

Preliminary

Book of Abstracts



COPENHAGEN 2024

Identifying Alternative Mobility Narratives for Long-Distance Travel: The Case of Paul Theroux's *The Great Railway Bazaar* and...

Title of presentation Identifying Alternative Mobility Narratives for Long-Distance Travel: The Case of Paul Theroux's *The Great Railway Bazaar* and *Ghost Train to the Eastern Star*

Abstract That the climate has reached a worrying state is a fact that hardly needs repeating. Rather, solutions are needed – and soon. Recently, scholars have begun to stress that these solutions cannot only be technological. It is also necessary to change the way people think about transport and mobility (e.g. Ryghaug et al. 2023). Te Brömmelstroet et al. (2022) have argued that, to achieve this, it is necessary to identify and nurture alternative mobility narratives; e.g. by bringing to the public's attention past narratives that can help steer people towards more sustainable mobility choices. This paper speaks to these issues. It considers how the train can compete with the attractions of the aeroplane (speed, glamour) and the automobile (privacy, flexibility). The paper looks to literature about long-distance railway travel during the past hundred years and asks how and to what extent such texts can help shape alternative mobility patterns in the future. More specifically, the paper will focus on Paul Theroux's *The Great Railway Bazaar* (1975) and its sequel *Ghost Train to the Eastern Star* (2008). Is it possible that reading such texts can change readers' mobility choices, leading them to choose the train over the plane or the automobile?

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Culinary Ghosting and Landscape Re-Placement in the Art of Michael Rakowitz

Title of presentation Culinary Ghosting and Landscape Re-Placement in the Art of Michael Rakowitz

Abstract This paper centers on the Iraqi-American artist Michael Rakowitz, who reimagines the cultural heritage of Iraq and Syria through the creative reassembly of artifacts blown apart by war and/or looted over the long history of colonization. Drawing on participatory observations and interviews relating to two interventions in Malmö, Sweden—Rakowitz's exhibition "The Invisible Enemy Should Not Exist" in 2019, and his subsequent performance dinner "Dar Al Sulh" in 2022, both at Malmö Konsthall—this paper explores how landscapes come to be re-placed, particularly through artistic hauntings, and what that means for the production and entanglements of landscape, art, and memory.

In my argument, Rakowitz re-replaces landscape, meaning the spatial reification of lost or displaced landscapes, utilizing memories, material, and symbols connected to these landscapes. In an age of so-called 'memory mania'—the push to commemorate materially in the landscape—yet where homogeneity of local and/or national memory appears to be ever more fraught and contested, artists are asking questions and offering replies for how to re-place that which has been rendered as absent from present landscapes, attempting to bring presence to absence as a way to engage with the durabilities of colonialism and capitalism.

Rakowitz, I argue, illustrates the connectedness of different places, how local politics and racism towards Malmö's Iraqi community, the music and symbols of antiquity, the exploitation of the date palm tree and its negotiated legal geographies all come together relationally in space through his work, revealing the ongoing violence and displacement wrought historically through the present. It is also an alternative future which is offered, a mutated artifact reappeared which demands attention, to be made present despite the unease it may give rise to, for some.

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From smart city to real estate venture: The case of Ciudad Creativa Digital in Guadalajara, Mexico

Title of presentation From smart city to real estate venture: The case of Ciudad Creativa Digital in Guadalajara, Mexico

Abstract The city of Guadalajara, known as Mexico’s Silicon Valley, won in 2012 a competition launched by the federal government to host the country’s first “creative digital city.” The project, Ciudad Creativa Digital (CCD), was described as an ecosystem that would “activate” and “regenerate” 42 hectares in the city’s historic center affected by prostitution, drug abuse, homelessness, and dereliction. A combination of dwelling places and office space for creative industries was envisioned, promising to house 10,000 people and create 45,000 jobs by 2027. At the time of its launch, CCD was hailed as a new model of urban and economic development, promising to become a blueprint for future smart projects in Mexico and Latin America. Met with discontent from residents, and as the political landscape changed in the city, the project soon faced delays, critique, and lack of funding—despite the initial momentum. More than ten years later, the project exists but in an altered form from its original conception, resembling more a real estate venture with “smart” undertones. In this paper, we draw on urban policy mobilities research and critical smart urbanism interventions to analyze the landing, materializing, and reframing of CCD in local government against a background of colonial remains. With this, our aim is twofold: a) unpack the interplay between urban space, policy mobility and governance practices, and b) shed light on the context-specific realities and processes in the making of the smart city in Latin America.

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Creating walk-friendly Arctic communities for an ageing population through a participatory research perspective.

Title of presentation Creating walk-friendly Arctic communities for an ageing population through a participatory research perspective.

Abstract Despite the key role of walking in achieving urban planning objectives, improving public health and reaching sustainability goals, walking is often generalised in urban design discourse, missing the nuances of demography, culture and politics. Older residents' ability to move safely and independently throughout the year is critical to maintaining quality of life and function and postponing disability. This project aims to identify barriers and enablers to safer and secure walking amongst older people in northern Nordic rural and urban communities by using a participatory perspective in which the needs and demands of the end-user are the focus throughout the project.

In this presentation, we will share the initial results of the project. 400 randomly selected residents aged 70 or older in the regions of Norrbotten and Västerbotten (Sweden) responded to a survey on their perceptions of health, lived urban and rural mobility space and the impact of environmental conditions commonly found in Nordic Arctic settlements with particular focus on the winter season. These issues will also be addressed during focus group interviews with older residents, policymakers, practitioners, and academics later in the project. The walkable spaces, that is, outdoor one's housing and local neighbourhood, are mainly in focus.

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Evolution of mobile retail food stores from the times of communist Czechoslovakia to the present: a historical excursion

Title of presentation Evolution of mobile retail food stores from the times of communist Czechoslovakia to the present: a historical excursion

Abstract Mobile retail food stores have undergone significant changes within the Czech retail sector. In connection with the development of the economy and changes in the spatial distribution of retail after the end of the communist period, the number of mobile food stores dramatically decreased. After the liberalization and privatization of the Czech economy, the parameters of the retail network changed, with large-scale stores entering the territory and subsequently expanding. The expansion of the influence of large-format retail continues to this day, with the need for mobile retail stores gradually disappearing. The issue of mobile retail has returned to the forefront recently, especially in connection with the limited mobility of citizens due to the Covid-19 pandemic. In many European countries, however, the issue has been addressed for several years. Given the current wave of store closures, especially in rural areas, caused by changes in the retail environment due to rising prices and inflation, the possibility of reintroducing a similar type of food sales arises. This paper will highlight the evolution of mobile retail food stores from the times of communist Czechoslovakia to the present, aiming to emphasize their potential use in areas where basic services are not guaranteed.

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Co-developing land use change plan to address environmental and social targets in a large rural river basin

Title of presentation Co-developing land use change plan to address environmental and social targets in a large rural river basin

Abstract River basin management should develop socially just and economically viable solutions to address environmental targets, including climate change mitigation, biodiversity, and water quality. This is challenging in areas with multiple landowners and land use types, and diverging local to global preferences. We developed and applied a transdisciplinary co-creation land use road map in 3824 km² sparsely populated peatland forest-dominated Kiiminkijoki River basin in northern Finland and critically evaluated the development process. The approach consisted of six steps: (1) identification of stakeholders, (2) collection of background information with interviews and environmental data, (3) visioning desirable futures and listing of development needs with the stakeholders, (4) assessing the socio-ecological impacts of potential land use solutions, (5) discussing the impact assessment results with the stakeholders, and (6) synthesizing a basin-scale plan. The local actors desired particularly better water quality, but current (inter)national policies emphasized climate and biodiversity targets; therefore, the plan prioritized land use solutions (e.g., continuous-cover forestry) with multiple environmental and social benefits. To implement the plan, new basin-scale collaboration structures are being developed. Our approach exemplifies how to include different actors, knowledge sources, and targets in river basin planning and what are the possible bottlenecks when planning and implementing sustainability transformations.

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Toward new forms of interdisciplinarity in rural land abandonment research

Title of presentation Toward new forms of interdisciplinarity in rural land abandonment research

Abstract While interdisciplinary collaboration as such is established in research on rural land abandonment, and often described as necessary, the types of collaborations one finds are relatively narrow in practice. This contribution aims to explore the potential of (less established) interdisciplinary collaborations between epistemologically distant approaches, namely quantitative and remote versions of land system science on the one hand, and interpretive social science research on the other. Conceptualizing abandoned land as a “boundary object” (Star, Griesemer 1989) helps to appreciate, develop, and conduct new forms of interdisciplinary collaboration across distinctively different knowledge systems. We will discuss the potential of heterogeneous interdisciplinary collaborations to 1) better understanding how scientific knowledge and representations of land abandonment can impact the socio-political context of abandonment, 2) open new research avenues for researching abandoned lands’ futures, and 3) to address the distinct politics of abandoned land.

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Placing Play in Neighbourhoods

Title of presentation Placing Play in Neighbourhoods

Abstract This paper reflects on a series of recent and ongoing research projects exploring neighbourhood play in the UK, including both the organised “play streets” movement and also wider experiences of neighbourhood play. This work focuses on play in neighbourhoods across the UK, both in ‘ordinary’ times and during and after the covid pandemic. The paper starts by documenting a brief history of neighbourhood play in UK towns and cities and argues for the critical importance of play in neighbourhoods, for children, their families, and for the neighbourhood itself. It then seeks to look in more detail at what play does in neighbourhoods, how it animates, challenges, troubles, reimagines, and transforms everyday life in neighbourhoods and enables particular kinds of relationships, attachments and social infrastructures on streets and between neighbours. In doing this, it seeks to reflect on how neighbourhood play connects to issues of social, spatial and environmental justice. The paper concludes by reflecting on the obstacles to play in UK neighbourhoods and on the ongoing work to make space for play and remake neighbourhoods.

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Being Seen and Heard – Migrant Subjectivity in UK's Border Control Sites

Title of presentation Being Seen and Heard – Migrant Subjectivity in UK's Border Control Sites

Abstract Migrants without legal status must often enact their political subjectivity within highly constrained and legally precarious conditions, and there are arguably none more so than those within one of the UK's seven immigration removal centres (IRCs). IRCs function as a means of temporarily detaining migrants pending legal immigration status, and, where their application to remain in the UK is denied, to facilitate their removal from the country. While detention is framed as a temporary measure, many are held for long periods of time with no prospect of removal, with some being detained for many years at a time. Yet exploring the political potential of these sites reveal them not as sites of ultimate abjection (Agamben 1998), but of politics (Isin and Rygiel 2007:184). My aim in this paper is to examine what modes of resistance migrants without legal status are able to forge within these sites. By articulating how they become exposed to systems which seek to silence them, I show how migrants may reclaim their political subjectivity, by making themselves seen and heard.

