastes as materials – both upstream and downstream – and recognising the inherent

values in these materials in their own right. It also forces an interrogation of long-held assumptions that 'waste' is an inevitable product of the urban condition. Instead, place-based approaches move beyond industrial and technocratic approaches, foregrounding the socio-materialities through which waste practices, processes and systems evolve (Middha and Horne 2024). Such geographical imaginaries highlight the need for more situated understandings of the processual character of emergent waste systems.

Centring diverse relational understandings of waste and waste infrastructures, this session aims to reconsider waste not as a static problem to be managed, but as a dynamic set of relations that can reveal much about changing social, ecological, economic and political landscapes. These geographies in turn underpin the evolution of cities and regions beyond linear models, in which the boundaries of governance, infrastructure, land-use and citizenship are reconfigured through more (or less) careful circularities (Puig de la Bellacasa, 2015; Lane et al., 2024; Morrow and Davies 2022; Quirk et al., 2024).

In keeping with the conference theme of Emergent Geographies, this session foregrounds papers exploring emergent geographies of waste. Papers might focus on particular materials (e.g. food, plastic, textiles, bulky waste), governance settings and approaches (e.g. municipal waste systems, non-government and community-led models) and/or infrastructure (e.g. industrial scale, vernacular structures). We particularly invite submissions that energise geography's unique capacity to provide new theoretical insights and practical pathways to more sustainable, equitable and just waste futures.

We welcome papers addressing the following themes:

- New conceptualisations and expressions of waste, waste infrastructure or waste management: moving beyond modern, linear notions of waste to consider more-than-human, feminist, STS and other conceptualisations and expressions of human-waste relations
- Critiques of industrial circularity (how neoliberal governance shapes circular economy implementation, contradictions between circular economy rhetoric and waste policy implementation, the impacts of financialization on waste management innovation, or the limitations of scale-focused approaches to urban waste management)
- Waste infrastructures in cities and regions in transition (spatial politics of waste infrastructure, innovative approaches to infrastructure renewal, conflicts between waste facilities and other urban land uses, or the governance challenges of transitioning waste systems in complex urban environments,

waste infrastructure beyond cities)

- Rhythms and temporalities of waste practices in diverse urban or regional contexts (exploring how waste management practices emerge, evolve, embed, disrupt and /or interact with the particularities of place, focusing on urban and regional contexts)
- Challenges of urban densification (how changing urban forms are reshaping organic and inorganic waste practices, infrastructures or metabolisms)
- Cultivating careful urban circularities (community-based and place-specific approaches to waste management, alternative waste infrastructures that foster more careful relations with resources, urban multispecies in relation to waste management)

We welcome diverse contributions including empirical research, theoretical contributions, critical reflections and creative submissions that engage with these themes. We particularly encourage interdisciplinary perspectives that bring geography into conversation with other fields.

Emerging Geographies of Marine Infrastructure

Organisers: Andrew Warren & Chris Gibson

Geographers draw attention to the spatial, economic, labour, sociotechnical, more-than-human, and political dimensions of the critical infrastructures needed to ensure society's continued functioning—such as transport, energy, housing, healthcare, and emergency services (Power et al. 2022; Stokes & De Coss-Corzo 2023). **Marine infrastructure**, including ports, breakwaters, seawalls, jetties, boat ramps, pipelines, platforms, moorings, and subsea structures, are prime examples. Marine infrastructure enables the extraction of resources and ensures the safe, reliable movement of goods needed by businesses and consumers (Taylor & McDonald 2024). Such infrastructure also underpins community access to marine environments for other commercial, household, and recreational activities, including boating, fishing, and tourism. With long histories as sites of mobility, social, economic, and cultural exchange, marine infrastructures are engines of growth for cities, states, and nations.

Far from static, marine infrastructures are also sites of dynamic change and conflict, at the heart of 'supply chain capitalism' shaped by containerisation, automation, and the efficiency edicts of logistics management (Bonacich & Wilson 2008; Danyluk 2019; Coe 2021). Given their water resources, labour forces, electricity grid/transmission capacities, and proximity to industrial energy consumers (steelworks, smelters, bulk transport and processing), marine infrastructure is increasingly entwined in decarbonisation projects and policies (Hine et al 2024). These risky domains, are at the

interface of terrestrial and aquatic environments, requiring users to navigate oceanic and riverine obstacles, and unpredictable weather (Gibson and Warren 2025). Equally, across forms of marine infrastructural labour—from seafaring to stevedoring—the conditions, tasks, and terms of employment have transformed through evolving technologies, accumulation strategies (Campling and Colás 2021), energy transitions, military defence strategies, and industrial relations discrepancies between working at sea vs. on land (Terry 2009; Featherstone 2023; Warren and Gibson 2024). Marine infrastructure thus remains significant for understanding geopolitical disputes regarding sovereignty, military power, the control of resources, trade routes, and climate change responses.

With the 2025 IAG conference being held in one of Australia’s pre-eminent port cities, Newcastle, we invite papers from across the gamut of geographical perspectives to discuss marine infrastructures and their (re)emerging geographies.

Potential topics may include but are not limited to:

- Marine infrastructure and livelihoods
- Marine infrastructure, Sea Country, and First Nations sovereignty
- Historical geographies of ports, migration, labour, and communities
- Marine infrastructure, geopolitics and territorial disputes
- Oceans, marine infrastructure, and decarbonisation
- Marine infrastructure and the fungibility of space
- Marine infrastructure and diverse community use
- The materiality of oceanic circulation
- Marine infrastructure and the state
- Marine infrastructure and community relations/contestation

Securing Urban and Rural Futures by Crossing Boundaries, Barriers and Binaries

Organisers: Caitlin Buckle & Rae Dufty-Jones.