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Landscape, law and justice in the Caribbean: The experience of Barbuda and the Mussington judgment


Title of presentation Landscape, law and justice in the Caribbean: The experience of Barbuda and the Mussington judgment

Abstract Barbuda's legal victory before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council on 27th February 2024 (Mussington and another v Development Control Authority (Antigua and Barbuda)) signalled a potential pivot in the law, towards more progressive approaches to land, environment and community. The court's ruling, that local residents without a direct (ownership) interest in the land affected could challenge improperly vetted developments that threaten fragile ecosystems, sets a new precedent applicable throughout Commonwealth jurisdictions, potentially empowering local communities to challenge access to and use of lived-in landscapes. This paper examines the judgment as well as the history of informal land arrangements in Barbuda to demonstrate the ways in which conflicting ideas about land, law and justice continue to resonate in post-colonial states in the Caribbean. As global environmental problems such as climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss threaten people-place connections around the world, the Barbuda case illustrates the relevance of a landscape, law and justice framework in the Global South, drawing attention to the role that 'lawful' displacement of communities is playing in the destruction of these landscapes, and the need for locally responsive rules that are embedded in the material realities of Caribbean environments.

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 Understanding sustainable access to every-day outdoor recreation. The role of public transport.

Title of presentation Understanding sustainable access to every-day outdoor recreation. The role of public transport.

Abstract Restrictions during the Covid-19 pandemic in Sweden created a major increase in outdoor activities in nature areas. Non-local travel to these areas were almost exclusively made by car, exposing problems for public transport to provide a viable and sustainable alternative. This paper reports on a current research project on the potential for public transport to support regional sustainable accessibility to outdoor recreation sites. It draws on a visitor's surveys to popular outdoor recreation sites. The aim is to better understand how actual travel behavior to outdoor recreation can shed light the opportunities and limitations facing public transport as a sustainable travel alternative to activities that are not performed on an every-day basis. The result of this work is important for policy since public transport (at least in a Swedish context) is expected to become the key sustainable alternative to the car for regional travel to outdoor recreation activities. This has implications both for environmental and social sustainability. Especially for groups in society with less or no access to car that might find themselves having significantly less access to outdoor recreation opportunities if public transport fail to provide a realistic alternative.

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Nordic responses to urban challenges of the 21st century - Introduction to the 2024 NGM NJUS lecture

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| Title of presentation | Nordic responses to urban challenges of the 21st century - Introduction to the 2024 NGM NJUS lecture |
| Abstract | <p>Join us for an enlightening session at the Nordic Geographers Meeting (NGM) 2024 in Copenhagen, featuring the Nordic Journal of Urban Studies (NJUS) and the inaugural NJUS lecture by Associate Professor Vasna Ramasar.</p> <p>NJUS is dedicated to advancing scholarly insights into cities and urban transformations and cultivate a vibrant Nordic community of urban scholars, fostering contributions to the broader field of global urban studies. The journal advocate for an interdisciplinary approach, bridging social sciences, urban planning, humanities, and beyond.</p> <p>Dr. Vasna Ramasar, Associate Professor at Lund University's Department of Human Geography, Section of Human Ecology, will deliver the inaugural NJUS lecture.</p> <p>With over a decade of research, activism, consulting, and teaching spanning southern and eastern Africa, Asia, Europe, and North America, Dr. Ramasar's work delves into the intricate interplay between people and planetary dynamics. She explores the complex web of these interactions, their implications for justice, and advocates for a shift away from unsustainable hegemonic systems towards radical, sustainable alternatives. Don't miss this opportunity to engage with NJUS and Dr. Ramasar's pioneering work at NGM 2024. Join us as we delve into the fascinating world of Nordic urban studies and the quest for the creation of radical alternatives.</p> |
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Inaugural NJUS lecture, NGM 2024

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Abstract Join us for an enlightening session at the Nordic Geographers Meeting (NGM) 2024 in Copenhagen, featuring the Nordic Journal of Urban Studies (NJUS) and the inaugural NJUS lecture by Associate Professor Vasna Ramasar.

NJUS is dedicated to advancing scholarly insights into cities and urban transformations and cultivate a vibrant Nordic community of urban scholars, fostering contributions to the broader field of global urban studies. The journal advocate for an interdisciplinary approach, bridging social sciences, urban planning, humanities, and beyond.

Dr. Vasna Ramasar, Associate Professor at Lund University's Department of Human Geography, Section of Human Ecology, will deliver the inaugural NJUS lecture.

With over a decade of research, activism, consulting, and teaching spanning southern and eastern Africa, Asia, Europe, and North America, Dr. Ramasar's work delves into the intricate interplay between people and planetary dynamics. She explores the complex web of these interactions, their implications for justice, and advocates for a shift away from unsustainable hegemonic systems towards radical, sustainable alternatives.

Don't miss this opportunity to engage with NJUS and Dr. Ramasar's pioneering work at NGM 2024. Join us as we delve into the fascinating world of Nordic urban studies and the quest for creation of radical alternatives.

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Is carbon sequestration locking in farmers or incentivising innovative farming?

Title of presentation Is carbon sequestration locking in farmers or incentivising innovative farming?

Abstract With diverse strategies under the labels, such as regenerative farming, conservation agriculture, agroecology, ecological recycling farming, and organic farming, farmers are currently actively innovating ways to improve carbon sequestration (Krokstorp M, 2023).

In the contrasting market-oriented approach, voluntary carbon credits (VCC), based on the proposition that it is possible to sequester carbon in soils, have been proposed as a key solution to mitigate climate change. Research on sequestration have so far primarily focused on soil science and remote sensing of carbons in soil but giving little attention to the implications for farm and agricultural transformation.

As noted by Hannay (2023), US and Canadian actors often provide carbon credits on long-term contracts (Indigo AG) as part of packages with techniques and farm inputs such as fertilisers and pesticides. This approach, while seemingly beneficial, can actually reduce the farmers' freedom for innovation, a concern that warrants our attention. This paper presents Swedish farms as a contrasting example and a critical case to examine if carbon sequestration incentivizes innovative farming and socioeconomic efficiency or if it locks in farmers to be carbon credit providers or agritech corporations.

Geographical differences coming with different historical path dependencies and socioeconomic and institutional frameworks will be discussed.

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The rescaling of institutional rationalities for shaping opportunity spaces

Title of presentation The rescaling of institutional rationalities for shaping opportunity spaces

Abstract By integrating the concept of opportunity spaces into the debate on multi-scalarity in transitions, this presentation explains how and why actors engage in institutional change processes across scales. Opportunity spaces for change conceptualize a multi-scalar institutional architecture as structure for agency and take account of the future-past-dimension of agency. Actors rescale institutional rationalities by carrying out institutional work across scales with the intention to strengthen an industrial path. Our conceptual elaborations are illustrated by in-depth interviews and participant observation of industry association meetings in the market for residential storage systems at a German and EU level. After having constructed and exploited a national opportunity space for this niche, particularly German industry associations and companies engage in institutional work fostering the national implementation of EU legislation and affecting legislation, discourses and standards at a European scale. While the high complexity of regulation as well as institutional semi-coherence are found to be constraining conditions for rescaling institutional rationalities, holding positions at multiple scales enhances agency. At a national scale, the legislative amendments go along with political contestation and value conflicts.

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How do regional inequalities relate to disruptive shocks? Economic transitions and the uneven development of inequalities wit...

Title of presentation How do regional inequalities relate to disruptive shocks? Economic transitions and the uneven development of inequalities within Swedish regions 1990-2018

Abstract In recent decades, regions in western economies have experienced significant transitions, characterised by the growth of the knowledge economy and the decline of manufacturing jobs. These shifts have consistently been linked with growing income inequalities between and within regions. For most regions, these transitions were not gradual, but were facilitated by economic crises that had a disruptive effect on regional economic structures. However, relatively few studies have specifically examined the connection between the uneven regional effects of economic shocks and intra-regional inequalities. The Swedish context forms a good example of their potential importance, where the widespread job losses during the economic crisis in the early 1990s had a geographically uneven impact on the long-term regional transitions. Using Swedish microdata for the period 1990 - 2018, this study investigates how regional economic structures play a role in the nature of regions' economic transitions following larger economic shocks, and the extent of which they influenced the uneven development of inequalities within regions. The findings suggest that the way regions cope with economic shocks, and their recovery rate, significantly influenced the growth of regional inequality in Sweden, but that the direction of the effect is dependent on the nature of the crisis.

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Street experiments as an emergent mode of urban governance

Title of presentation Street experiments as an emergent mode of urban governance

Abstract Street experiments are an increasingly popular vehicle for local authorities to create more liveable urban environments. These experiments engage a wide range of stakeholders in the reconfiguration of the public realm to support local businesses, promote low-carbon mobility options, and introduce new environmental services. There is an implicit assumption that the experiences from these discrete interventions will be upscaled and translated into policies and regulations, resulting in broader changes to urban development processes. As such, streets serve as catalysts for sustainable urban transformations. In this presentation, we summarise the findings from our analysis of street experiments in Stockholm from 2014 to 2024. The local government's approach to the temporary and permanent reconfiguration of streets has evolved significantly over the last decade and to date, there is little evidence that these actions have resulted in broader changes across the city. Instead, the various strategic and piecemeal activities have produced an ecosystem of street experiments and an emerging mode of urban governance that is place-based, collaborative, and action-oriented. The rise of systemic experiments in Stockholm suggests a new approach to framing and acting upon the built environment with uncertain implications to urban development dynamics.

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Book Launch - Artificial Intelligence and the City

Title of presentation Book Launch - Artificial Intelligence and the City

Abstract This book explores in theory and practice how artificial intelligence (AI) intersects with and alters the city. The contributors draw upon theories and methods from urban geography, planning, architecture, science and technology studies sociology and political science to examine case studies of autonomous vehicles, urban robots, platforms, algorithms, and city brains. The findings reveal the multitude of repercussions that AI is having on society, infrastructure networks, governance processes, and urban transitions.

This book launch will provide an opportunity for the editors to introduce the book and then engage in a roundtable discussion with conference attendees about current and future issues related to urban AI.

Artificial Intelligence and the City: Urbanistic Perspectives on AI, edited by Federico Cugurullo, Federico Caprotti, Matthew Cook, Andrew Karvonen, Pauline McGuirk, and Simon Marvin (Routledge, 2024)

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Mapping spatial disparities in safe cycling conditions

Title of presentation Mapping spatial disparities in safe cycling conditions

Abstract In the past decades, we have witnessed an increasing focus on the many benefits from cycling on health, climate, and urban livability. Despite this progress, there are still many areas without safe and comfortable cycling conditions. The absence of sufficient bicycle infrastructure is both a societal challenge, but also deprives individuals of the many benefits offered by active mobility, particularly those living in areas with limited alternative mobility options.

In this presentation, we present results from an ongoing analysis of the quality of the Danish road network from a cycling perspective. The analysis is focused on identifying spatial disparities in access to bicycle infrastructure and bicycle friendly roads across Denmark, with an emphasis on transport equity and urban-rural divides. We quantify the bikeability of the road network for different levels of traffic stress and identify spatial clusters of low and high bikeability, based on the local network quality and spatial distribution of bicycle friendly roads and paths. With the analysis, we hope to increase awareness of the spatial marginalization of cycling and emphasize how the spatial distribution of cycling benefits interacts with existing spatial and socio-economic divides.

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Practices, motivations and barriers in relation to urban foraging. Examples from Stockholm, Sweden.

Title of presentation Practices, motivations and barriers in relation to urban foraging. Examples from Stockholm, Sweden.

Abstract As pressure on urban green areas increases, simultaneously opportunities for human-nature interactions decrease, which are crucial for urban citizens' wellbeing. Urban foraging, the gathering of fungi and plant materials in urban areas, is a human-nature interaction that has been inadequately studied and overlooked in urban policy, planning, and design. The objective of this study is to contribute to a more sustainable and socially just planning and management of urban green spaces by increasing the understanding of foraging in urban spaces through a case study in Stockholm, Sweden. Through an exploratory mixed methodology approach, using semi-structured interviews and a survey combined with spatial analysis, we have gained insights into the practices, motivations, and barriers of foragers in Stockholm. Our study demonstrates that urban foraging motivates people to get out in nature, connects them to biodiversity in forests and parks, and links people to high-quality and local food. Foragers display care for nature (stewardship) and sharing of local ecological knowledge. The expressed barriers to foraging were time, proximity, lack of knowledge, and fear of pollution. The findings show that foraging provides many benefits for citizens in Stockholm, stressing that urban foraging should be included in future research and assessments, and should be incorporated into urban policy, planning, and design.

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Twofold Compound Impact of Weather Conditions on the Risk for Community-Acquired Pneumonia

Title of presentation Twofold Compound Impact of Weather Conditions on the Risk for Community-Acquired Pneumonia

Abstract Community-acquired pneumonia (CAP) is one of the most frequent causes of death among infectious diseases worldwide. There is a growing concern about the impacts of weather on CAP. Yet, there are no studies on the twofold compound impact of weather conditions (meteorological and air quality conditions) on CAP. Analysing a dataset of 5,223 CAP patients in a German multicenter cohort study, our research uniquely explores the twofold compound impact of weather conditions on CAP admissions. Methodologically, we match medical data with daily high-resolution regional meteorological and air quality data, using logistic regressions to calculate the "Pneumonia Risk Increase Factor" (PRIF). This factor quantifies the heightened risk of CAP admissions due to weather and/or air quality conditions. Our study provides the first confirmation that it is the twofold compound effect of weather conditions, particularly their day-to-day changes, rather than singular conditions, which increase the risk of community-acquired pneumonia (CAP). Our study emphasizes the important role of air quality conditions over meteorological conditions in contributing to increased CAP admissions, with these weather conditions exerting their influence with a lag time of approximately three to four days. The implications of our findings extend to supporting at-risk individuals through protective measures and providing healthcare providers with valuable insights for resource planning during pneumonia-inducing weather conditions.

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Behind LOCAL REGENERATIVE FOOD MAP of ICELAND 2023 – Using Green Map tools and developing networks to visually reveal the env...

Title of presentation Behind LOCAL REGENERATIVE FOOD MAP of ICELAND 2023 – Using Green Map tools and developing networks to visually reveal the environmental value and state of food security.

Abstract Green Maps are locally created environmentally themed maps, linked by one of the world's first universal symbol sets (icons) and map-making resources provided by the non-profit Green Map System. Using the principles of cartography each Green Map plots the locations of a community's natural, cultural and sustainable resources to activate participation and change. Originated by eco designer Wendy Brawer (NYC, 1992), the movement evolved into an international cocreative process where art, design, spatial environmental concerns and solutions are at the forefront. Green Map System has grown steadily as a visualization tool utilized in unique ways to reveal local conditions. The periodic Icelandic engagement began in 2002. Adapting icons to local geographical conditions creates dialogues between the different groups the map will impact, and the mapmakers. Designing the 2023 Iceland Regenerative Food Map involved a transdisciplinary group and a focus group mobilising practitioners concerned about environmental qualities of food. This presentation highlights the mapping experience and exploring creative and valuable ways to visualize the transition in food production that holds promise for the future.

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Sharing private courtyards with the football playing public – challenges and potentials of new collaborative methods of estab...

Title of presentation Sharing private courtyards with the football playing public – challenges and potentials of new collaborative methods of establishing social infrastructure

Abstract Social infrastructure around common activities or interests may encourage new encounters and interactions, foster new relationships, and thereby contribute to bridging social capital. Therefore, it is a central element in developing socially just cities and neighbourhoods.

In recent decades, this conception has been applied to justify new enabling spaces to provide for meetings between different socio-economic groups. However, in dense cities, such as many European cities, available space is a scarce resource. Thus, innovative methods for collaboration on establishing shared infrastructure are needed.

In this presentation, we discuss the potentials and challenges of an initiative in the neighbourhood Nørrebro, in Copenhagen. Here, a local football association cooperates with the municipality and a social housing estate to establish a semi-public meeting place by giving public access to a private courtyard.

Using football as the 'common third', the aim of the new meeting place is to provide the spatial foundation for new social relations between kids and youth from 'inside' and 'outside' the social housing estate. Also, the meeting place is intended to be inclusive and attractive to both the residents from the social housing estate and to other citizens. Thus, contributing to the social infrastructure of both the neighbourhood and the wider city.

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Learning through the transitional landscapes of Tunnelfabrikken

Title of presentation Learning through the transitional landscapes of Tunnelfabrikken

Abstract The post-industrial landscape of Nordhavn is rapidly being developed. While innovative and sustainable ambitions are on the agenda, dominant logics of construction and consumption are still prevalent. Urgent needs for stronger resource-awareness when transforming our landscapes and built structures, call for better understanding transitional landscapes undergoing long-term development. With increasingly precarious conditions challenging reliance on modernisation, growth, and progress (see Tsing in Wright 2017, 35), critical-creative practices of responsibility and care are important to nurture.

Can rethinking the landscapes in transition, their materiality, human and non-human communities, help us re-direct, support and envision more resourceful, diverse and resilient paths for Nordhavnen? In spring 2024 the Urban Intervention Studio, (MSc studio course, UCPH) works with the Tunnelfabrikken area on Nordhavn. The interdisciplinary research & teaching environment brings together students (landscape architecture and neighbouring fields), academics within practice-based design research, natural and social science and anthropology, as well as art practices and local stakeholders. We explore through spatial and material experiments and themed workshops that challenge perceptions of 'the user', site understandings and future visions. This paper presents and analyses the didactical and collaborative setup, contributing to the field of interdisciplinary research & teaching concepts with potential to guide sustainable urban transformation.

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Unpacking the Airbnb economic ecosystem in Paris: professionalisation, regulation and adaptation strategies

Title of presentation Unpacking the Airbnb economic ecosystem in Paris: professionalisation, regulation and adaptation strategies

Abstract This presentation aims to better understand the professionalisation of Airbnb hosts in Paris. Since the mid-2010s, Airbnb has led to the emergence of a thriving economic ecosystem around short-term rentals, with the creation of countless businesses. However, very little is known about this ecosystem, which hides behind the online platforms and which often occupies a grey regulatory space. This paper presents a research project carried out when the City of Paris was implementing and enforcing the regulation of short-term rentals (2018). The research aimed to (1) shed light on this economic ecosystem by uncovering who are the multi-listing hosts who advertise more than 20 listings, (2) produce a typology of those companies, and (3) analyse their adaptation strategies to the new regulation, which challenged the business model of most of these companies. The presentation is based on an original material that followed two main steps: (1) identification and analysis of the profile of all these hosts and (2) semi-structured interviews with 7 of them to identify their business and adaptation strategies towards the new regulation.

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Wheels of change? Green cycle logistics for (De)Growth

Title of presentation Wheels of change? Green cycle logistics for (De)Growth

Abstract Cycle logistics services have emerged across Europe as a sustainable solution for delivering goods, aiming to mitigate emissions, and noise pollution, and enhance urban quality of life (de Oliveira et al., 2017; Schliwa et al., 2015). Malmö, with its favorable geography as a dense, flat, medium-sized city, has seen numerous initiatives with various forms of cycle logistics operations during the past decade. Drawing from interviews with cycle logistics and courier companies in Malmö, we investigate the inherent tensions between their business practices and sustainability perspectives. We explore thereby applications of cycle logistics between traditional cycling rooted in local and alternative economic models, and cycling logistics as "the last mile", integrated in a longer logistical chain of commerce, aligned with economic growth imperatives. Placing our work within the debates around degrowth, automobility, and vélomobility (Cox, 2023; Spinney, 2021), we contribute to understanding the complex dynamics between cycling, sustainability, and economic interests, urging for a nuanced approach that considers both speed, efficiency, and the local effects of cycle logistics.

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Spatial, social and ecological patterns of relational and intrinsic values of nature at a national level: results from a Dani...

Title of presentation Spatial, social and ecological patterns of relational and intrinsic values of nature at a national level: results from a Danish national PPGIS assessment

Abstract How people assign social-cultural values to nature areas is guided by subjective experiences and nature-based recreation. The spatial distribution of these values can be studied to provide insights for sustainable decision-making in nature management and policy. Using the framework of Nature's contributions to people (NCP), this study examined the spatial distribution of seven non-material, relational contributions at a national scale in Denmark. The study made use of data collected through a survey using public participation GIS (PPGIS), where over 9000 locations holding perceived social-cultural values were mapped by over 9000 unique respondents. By analysing data on the geographical distribution of mapped contributions, it was found that social-cultural values were clustered around densely populated areas and coastal areas. There was high resemblance in the spatial distribution between contribution categories, highlighting the multifunctionality of nature areas in Denmark. Statistically significant overrepresentation of all seven contributions were found in protected areas, revealing that protected areas play an important role in the supply of non-material contributions in Denmark. Furthermore, the study found both positive and negative correlations between contribution categories, indicating that the presence of certain contributions can either reinforce or reduce the likelihood of spatial synergy between contributions.

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The Role of Community Contribution to the Social Infrastructure: the Case of Riga

Title of presentation The Role of Community Contribution to the Social Infrastructure: the Case of Riga

Abstract In many Eastern European cities large housing estates (LHEs) comprise a significant part of the housing stock, thus support of the social infrastructure (SI) there is crucial. SI within close proximity of homes facilitates greater access for local people, it engenders a sense of place and ensures social inclusion. Places, such as green courtyards, parks, and playgrounds play an important role in making a good city. Large open green spaces are the characteristic features of majority of LHEs, often comprising 40-45 % of the entire open space. Still, limited financial and human resources, conflicting interests of various inhabitant groups, land ownership issues are often a barrier to provision of the SI.

In recent years there has been a growing interest from local people to engage in improvement of the public open space in LHEs and often those activities contribute to provision of new or improvement of existing SI. This research provides an overview of the role of community-led initiatives in the provision of social infrastructure in selected LHE in Riga. Results illustrate what kind of community support instruments exist and in which way community engagement contributes to social infrastructure and supports creation of a more qualitative and liveable urban environment.

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Advancing sustainable pathways with opportunities for a blue leap: exploring maritime spatial planning and regional strategy ...