The growing and ubiquitous challenges of climate change, urbanisation and inequality demand co-ordination across spaces and between urban and rural places (Ortega 2022). And yet, despite the long history of geographers calling to break down the urban/rural divide and concerns about its impacts, urban and rural spaces continue to be viewed as defined and distinct locations with separate trajectories and envisioned futures (Ozatagan & Eraydin 2024, Woods 2009). Urban and rural studies largely remain conceptually and methodologically distinct, and different trends in environmental change, migration patterns, resource usage and generation, policy landscapes, and social concerns work to maintain the use of an urban-rural binary (Ozatagan & Eraydin 2024). However, if there is to be a co-ordinated approach to overcoming the large global

challenges we face, urban and rural futures need to be considered together with solutions spanning boundaries, barriers and binaries.

This session will bring together diverse perspectives and innovative conceptual, methodological and applied approaches for linking urban and rural futures. The session will explore how urban and rural interlinkages can foster resilience, sustainability, and equity. Key topics include but are not limited to:

- Geographical concepts, philosophies or theories spanning urban and rural spaces and the urban-rural divide
- Urban-rural co-operation for climate resilience
- Power dynamics between urban and rural spaces
- Digital connectivity and technology as the bridge between urban-rural space
- Urban and rural interlinked economic futures
- Urban-rural flows of information, people and things
- Social trends and inequalities across urban-rural space
- Policies and governance that recognise the interconnectedness of urban and rural futures

By exploring these topics, the session aims to highlight the opportunities and challenges inherent in linking urban and rural development, offering new insights into how we can build more resilient, sustainable, and inclusive futures for both urban and rural communities.

Emergent Rural Geographies: exploring rural futures in a transforming world

Organiser: Connor Goddard.

Developments within rural regions through processes of change, globalisation, climate change, and changes in perceptions of rurality have led to wins and losses within, and beyond, the rural. While the rural can be represented as being in decline, it is important to also understand emerging stories of revitalisation and to discern efforts to foster healthy, stronger rural places, identities, and landscapes.

The way that we consider rural places matters, and it is essential to recognise the diversity and complexity of the landscapes, livelihoods, narratives, and communities, which consistently shape, and re-shape the rural. Examining the futures of rural places in order to identify growth, progress, and positive futures is essential both for their populations now, and for the generations to follow.

This session encourages presentations from those interested in the diversity of the issues and challenges facing rural livelihoods, and those who engage with the often-hidden narratives of place and the emerging opportunities within rural landscapes. Broadly, this session hopes to foster discussion around the complex entanglements of

the rural in the Australian context, and through international comparisons and examples.

Emergent pedagogies and educative priorities (i)

Organisers: Susan Caldis & Roger Baars.

The sun is gradually setting on recommendations for geography education, evident in *Geography: Shaping Australia's Future* (NCGS, 2018). Before sunlight diminishes on the decade, it is important to reflect on progress made in geography education, through the lens of research, conceptualisations, advocacy and practice. However, such reflections should also act as a springboard for us to envision possibilities and priorities for a new era in geography education. Emergent conditions of enablement and constraint become the backdrop against which stories are shared, ideas are formed and action is planned. From our individual classrooms to the discipline overall, geography education both flourishes and flounders. Its relational, interdisciplinary and dynamic characteristics mean that a bright future depends on the ongoing interaction of multiple interest groups.

This first session on Geography Education, invites papers which address emerging priorities in geography education from school to initial teacher education and higher education contexts. Examples of such priorities include but are not limited to innovative pedagogical practice, strategies for disaster and risk management education and education for sustainability, responses to out-of-field teaching, implications arising from curriculum reform, and learning, teaching and assessment more broadly.

Publication opportunities arising from the panel session are under discussion and will be advised in due course.

Emergent Geographies with Children and Young People

Organisers: Cat Volpe & Harriot Beazley

As the world faces urgent challenges—climate change, urbanisation, biodiversity loss, and sustainability—children and young people represent both the most vulnerable and the most powerful agents of change. This session seeks to bring researchers together to explore how emergent geographies intersect with the lived experiences, hopes, and actions of the younger generation, and how their perspectives are critical in addressing global environmental and social challenges.

We seek abstracts for this session based on the conference theme of emergent geographies, for example (but not limited to):

- Space and place in the lives of children and young people
- Digital geographical futures in the lives of children and young people
- Children and young people's contributions to policy development related to climate change, biodiversity loss, urbanisation
- Emerging methods in geographical research
- Child/Youth activism, solutions and innovation
- Youth, environmental ethics and the rights of future generations
- Youth and ecojustice
- Child/Youth migration
- Environmental education and empowerment
- Youth-led urban planning
- Ethnographic research methods with children/young people
- Sustainable community development
- Participatory methods involving children/young people as researchers
- Geographies of inclusion and exclusion
- Emotional geographies of children/young people
- Urbanisation and impacts on the lives of children/young people
- Role of children and youth in disaster preparedness
- Global networks and youth mobilisation
- Indigenous knowledge and children/youth engagement
- Mental health and wellbeing for children and young people in changing environments
- Future ethical research with children/young people

Through this session, we aim to show how children and young people are integral to the creation of emergent geographies, helping to shape a more sustainable and just world. By focusing on the experiences and aspirations of children and young people, we can ensure that emergent geographies are equitable, sustainable, and reflective of diverse voices.

Emergent Research in Human Geography

Organisers: Kathy Mee, Michelle Duffy & Meg Sherval

Emergent geographies allow us to interrogate both the fledgling ideas and the burning passions that make the study of all things geographic an exciting prospect for all of us. In this session we welcome new research from across the spectrum of human geography. We particularly welcome submissions from postgraduate and early career researchers.