Title of presentation Advancing sustainable pathways with opportunities for a blue leap: exploring maritime spatial planning and regional strategy for the blue economy of Estonia

Abstract The ongoing strategic planning for the blue economy in Estonia has emerged as a breakthrough arena of policy innovation engaging various governance levels and stakeholder groups. This underscores the pressing need to mainstream diverse agenda-setting, regulatory, and planning approaches aimed at fostering sustainability pathways and recognising the intricate land-sea. National agreements pertaining to marine and coastal resources exhibit a notable trend towards cross-sector synergies, often combined with regional specialisation, advocating for ecosystem-based management, and prioritising precautionary principles. While there is a growing trend towards devolution in governance and empowering local governments, the strategic sectors should be centrally. Uncertainty related to foreign direct investment, legal frameworks, planning delays and social acceptance with variety confronting rather high expectations poses potential risk phasing in new blue economy (offshore wind, aquaculture etc). This may lead to wicked complexities in development and higher business risk. Consequently, the advanced know-how and skills of marine and coastal resource managers are critical. Positioning the regional innovation system as a critical link is essential for advancing sustainable pathways, attracting investments, and revitalizing the local economic landscape. Positive interactions within this framework may culminate in a "blue leap" in the eastern Baltic Sea.

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Wonderful, Horrible, Life: Skateboarding and the Social Dynamics of an Urban Plaza

Title of presentation Wonderful, Horrible, Life: Skateboarding and the Social Dynamics of an Urban Plaza

Abstract This presentation sheds light on the social dynamics of urban space through skateboarding; a unique perspective not visible to ordinary passersby. The case is about a plaza occupied by substance abusers, weekend drinkers, and people crossing through. It is also a popular skate spot. Skaters have negotiated with the Parks Department to install skateable ledges and concrete ramps in the plaza. They have also partnered with the church and street-level NGOs to reach youth and vulnerable people. Skaters' relationship to the public space is controversial. They cause noise and potentially dangerous movements. However, on the plaza, they have decreased the social distance between different user groups. We show sociological examples about 1) spectacles of how plaza users mix, 2) civil inattention how skaters deal with substance users, and 3) indifference to cope with the social distress of the marginal users. To conclude, skateboarders can navigate and mediate socially confusing urban social life, and by this skill, they are able to make space safer and inclusive for various population groups. The case tells an encouraging lesson about using urban spaces together despite the vast social differences.

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Changing consumption at the nexus of practices: Disruption, connections and everyday practice geographies

Title of presentation Changing consumption at the nexus of practices: Disruption, connections and everyday practice geographies

Abstract Understanding how and why everyday practices with significant resource implications change is a question of critical relevance for sustainability transformations and with major implications for social justice. Over the past decades, social practice theories have emerged as a dominant framework in socio-cultural research on consumption and sustainability, but as of yet longitudinal experiential insights into dynamics of practice transformation have been limited, and critical gaps persist in understanding how dynamics at the nexus of practices shape everyday life over time.

In this paper, we develop a ‘practice geographies’ approach to analyse the spatial and temporal organisation of practices as a defining part of how practices develop and interconnect. From this starting point, we examine dynamics in the geographies of everyday consumption over time. Focusing on major societal disruption as a prism, we draw upon unique longitudinal qualitative data from households in Oslo, Dublin and Hanoi. This data collected at two critical moments – during the first covid 19 lockdowns (2020) and in the aftermath (2022) – offers a rare insight into the evolving landscape of everyday practices. Focusing on how some practices ‘bounced back’ while others did not, we pay particular attention on the changing geographies of the home in these processes.

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Perceptions of walkers and cyclists in the use conflicts

Title of presentation Perceptions of walkers and cyclists in the use conflicts

Abstract In recent years, cycling and walking have become increasingly popular in France, leading to a growing concern for public policy: conflicts between these modes of transport. Despite media attention, few studies have been conducted on this topic.

Previous studies have identified the criteria for objective walkability and accessibility (de Vos et al., 2023), as well as the various practices of cycling (Abord de Chatillon, Eskenazi, 2022). However, there is a lack of objective knowledge regarding the emotions and perceptions of pedestrians and cyclists, particularly during interactions with other users. Despite this, these perceptions likely contribute to usage conflicts, and identifying them can aid in better understanding these conflicts.

This presentation aims to explore the perceptions of walkers and cyclists regarding the interactions between these two modes of transport and the conflicts that arise. These perceptions were gathered through participant observation and interviews conducted in Lyon and Paris, France. These two conurbations have experienced a significant increase in readership since the COVID-19 pandemic, and there are political plans to continue this trend.

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Reading differently: a feminist geopolitical analysis of quasi-legal documents

Title of presentation Reading differently: a feminist geopolitical analysis of quasi-legal documents

Abstract This paper brings together insights from feminist geopolitics and critical refugee studies to offer an alternative reading of documents used in asylum adjudication. We focus on country-of-origin information (COI) reports, which include geographical and political knowledge about an asylum seeker's country of origin. These reports serve as part of the evidentiary basis upon which legal practitioners determine an asylum seeker's need for and right to protection. While COI reports are often seen as an objective source on human rights conditions, we seek to politicize these documents and the information they include. We draw from interviews with legal practitioners to establish the (geo)political significance of how these reports are used in asylum adjudication. Then, we analyze a 2022 US State Department report on El Salvador to draw attention to what is missing. We trace the invisibilized connections between different forms of violence, as well as the linkages between sites of displacement, refuge, detention, and deportation. In doing so, this paper brings together methodological concepts including feminist refugee epistemology, counter-topography, and the practice of reading against and along the grain. We argue that by reading differently we can begin to politicize quasi-legal documents and make visible the (geo)political nature of legal procedures.

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A manifesto for negotiating urban cemeteries as therapeutic multi-functional sites in evolving multicultural societies

Title of presentation A manifesto for negotiating urban cemeteries as therapeutic multi-functional sites in evolving multicultural societies

Abstract Cemeteries in urban contexts typically represent a confluence of public space and private grief and remembrance; the practical disposition of the dead and symbolic-sacred space; memorialisation and varying degrees of green space. As such, they serve different functions and needs within a community, resulting in different users and uses of these shared spaces: which may include religious or secular remembrance rituals; mutual support within the community of the bereaved (Francis et al 2005); site maintenance; eco-services and public leisure activities. Western European cemeteries are frequently seen as 'slow places', sites of continuity (House et al 2023), but inevitably some practices within and attitudes to cemeteries evolve over time (Rugg 2000; 2013), reflecting changing cultural and environmental discourses and changes in legislation which may respond to or catalyse those changes. Many Western cemeteries have potential as green spaces (Rae 2021) and for ecosystem services (McClymont and Sinnett 2021), however, they are more than parks (Skar et al 2018) and changes to cemetery management and practices can be controversial, especially for those who attribute the cemetery with sacred values (House et al 2023). Likewise, leisure uses can be deemed disrespectful to the dead and to particular mourners (Woodthorpe 2010; Nordh et al 2023). Drawing on project case studies from the UK and Ireland, and situated in conceptual debates on therapeutic environments (Bell et al 2018) and the politics of inclusive cemeteries (Maddrell et al 2021), this paper presents a manifesto for negotiating multiple functions and users of cemeteries, and transitions to greater environmental gains and/or wider community benefits, which requires communication and co-production between cemetery authorities and representatives of local communities, including diverse faith groups (Maddrell et al 2018; 2022), local planners (Beebeejaun 2021; McClymont 2018), and landscape architects (Wingren 2013).

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Batteries, populism, planning: A narrative U-turn in Hungary

Title of presentation Batteries, populism, planning: A narrative U-turn in Hungary

Abstract Large-scale battery manufacturing developments are accelerated by the European Union's drive for sustainable mobility transition. The Hungarian government has consolidated an electoral autocracy based on populist, far right values while actively downplayed the dangers of climate change. How come this regime now vigorously tries to attract large-scale battery manufacturing developments, and indeed aiming to become the world's fourth-largest battery manufacturing country? This discursive U-turn – communicated by the government as an effort to recreate the economic success of the automotive sector – faces massive opposition from various actors.

This paper focuses on Debrecen and the Contemporary Amperex Technologies Co. Limited [CATL] factory development. CATL is planning to build Europe's largest battery plant, which development exemplifies a battleground where opposing political factions and civilian resistance employ conflicting narratives regarding the alleged advantages and disadvantages of battery manufacturing. Concerns regarding the environment, planning and human rights are kept in the background. Through critical analysis of the discursive aspects of support for and resistance against the battery electric vehicle-led sustainable mobility transition, this paper sheds light on a complex socio-political landscape.

Given the urgency of climate change and the rise of far-right political parties across Europe, the paper explores a relatively under-researched aspect: the intersection of far-right thought and environmentalism for economic gain.

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Exploring relations between community gardens and cultural institutions in terms of diverse governance models: A case study o...

Title of presentation Exploring relations between community gardens and cultural institutions in terms of diverse governance models: A case study of Warsaw and Poznań, Poland

Abstract The ongoing academic debate shows that urban community gardening has diverse governance models with differing roles for governmental organizations, NGOs and local communities. However, the perspective of community gardens governed by the involvement of cultural institutions is rarely explored in academic research. This paper use a two-case study approach to explore the relations between community gardens and cultural institutions. We first identify initial governance models for selected case studies. Next, we try to identify any changes in these governance structures, depending on the different stages of garden development and determine the reasons behind them. Finally, we pose a somewhat provocative question: Should cultural institutions be part of community gardens governance structures at all? The results show these gardens are characterized by a changing governance model, shifting towards top-down model, in which community members have no influence on strategic decisions. The involvement of cultural institutions in running community gardens is not assessed in a solely positive light. Although it facilitates their longevity, at the same time may disempower their viability .

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Current trends and challenges of urban allotment gardens in the Czechia: from food production to climate change adaptation

Title of presentation Current trends and challenges of urban allotment gardens in the Czechia: from food production to climate change adaptation

Abstract Our paper examines the position and potential of urban allotment gardens in the Czechia, a post-communist country in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE). After a short historical excursion, we focus on current trends and challenges for the future of urban allotment gardening in the context of urban planning and local adaptation strategies to climate change. Based on a geographical analysis of selected urban allotments as an aggregated unit, we compared the proportion of food production, recreation, fallow and built-up areas. We identified key functions and spatial patterns of allotments and proposed four basic categories: predominant production, balanced production-recreation, predominant recreation with housing potential and climate adaptive. Each category contributes differently to food security, social, environmental factors and quality of urban life and have different implications for sustainability, urban governance and the future position of allotment gardening in cities. We conclude with a critical evaluation of the results and recommendations for municipalities on how to maintain and develop allotment gardens in the light of the challenges of the 21st century.

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Shopping streets, pedestrianisation strategies and embodied experiences

Title of presentation Shopping streets, pedestrianisation strategies and embodied experiences

Abstract This paper analyses how pedestrianisation strategies align with leisure shopping experiences in historical city centres. In so doing, the focus will be on the Oude Gracht street, an important shopping trajectory in the city centre of Utrecht. From the perspective of youth, usually intertwining walking and cycling when shopping in the city centre, embodied practices and experiences are investigated by means of both walk-along and seated interviews. The results reveal various urban atmospheres described by youth when walking and cycling along the Oude Gracht street – including, but not limited to, calm and quiet, hectic due to motorized traffic, crowded with pedestrians, and chaotic due to cyclists and strolling tourists. Combining the analysis of urban atmospheres - involving interplay and struggles between pedestrians, cyclists and motorised traffic - with an investigation of spatio-temporal pedestrianisation strategies in the city centre of Utrecht brings critical reflections on how the strategies align with various embodied shopping experiences and different types of walking practices along a shopping trajectory.

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Subtle violence in the landscape: institutional-legal and non-formal practices and narratives in the Euganean hills (North-eastern Italy)

Title of presentation Subtle violence in the landscape: institutional-legal and non-formal practices and narratives in the Euganean hills (North-eastern Italy)

Abstract This contribution examines the case study of the Euganean Hills (North-eastern Italy), a protected area currently being candidate as a UNESCO-MAB biosphere reserve. The analysis of both institutional-legal and non-formal practices and related narratives makes it possible to highlight a relationship between landscape and 'violence'. Albeit subtle or latent, this violence appears to act from three different perspectives: the first is inherent in the rhetoric that is violent towards the landscape as a concept, trivialising and brandishing it through institutional narratives linked to the idea of the 'beautiful landscape'; the second derives from the substantial denial of participatory processes, in the 'chase' for UNESCO recognition, sterilising the possibility of confrontation and potential contestation on the definition of landscape as heritage; the third concerns the outcomes of the first two on those who experience landscapes both daily and temporarily (thanks to proximity tourism). The contribution will put in evidence how, inside formally right processes, contradictions, conflicts, and unjust practices arise.

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Emerging landscapes – the dynamic landfills of Nordhavnen

Title of presentation Emerging landscapes – the dynamic landfills of Nordhavnen

Abstract As the urban development of Nordhavnen is unfolding so are the landfills that extend the perimeters of the site. Truckloads of soil excavated from construction grounds around greater Copenhagen enter Nordhavnen and contribute to a continuously growing and ever-changing landscape. In stark contrast to the 'shiny' new buildings, they take on the shape of raw surfaces and vast mounds. These landscapes are enormous and otherworldly, a 'terrain vague' not yet domesticated by urban development. They provide ground for a different kind of ecology in the form of vegetation, plant life and animal species. Over time they transition into new self-grown landscapes of lakes, plant environments, topographies and habitats. How can we comprehend these places as holding value as urban nature? Can they offer an alternative trajectory for Nordhavnens development as climate crisis urges us to stall urban growth? Can they provide a solution for urban ecology in the face of the green transition? Do they hold potential for different life forms and experiences for humans as well as non-humans?

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Autonomy as a multi-scalar network of solidarity: A feminist geopolitical perspective on alternative food networks in Turkey

Title of presentation Autonomy as a multi-scalar network of solidarity: A feminist geopolitical perspective on alternative food networks in Turkey

Abstract This study proposes a comprehensive examination of the role and dynamics of Alternative Food Networks (AFNs) in Turkey, particularly their contribution to the development of autonomous spaces underscored by community solidarity, through the lens of feminist geopolitics. AFNs in Turkey have been notably influenced by environmental activism, with pivotal movements such as the anti-hydroelectric power plant protests of 2011 and the Gezi Park protests in 2013 marking significant moments in the nation's history of civil disobedience. Set against the backdrop of Turkey's recent political shifts, these networks form a vibrant ecosystem that includes local producers, consumers, cooperatives, and other stakeholders, all aimed at offering sustainable alternatives to the prevailing neoliberal economic model. Despite these principles, AFNs in Turkey embody a richly diverse ecosystem. This diversity underscores the importance of avoiding a one-size-fits-all approach in assessing their roles and impacts. They are characterized by internal diversity and engage in continuous debates over their operational philosophies, demonstrating that these networks are not monolithic. Preliminary findings reveal how AFNs are pioneering spaces for ecological and feminist principles, fostering a culture of self-management, solidarity, and anti-market sentiment. By examining these networks' dedication to collaborative practices within specific geographical contexts, the research uncovers a nuanced portrayal of how AFNs not only pose a challenge to conventional market structures but also actively engender autonomous spaces through their intricate operations and interactions. This inquiry contributes a novel feminist geopolitics perspective to the discourse on autonomy, drawing upon and expanding the work of scholars like Naylor who investigate autonomy within everyday practices. In highlighting the efforts to embody autonomy, including the navigation of internal conflicts, this study enriches the understanding of autonomy, offering a unique lens through which to view the intersections of social, ecological, and feminist activism within Alternative Food Networks in Turkey.

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Place-based development initiatives through municipalities in North Sweden – institutional conditions and roles of change agency

Title of presentation Place-based development initiatives through municipalities in North Sweden – institutional conditions and roles of change agency

Abstract This paper discusses decentralized development work in sparsely populated regions in Sweden. The empirical study compares the development initiatives through six municipalities that have been part of a central state program targeting regions in the Northern part of Sweden. The analytical background of the discussions is an institutional approach. This means to recognize the role of formal institutional environment and arrangements with respect to regulations steering municipalities and organisational forms for the municipalities. Also, local geographical structures and informal local institutions such as networks and social capital are assumed to be important. The results illustrate that the investigated municipalities take various roles for the local development initiatives, including to be visionary, place leader and a community builder. The conclusion of the paper argues that decentralisation of development policy aligning with place-based ideal is a viable strategy under conditions when local agency has access to resources. For the municipalities in the study of this paper the access to resources for local development work is supported through a top-down program from the state to the local level.

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Dissecting the White Spatial Epistemology in Swedish Urban Planning


Title of presentation Dissecting the White Spatial Epistemology in Swedish Urban Planning

Abstract This presentation aims to critically examine the concepts of social sustainability in the context of anti-segregation urban development in Malmö, Sweden, particularly the consequences of instrumentalizing pro-diversity planning rhetoric for marginalized communities. It explores how the main concepts are understood and implemented by planners, and how they are experienced and constituted in everyday life by subordinated groups relying on an ethnographic study. The study reveals that the dominant model of urban development in Malmö, focused on social mixing and gentrification, has resulted in the displacement and marginalization of low-income housing, social centers, homeless individuals, and activist organizations in the Norra Sorgenfri area. This has led to formation of conditions that will produce a socially and functionally homogenous area dominated by more affluent social groups, deepening racialized socio-spatial inequalities and divides in the city. Deriving from this empirical work, the presentation will dissect the characteristics of socio-spatial epistemology of whiteness and color-blindness in contemporary socially sustainable urban development through the critical whiteness and black geographies theoretical lenses. In conclusion, it highlights the ethical and political urgency for urban scholars to critically analyze and reclaim the notions of diversity, safety, and connectivity in the pursuit of socio-spatial justice in cities.

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 Merging digital technologies and landscapes of emotions. The new geographies of forest protection groups and forest protectio...

Title of presentation Merging digital technologies and landscapes of emotions. The new geographies of forest protection groups and forest protection activism.

Abstract As forests and biodiversity decline at a worrying scale and pace globally, this is in different forms met by resistance from forest protection groups around the world. Focusing on boreal forests and forest protection activism in Sweden, the aim of this paper is to explore and discuss how forests become sites of emotions and values while merging the human and nonhuman, and proximity and distance, by the use of digital technologies. Using digital technologies helps forest protection groups identify and report species of specific grade of vulnerability in nature to protect from logging, and to learn and share knowledge and emotions in a new fusion of geographies. The paper is a pilot study and approach from posthumanism philosophy to elaborate on primarily autoethnographic empirical data from forest group outdoor activities and practice of digital technologies.

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Path bundles – conceptual advances towards sustainable path development

Title of presentation Path bundles – conceptual advances towards sustainable path development

Abstract Early conceptions of path dependency primarily focused on technological development and referred to restrained development options based on past development. Random events were understood to create favourable conditions for one option over another and the accompanying build-up of supporting infrastructure and associated skills was argued to make deviation costly. Sticking with this narrower definition implies that industries don't consist of one path only, but of several, interdependent technological paths. It also implies that as technologies are deliberately combined to form a product, the associated technological paths are combined, invariably creating 'path bundles' that co-evolve as they interdepend as part of the same industry. Arguably, the bundles themselves develop in a path dependent fashion. This is due to the characteristics of the involved technological paths, as well as the relations with the bundles' environs. 'Paths', herein, are aspatial, (technological) development paths and 'bundles' are associated combinations of technological and non-technological solutions and practices, some of which will be place dependent, some not. This refinement inherently emphasises the role of path interrelations, path co-evolution, and the multiregional nature of industrial development. It also opens new conceptual ground to link concepts of technological path creation with common concepts in the field of sustainability transitions.

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By Land and by Sea: Ethnographic segmentations of supply chain capitalism in Brazil and Chile

Title of presentation By Land and by Sea: Ethnographic segmentations of supply chain capitalism in Brazil and Chile

Abstract This paper examines two different segments of supply chain capitalism: soy production in Brazil and seaweed harvesting in Chile. It focuses on changing inter-capitalist relations through participant observation, ethnographic interviews, and sensorial multi-modal ethnography. The first case considers soy certification in the face of international pressure in Brazil. With the Soy Moratorium in 2009 and massive fires in the Amazon in 2019 leading to the European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR), I zoom in on far-right Brazilian soy farmers' responses to attempts to control their farming practices. I show that they present a nationalistic alternative to international soy regulation and how this impacts both their production and identity. The second case goes to Chile to consider shifts in Indigenous seaweed harvesters' inter-capitalist relations during infrastructural improvements that permit harvesting greater quantities. I show that seaweed elevators and a processing plant have facilitated both cooperation and competition between a women's harvesting syndicate and a men's divers syndicate. Taken together, the ethnographic segmentation of these two supply chains shows the temporal and spatially uneven effects of marine and agrarian supply chain capitalism, reordering how soy producers and seaweed harvesters make sense of their everyday lives and environments.

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Between smart housing and home: climate smart housing

Title of presentation Between smart housing and home: climate smart housing

Abstract Smart housing and its consequences for tenants is still a largely absent field in smart city and housing research. This article is situated at the intersection of critical housing studies, 'actual smart cities', and smart housing, the purpose of which is to enhance climate transition in housing. Departing from the EU-funded project GrowSmarter, 2015 – 2019 and a renovation project of a 1960s housing complex in southern Stockholm, the paper aims to illustrate how home is affected by climate-smart city discourses and practices. It presents the argument that the top-down approach of EU-funded climate-smart city interventions leave minimal space for different stakeholders to steer the process and limits the tenants' role and influence on the outcome. Knowledge about smart city brandings and innovations needs to include the material- and social outcomes, not least in the context of housing and people's homes. To be fruitful, the implementation of climate-smart solutions must acknowledge tenants' everyday challenges as well as housing companies' regulatory frameworks, which are of particular importance in relation to the current energy crisis.

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Exploring the synergy between artistic practices and academia in shaping the built environment: towards research-creation met...

Title of presentation Exploring the synergy between artistic practices and academia in shaping the built environment: towards research-creation methods

Abstract What is the utility of adopting non-traditional academic methods to investigate the transformation of society? What significance emerges when artists and researchers collaborate? Can this collaboration directly impact stakeholders who shape the built environment? This paper tackles these questions head on by delving into the intersections and divergences that exist between artistic practice and academic research. Findings are based on Data Stories, an ERC-funded project using research-creation to understand Ireland's planning and property data ecosystem. From the onset, academic researchers are partnered with artists representing different practices to make critical decisions around case study theme selection and stakeholder engagement to co-produce stories about and with data. This paper discusses two cases: 1) a private data company paired with a visual artist and writer and 2) a policy tool developed by civil servants paired with a performance artist. The differences between sectors and artistic practices are compared to highlight questions around the role of the artistic medium, its alignment to a specific sector, and impacts that the selection has on researchers and stakeholders. It also problematises the idea that we can easily or meaningfully identify what qualifies as co-produced knowledge among researchers, artists and stakeholders with different epistemologies and practices.

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Opportunism and new territoriality in place-based development practices in Sardinia, Italy.

Title of presentation Opportunism and new territoriality in place-based development practices in Sardinia, Italy.

Abstract The paper summarizes the research results on place-based policy implementation in Sardinia, Italy, over ten years. It focuses on Regional Strategy for Internal Areas (SRAI), starting from field research on the Unioni di Comuni (associations of Municipalities) in past years. Recently, a research project mapping the experience of supra-municipal territorial associations analyzed the relationship between local development projects and their administrative and planning capacity, focusing on governance and actors relations. The research deals with 20 territorial projects in advanced implementation status. Around 600 actions planned, allocating over 250 mln euros starting from 2017, are under desk analysis. The 20 territorial projects involve 33 associations of municipalities and 254 municipalities. A field analysis of each project with local public and private actors will follow.

Research questions include:

- “ideal” territorial dimension for local development at supra-municipal scale; SRAI relation with Italian governmental SNAI strategy in Sardinia;
- governance style of each local development project (role of local authorities; private actors involvement; leadership at community level);
- territorial imagination and strategies in practice (touristification, marketing of local heritage; issues of locally-based development capacity, both on the private and local administration level);
- health, education, and essential public services impact over local development

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3D Participatory Mapping for sustainability transformations in cities

Title of presentation 3D Participatory Mapping for sustainability transformations in cities

Abstract Sustainability transformations in cities gain increased attention due to the need of climate change adaptation. Green urban areas have the potential to mitigate negative effects of extreme events like urban heat waves or flooding and contribute to the well-being of city dwellers, especially vulnerable groups such as elderly or children. We present an approach of 3D participatory mapping in an online survey setting as technology for communicative urban planning. We use Maptionnaire as a survey tool because it allows spatial mapping along with survey questions, and apply a 3D base map for the mapping tasks. Our use case is set in Bochum, Germany, with a focus on urban public green spaces (PGSs) to identify characteristics of avoidance, visitation, and cooling elements of PGSs. Further, we focus on the usability of the 3D participatory mapping tool. We compare our results to a previous study in Bochum based on 2D maps with the same survey questions to evaluate the added value of 3D maps. First analyses of the responses reveal similarity in respondents' assessment of PGS activities and preferences. Further, we compare 2D and 3D mapping results and highlight usability aspects of 3D visualisations for place-based communicative urban planning.

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Toward an Aesthetics of Urban AI: The Case of iBuyers in the US Housing Market

Title of presentation Toward an Aesthetics of Urban AI: The Case of iBuyers in the US Housing Market

Abstract Cugurullo et al (2023: p. 13) highlight a key distinction between the smart city and urban AI as “an evolution of the presence of technology from being covert in smart urbanism to becoming overt in AI urbanism.” In other words, as urban AI systems gain degrees of autonomy they are also encountered, perceived, and engaged in new ways by urban residents. This presentation builds on this observation, developing a critical perspective on urban AI based around Rancière’s notion of aesthetics as the “distribution of the sensible.” Such an approach highlights the ways urban subjects are differentially situated in relationship to AI systems and thus come to experience and perceive these in distinct ways. Approaching AI as the contingent achievement of complex and shifting assemblages of human actors, algorithms, hardware, and socio-spatial contexts, questions of differential perception and experience are not peripheral but rather central to how AI functions. The presentation applies this theoretical take to the operations of iBuyer programs in the US, companies that use AI models to automate significant aspects of real estate speculation. It considers how differential aesthetic engagements come to influence the ways differentially situated individuals interact with, and thus become part of, emerging AI systems.

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What makes activism dormant? Lifecourse, tenure and rent matter

Title of presentation What makes activism dormant? Lifecourse, tenure and rent matter

Abstract Following the proliferation of occupied spaces in the years of austerity, Rome has become a well-researched case in urban studies and human geography debates about grassroots responses to neoliberal urbanism, changing urban economies and rent extraction, the financialization of housing and gentrification. However, the last few years have seen activism going dormant even in those neighbourhoods with a strong activist and contentious history such as the centrally located San Lorenzo, which is experiencing rising pressure on housing affordability and social sustainability due to new buildings for temporary dwelling and the action of short and medium term rent platforms. In order to frame what caused such change, the paper combines urban social movements scholarship, notably its emphasis on the favourable conditions for squatting and contentious practices to flourish, with interdisciplinary scholarship on the lifecourse, including the role of changing housing tenure, and political economy perspectives on urban regimes of accumulation. Therefore, it addresses questions such as ‘How does a rent-based value production regime affect the struggle for housing?’, ‘How do housing tenure and affordability impact on activist participation and, consequently, contentious projects’ survivability? How does “the biopolitics of urban condition” (Rossi, 2017) across the lifecourse shape new political practices (and subjectivities)?

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Urban sustainability politics between open promises and concrete alternatives: A case study of hope in Amsterdam

Title of presentation Urban sustainability politics between open promises and concrete alternatives: A case study of hope in Amsterdam

Abstract In this paper, we study efforts to transform Amsterdam's urban economy into a doughnut economy, an economic model positing the economy between a social foundation and an ecological ceiling. Through the case study of policies and strategies in Amsterdam, we elucidate how visions for hopeful, sustainable urban futures must grapple with capitalist socio-spatial relations and neoliberal notions of entrepreneurialism when they touch down in everyday practices and spaces.

By drawing on discussions on (the politics of) hope, we study urban sustainability politics as shaped by a dialectic between open promises and concrete alternatives. In this, policy orientations towards loosely defined hopeful visions of a sustainable, just urban economy may empower local communities. Yet, to understand the implications of sustainability transitions within uneven geographies, hope must be critical. To unfold this, we distinguish between abstract hope and critical hope. On the one hand, abstract hope depoliticizes sustainability transitions e.g., when mobilised to create a market for green innovation. On the other hand, critical hope repoliticizes such transitions if it enables the confrontation of capitalist socio-spatial relations from within the everyday. By drawing out these different operations of hope, we elucidate processes of de- and repoliticization in sustainability transitions.

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Taking Advantage of Collaborative Workspaces: Energy Transition Entrepreneurship and Their Ecosystems

Title of presentation Taking Advantage of Collaborative Workspaces: Energy Transition Entrepreneurship and Their Ecosystems

Abstract To build a new affordable, secure, and sustainable energy system, rural areas of the EU introduce self-sufficient strategies of energy communities, which transfer inhabitants from 'consumers' to 'prosumers'. It is a way of producing renewable, flexible, smart energy and decentralizing the supply system. It also brings social values and obligations to the local community through collective action initiatives. As innovative approaches, these energy communities act as social entrepreneurial businesses, sometimes promoted by local collaborative workspaces (CWS). This empirical study takes the cases of energy communities in rural Upper Austria that take advantage of CWSs, to understand the roles of CWSs in connecting the supportive resources from the entrepreneurial ecosystem to energy communities. Through the qualitative interviews with energy entrepreneurs and CWS managers, the entrepreneurial biography of energy communities and detailed functions of CWSs are revealed through a bottom-up perspective across entrepreneurship stages. The local connections, local trust, and visibility in and beyond the local community are the salient features in the energy entrepreneurial ecosystem. The results further reveal that energy communities bring development opportunities of the foundational economy in the local community, regarding the economic side of vibrant entrepreneurship and the social side of inclusion with secure and affordable necessities.

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Contradictory class locations in a debt-sustained housing market. The case of Sweden.

Title of presentation Contradictory class locations in a debt-sustained housing market. The case of Sweden.

Abstract The Swedish housing system has in the last three decades progressively abandoned its foundational principle of tenure neutrality in favor of homeownership. Access to homeownership means access to 'housing careers' and to the promise of wealth accumulation, contributing to widening social inequalities. This access is, however, almost always bound to debt. Swedish households are amongst the most indebted in Europe, due to mortgage volumes, with a loan-to-income ratio doubling in the past 20 years. Yet, indebtedness has so far not been considered as a social stratification factor in housing research. Echoing Kallin's (2020) argument that 'the generalization of indebtedness should reframe the way that class is theorized in contemporary debates on gentrification', I suggest that generalized indebtedness should reframe the way class is theorized in housing research tout-court. I propose a class analysis of Swedish housing that attempts to incorporate indebtedness as a determining factor in social stratification across and through housing. Aiming for a more nuanced and fluid understanding of class in a debt-sustained housing market, I draw on Wright's explanation of "contradictory locations within class locations" to highlight intersecting class mechanisms. I draw on ca 50 interviews with economically vulnerable mortgaged homeowners (precarious workers, retired, unemployed, single-parents).

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The next wave of colonisation or an historic opportunity to improve the socio-economic position of First Nations people? Barr...

Title of presentation The next wave of colonisation or an historic opportunity to improve the socio-economic position of First Nations people? Barriers, opportunities and policy options to increase First Nations Employment in Renewable Energy in Australia

Abstract The transition to renewable energy could improve the socio-economic position of First Nations peoples, or be another wave of resource development on their land which does little to address structural disadvantages. In Australia, a large gap in employment between indigenous and non-indigenous peoples has changed little in the past three decades across resource booms. Our study uses regional labour market analysis and qualitative fieldwork to examine the barriers, opportunities and policy options to achieve higher First Nations employment in 'renewable energy zones' – sites for large-scale investment in renewable energy in regional Australia with higher than average First Nations populations. Firstly, 'demand-pull' mechanisms such as mandatory employment targets are necessary as a catalyst for change amidst rapid development, but unintended consequences such as temporary, low-skill job creation need to be addressed. Secondly, training and workforce development initiatives need to be integrated within energy programs such as Indigenous housing retrofits. Thirdly, customised supply-side programs are required for transitions from school to education and training, unemployment to work and training to work to increase First Nations participation rates. Fourthly, 'fixing' demand and supply is not enough – building linkages within regional ecosystems between industry, training and employment bodies and First Nations organisations are required to create pathways into identified opportunities such as wind farm maintenance and solar farm construction.

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Social vulnerability in climate adaptation plans in European regions

Title of presentation Social vulnerability in climate adaptation plans in European regions

Abstract Vulnerable social groups bear disproportionate risks from climate change. Although vulnerability is a key concept in climate risk frameworks like IPCC, if and how it is included in adaptation planning practice varies a lot. We explore different understandings and use of social vulnerability in regional climate adaptation planning across 12 European regions, all case in the EU Regions4Climate project. Regional stakeholder perspectives have been gathered through a survey, regional climate plan reviews, and focus group interviews. Our findings highlight multifaceted approaches to addressing social vulnerability. This regards how vulnerability is (and is not) conceived, how it is expressed in plans and how vulnerable groups are addressed or involved. We find that initiatives and considerations are being taken at regional level, and the topic of social vulnerability in general receives attention, though not necessarily through established indicator frameworks, nor in direct relation to climate change planning. The indicator-based approach clearly makes its mark and is central to the argumentation of the stakeholders, promoting an understanding of social vulnerability as a function or outcome. The topic is new to many plans, planners and stakeholders, and seems challenging to grasp for adaptation at a regional level.

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The (Re)Making of Prostitution as Social and Urban Problem: State Professionals and Sexualised Spaces in Copenhagen, 1930s-1960s

Title of presentation The (Re)Making of Prostitution as Social and Urban Problem: State Professionals and Sexualised Spaces in Copenhagen, 1930s-1960s

Abstract In the 1930s' wake of the abolition of state-regulated brothels, widespread moral panic of "public women" being "inherently asocial" and "feeble minded" and consequently of urban decay and national degeneration lead the Copenhagen police to work with psychiatrists in cases of prostitution. This involved the implementation of mental health evaluations and eugenic measures such as sterilisation and institutionalisation. The following decades, social workers increasingly established themselves as a welfare state profession, challenged the medical-psychiatric understanding, and paved the way for the officialization of prostitution as a social and urban problem.

In this paper, I focus on the various state practices at the intersection of police, court, psychiatry and social work, and trace the microprocesses and gradual transformation of the categories of professional judgments leading to the overall (re)making of prostitution, the state, and the city. I rely on Pierre Bourdieu's trialectic of social, symbolic and physical space to explore the intertwined relations between social class, categorisation and urban space. Specifically, I apply his notion of bureaucratic field, conceiving the state as a splintered field of professionals endowed with the socio-symbolic power to craft prostitution as a social and urban problem. Drawing on a varied archival source material consisting of police records and legal acts (including mental health evaluations), media debate and official policies, and biographical data, the analysis explores how professional forms of judgments contribute to the (re)making of prostitution as an official social-urban problem.

The paper delves into the professional struggles involved in (re)making prostitution, the state, and the city, and sheds light on the complex dynamics of state practices and their interplay with processes of marginalisation, stigmatisation, and segregation.

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Towards sustainable economies in old industrial regions: structural legacies in Hauts-de-France and Saxony

Title of presentation Towards sustainable economies in old industrial regions: structural legacies in Hauts-de-France and Saxony

Abstract Building on the legacies of profound economic restructuring and being confronted with the imperatives of the EU Green Deal, this paper explores how these two old industrial regions implement their current aspirations for a comprehensive and 'green' transformation.

After a disruptive restructuring in the 1980s/90s when historically dominating coal mining and textile industry in Hauts-de-France phased out and were mainly replaced by other monolithic sectors (automotive; transport and logistics), the region's current transformation process relies on circular economy and e-mobility approaches ('battery valley'). Similarly, Saxony underwent a first disruptive transition in the aftermath of 1989 when traditional industries collapsed and large-scale investments (e.g. automotive sector) were mobilized through the dynamics of Germany's reunification. Today, Saxony is pioneering regional adaptation to the phasing out of lignite mining and related fossil industries.

The paper discusses structural legacies and path dependencies along these two respective phases, and reveals both similarities and differences between the two regional contexts. In particular, it delves into the specific role of the State as (entrepreneurial) change agent in this profound transition process, including the role of public development banks (EU/national/regional) in the current transformation.

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“This big shadow we need to turn into light” - How social entrepreneurs moralize commodified care

Title of presentation “This big shadow we need to turn into light” - How social entrepreneurs moralize commodified care

Abstract Feminist scholars such as Nancy Fraser emphasize that we are currently experiencing a crisis of care: an aging society and the need for every adult of working age to perform paid work is leading to an increasing need for care, with less time. The outsourcing and commodification of private care responsibilities such as cleaning or childcare is a market-based attempt to solve this problem. Previously the workers who perform these tasks in private households, predominantly migrant women, often remained invisible. However, we are seeing increasing public attention to the wider societal significance of their work and, partly, their precarious working conditions. This shift of discourse is shaped by social entrepreneurs who offer and mediate care work. They often emphasize the societal value of their ventures, pledging to bolster emancipation and integration. Drawing on research by feminist geographers on the commodification of care work and the literature on moralized markets, we examine how social entrepreneurs in Switzerland frame the societal value of commodified care services and critically consider the effects of this visibility. We discuss the extent to which their narratives have the potential to go beyond a mere feel-good ethical entrepreneurialism contribute to improving working conditions in the care sector.

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Roadmaps and action in neoliberal times of climate policy - a discourse analysis

Title of presentation Roadmaps and action in neoliberal times of climate policy - a discourse analysis

Abstract The ongoing climate change is requiring major changes from not only organizations and companies, but from everyone. The dependence on the fossil economy is however deeply intertwined with the contemporary western industrialized societal identity. It does not only provide the storyline of the features of the modernist society but engage on a deeper level in which individual identities, cultural attributes and the foundation of what is counted as progress, independence and development is at stake. While the present climate changes demand quite disruptive transitions which from an Anthropocene perspective, would overthrow much of what we know about development and progress, present policy making is not willing to sacrifice the gains from continuing using conventional technologies. In this presentation the outcome of a discourse analysis on policy documents of the road maps that has been developed to ensure that the Swedish industry is adapting to the climate crisis and interview with people engage with sustainable development is scrutinized from a critical tech-fix perspective. This goes handy with the dominant neoliberal ideas on how to solve societal issues, which might undermine the need for the much-needed engagement among society's inhabitants and the need for everyone to take action.

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The strategic governance of urban design in Swedish municipal planning

Title of presentation The strategic governance of urban design in Swedish municipal planning

Abstract In 2018, the Swedish parliament approved a national policy for architecture and design. The goal of the policy is to contribute to a sustainable, equitable and less segregated society in which everyone gets the opportunity to influence the shared living environment. Due to the municipal planning monopoly, Swedish physical planning is highly decentralized and consequently, the responsibility for realizing much of the policy falls on the municipalities. This is often expressed through municipal architectural policy conceived to influence planning and development. However, the municipal planning process is about land use, not architecture or design. Thus, municipal goals and visions connected to architecture primarily operates on a strategic level where cooperation with private developers and political consensus become of key importance to turn the conceived spaces of policy into an actual urban environment.

This presentation reports from ongoing work on how municipal architectural policy is expressed, governed, practiced, and implemented, in (or next to) the Swedish municipal planning system. Thus, it explores in what ways architectural policy can be perceived as strategic, how it is produced in the junctions of formal and informal power and in what ways, architectural policy contributes to the (sustainable) production of urban space.

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Prioritizing links in bicycle network plans

Title of presentation Prioritizing links in bicycle network plans

Abstract Many cities worldwide are currently announcing extensive bicycle network development plans. However, the links in most of these plans are not ordered, and it is unclear how to prioritize them to reach a functional network as fast as possible. We developed an algorithm that optimally prioritizes all links in a given bicycle network plan to ensure an optimal build-up of functional network structures, identifying the best time-ordered investment plan for the development budget. We tested our growth algorithm on several urban toy graphs with realistic network topologies. We also acquired manually drawn bicycle plans and reconstructed the corresponding network in a graph format when data was available. This effort led to the construction of an open dataset of multiple bicycle network plans. Our results show a trade-off between competing indicators. As cities want to prioritize certain aspects of their bicycle network based on ethical and political choices, having a growth order optimized on a specific metric can lead to better results sooner on the selected indicators, increasing the overall benefits of the built infrastructure. The presented algorithm is open and modular in order to fit the precise local needs and data granularity.

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STAGE - Stay healthy through ageing

Title of presentation STAGE - Stay healthy through ageing

Abstract This contribution takes place in the framework of a Horizon Europe project called “STAGE – Stay healthy through ageing”. One goal of this multidisciplinary project is to develop an interactive cross-Europe atlas of healthy ageing, built according to quantitative data and supplemented with participatory data. This tool will help seniors and decision-makers to identify territorial priorities in terms of ageing well, at both European and local levels. Our role in this project is to carry out participatory activities at local level, in Wallonia (Belgium). Firstly, face-to-face participatory workshops will be organized with seniors and their close caregivers to enrich an initial neighborhood healthy ageing index proposed by our project partners based on statistical and geographical data. A representative sample of participants will (i) evaluate, select, and weight the components of the index, (ii) co-design and add a qualitative layer to the index with seniors’ experiences and perceptions of their territory, and (iii) make recommendations for the development an interactive online atlas. Secondly, we will set up two healthy ageing participatory observatories using participatory methods and tools specially designed to harness the territorial intelligence of older people. Those observatories will ensure the online atlas will be updated beyond the duration of STAGE.

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From the sidewalks to the clouds: The hard urban corporealities the Janus-faced digital growth machine

Title of presentation From the sidewalks to the clouds: The hard urban corporealities the Janus-faced digital growth machine

Abstract Urban project agendas proposed by big digital corporations such as Quayside in Toronto continue to receive scholarly attention not only for their dazzling dreams of futuristic urban worlds or how to create innovative digital products fit for purpose, but also for critical issues such as modes of public oversight, the balance of power between public and private institutions, or the technocratic governance processes (Raco/Savini 2019) that constitute the 'digital growth machine' (Rosen/Alvarez León 2022). There were many lessons from Quayside that demonstrated what happens when the big digital firm gets involved. But the dazzling digital city was only one face of Janus. The other face consists of the hard spaces: data centres (the resource-intensive infrastructural support structures of digital industries), and the urban land use corporealities that prevail after the big company leaves (if it ever arrived at all). These confirm how the digital growth machine is Janus-faced and constitutes new patterns of uneven capital accumulation with which states must reckon.

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Title of Presentation Exploring Travel Behavior with Street Closures and Shared Mobility in Cycling - An Agent-Based Simulati...

Title of presentation Title of Presentation Exploring Travel Behavior with Street Closures and Shared Mobility in Cycling - An Agent-Based Simulation Study

Abstract This study investigates how street closures and shared mobility options impact travel behaviour and urban transport dynamics in Ghent, Belgium, focusing on car traffic redistribution, modal shifts, and neighbourhood disparities. Using an agent-based modelling approach, we explore how changes to the transport network influence daily travel patterns, aiming to shed light on the complex relationship between street closures, shared transport modes, and urban mobility. For this purpose we used travel diaries from a sample of the population to feed the agent-based model to simulate multiple hypothetical scenarios. Our findings reveal a modest reduction in car traffic across most neighbourhoods after street closures. While carsharing initiatives exacerbate shifts towards car usage, highlighting the need for nuanced policy considerations, bikesharing options facilitate a transition towards cycling, alleviating car traffic burdens. Furthermore, street closures prompt changes in traffic routes, directing cars towards specific thoroughfares within the city. Despite these trends, the precise effects on walking and public transport usage remain unclear, underscoring the complexity of urban transport dynamics. This study advocates for systematic planning and interdisciplinary approaches to address the multifaceted challenges posed by street closures, advocating for the integration of qualitative analysis to deepen our understanding of travel behaviour nuances.

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Social infrastructures of New Urban Economies. Reflections from a comparative research project in Italy.

Title of presentation Social infrastructures of New Urban Economies. Reflections from a comparative research project in Italy.

Abstract This paper explores social infrastructure (SI) in the context of new urban economies (NUEs) – diverse, innovative economic activities happening in a specific urban system that offers a bouquet of physical and digital infrastructures in which consumers, businesses, and institutions interact, giving rise to initiatives that meet new lifestyles and sustainable consumption practices.

The paper is based on ongoing national research mapping and critically assessing NUEs in the food, mobility, and care sectors in different Italian metropolitan areas. Adopting a relational and new materialist approach, we suggest the utility of thinking of SI as configuring through and constituting place-based relational ecosystems emerging at the intersection of urban-bound lifestyles and platforms in light of the ongoing digital transformation. Whilst context-specific, these relational ecosystems are also intrinsically multiscale. Functioning as social, physical and digital infrastructures, NUEs are 'flexible urban arrangements' acting as a 'new form of collective or public infrastructure' (Richardson, 2020, p. 460) that coordinates networks of economic actors and institutional dynamics.

We argue that understanding how SI contributes to the generative mechanisms of NUEs in different local contexts is key to responding to increasing demands for social inclusiveness, accessibility, and sustainability of urban life in a fast-changing scenario.

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Mapping residents' wishes for urban green areas in Nordhavn using AI

Title of presentation Mapping residents' wishes for urban green areas in Nordhavn using AI

Abstract To create a green and sustainable neighbourhood, and a neighbourhood for all is among the core themes of the ongoing development in Nordhavn, Copenhagen (By & Havn, 2023). With access to 6000 data points reflecting current residents' visions for green spaces in the area, the paper addresses the question of how urban nature should be designed to meet the long-term needs of future residents from diverse backgrounds. Data collection participants mapped various types of urban nature, from wild nature and well maintained lawns to sports facilities, qualifying their response with description and reasoning. Whilst gaining an understanding of the wishes for different types of nature, demographic differences must be taken into consideration. What demographic values have the strongest effect on citizen preferences? How do their narratives differ and how does that relate to existing policies? The study introduces a Machine Learning approach to explore the intersection of social, cultural, and natural values in inclusive urban greenery planning.

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When your landlord is your labour union: Building cooperatives, labour unions, and transformations in the Finnish 'social' re...

Title of presentation When your landlord is your labour union: Building cooperatives, labour unions, and transformations in the Finnish 'social' rental sector

Abstract In 1969, the Finnish labour unions and so-called 'progressive' consumer cooperative movement established a new building cooperative with the Finnish name Valtakunnallinen vuokratalo-osuuskunta, or VVO for short. Its purpose was to provide non-profit rental housing to its working-class members. On the back of significant state housing subsidies, over the following decades VVO grew into one of the largest providers of social rental housing in Finland. Since the late 1990s however, VVO has undergone significant changes and departed from its original non-profit ethos. Today, VVO is known as Kojamo, a listed company on the Nasdaq Helsinki stock exchange since 2018. Kojamo is Finland's largest private housing investment company and owner of residential properties. Many of the properties in its portfolio are old, VVO non-profit rental units that have been transferred to the private market. Interestingly, local labour unions are still some of Kojamo's biggest shareholders, alongside pensions companies and global investors. Through a qualitative document study supplemented with expert interviews, this paper addresses the call for papers by first, investigating the case of Kojamo as an example of the privatization of social rental housing units and their change into financial assets traded on global financial markets. And second, through highlighting the changing nature and roles of labour unions in such processes, this paper provides new perspectives on the intersecting social and financial rationalities of labour and housing struggles within the context of a financialised social housing sector.

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Unpacking refugee integration governance: A view from Scotland

Title of presentation Unpacking refugee integration governance: A view from Scotland

Abstract The governance of refugee integration is usually discussed at either the national or the local scale. Occasionally, researchers have questioned the influence of national politics on how integration is managed by locally – yet this work has tended to focus on published materials and does not account for unpublished interactions and decision-making between different scales of government. This paper seeks to present the governance of refugee integration as a contested issue undergoing regular negotiation, dominance and resistance. The paper draws on fieldwork that took place in Scotland before and during the Russian invasion of Ukraine, which necessitated an emergency response from all levels of government in the United Kingdom.

Scotland represents a unique context for the study of refugee integration governance due to its complex policy landscape. While immigration is a reserved matter for the UK Government, the Scottish Government has considerable devolved powers regarding refugee integration. Together with the Scottish Refugee Council and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, the Scottish Government has also published two iterations of the New Scots Refugee Integration Strategy – with a third expected in Spring 2024. Meanwhile, Scotland's 32 Local Authorities are at the forefront of delivering humanitarian protection programmes and refugee integration initiatives.

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Swedish Eldercare Housing as a Field of Innovation: A Case Study in Focken, Umeå

Title of presentation Swedish Eldercare Housing as a Field of Innovation: A Case Study in Focken, Umeå

Abstract This paper investigates the elasticity of eldercare housing as a building typology. It does so by tracing the historical development of this type in Focken, a neighborhood in Umeå, northern Sweden, known for its tradition as a residence for the city's eldercare. Its purpose is to develop an understanding of how eldercare housing transforms concerning spatial, material, and cultural structures.

Focused on purpose-built eldercare housing designed on the site between 1899 and 2023, the paper delves into the motivations behind the projects and their reflection in architectural design. Through the analysis of the evolution of one of the houses from the 1940s to the present, drawing on archival materials, architectural drawings, and ethnographic studies, the study sheds light on: a) the contextual evolution of eldercare housing in Sweden; b) the project's grounding in legislative, typological, institutional, and other cultural factors; and c) how these influence innovation.

The paper reflects on the subject of innovation in architectural practice, acknowledging diverse forms of agency including buildings, documents, humans, and non-humans, and emphasizes the integration of physical, mental, and collective capacities in design. In so doing, it seeks to explore the potential of eldercare housing as a building typology and reimagine the architectural discourse as one that integrates these aspects into its production.

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Aligning and Tinkering: street experiments and the coordination of maps and road signs in making livable streets

Title of presentation Aligning and Tinkering: street experiments and the coordination of maps and road signs in making livable streets

Abstract Street experiments have become a common feature in urban environments that temporarily shift the use of the urban texture. While appreciated by traffic planners and landscape architects they require a delicate dance to be realized - in between the planned and the lived. Through an ethnographic study of streets experiments in Stockholm, this paper focus on the "in situ" realization of the proposed plans as the street is transformed in the middle of the night. In particular I focus on the materialities that are put into use as part of the transformation. First, the planner and the contractors use maps to align the plan to reality - here situated adjustments are made as the furniture and signs are implemented. The planners and contractors used two types of maps in coordination. The first aligning the juridical street, by lifting in signs and concealing others - often with black bin bags. The second map proposed the location of flowers and urban furniture that was used to transform the space. Inspired by Monika Büscher's (2006) seminal article on architects use of maps in construction, the paper highlights the coordination between different maps, the street, the urban furniture and materialities such as signs and bin-bags to make the experiment in to fruition. By looking at the details of aligning and tinkering with the street and its materialities a better understanding of the street experiments as a practice and a performance can be obtained.

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Public Service Provision by Municipalities in Rural Areas of the Baltic Sea Region: the Role of Decentralisation and Fiscal T...

Title of presentation Public Service Provision by Municipalities in Rural Areas of the Baltic Sea Region: the Role of Decentralisation and Fiscal Transfer Systems

Abstract The provision of public services is often more expensive in rural areas than in urban agglomerations due to lower population density and greater distances. At the same time, economically lagging rural municipalities have a lower tax revenue potential. This results in specific challenges regarding the provision of services, particularly for small and medium-sized towns in rural areas that provide public services for the population in an extensive surrounding area in addition to their own inhabitants. These challenges are met in practice by financial transfers and various forms of assigning responsibility for these tasks to different levels of the public administration. Against this background, the article describes the situation of municipal provision of public services in the countries of the Baltic Sea region and analyses associated problems in greater depth using the example of German regions. Finally, innovative measures that can lead to an improvement of the situation and prevent the emergence of left-behind places are discussed. The research for this paper is part of the Interdisciplinary Centre for Baltic Sea Region Research (IFZO) at the University of Greifswald.

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Revealing cross-regional patterns: the role of landscape in shaping positive perception

Title of presentation Revealing cross-regional patterns: the role of landscape in shaping positive perception

Abstract By analysing descriptions of pleasurable experiences, we can assess the benefits of non-material services (Cultural Ecosystem Services), such as recreation, aesthetics and spirituality. By linking experiences to landscape, we explore relationships between well-being and landscape properties. Our approach, using texts written for other purposes, reveals preferences based on people's willingness to write about a place and their word choices. Our study focused on UK national parks, using a crowdsourced collection of more than 6 million descriptions. We use emotion lexicons to detect descriptions containing positive words. We analyse each description by applying natural language processing methods and finite-state machines to detect positive statements. We obtain phrases, for example, "the lush greenery of hills" or "the tranquil waves of the ocean". We, then, use word embeddings to encode and classify patterns (e.g., activities: picnic; aesthetics: clarity; features: hill; places: spot; time: day) inside and outside natural areas and land cover regions, answering questions about how positive properties contribute to analysing spatial patterns, and how effectively they describe values across regions? Initial results suggest that positive descriptions are more common inside national parks, and they associate different properties according to the landcover composition of each park.

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The Influence of Public Space on the Social Well-being of the Elderly: A Theoretical Framework for Aging in Place

Title of presentation The Influence of Public Space on the Social Well-being of the Elderly: A Theoretical Framework for Aging in Place

Abstract The global increase in the elderly population poses a significant urban challenge, prompting cities to adapt their environments and services for aging in place (AIP). In addition, research on the social well-being of the elderly is essential since social isolation and loneliness put the social well-being of the elderly at risk in many cities. Public spaces, crucial for social interaction and physical activity, play a pivotal role in promoting AIP and social well-being. Due to the importance of public space, studying and planning the neighborhood environment for AIP and the social well-being of the elderly requires collaboration across multiple disciplines. This study seeks to establish a theoretical framework by synthesizing perspectives from urban studies, psychology, sociology, and nursing through a literature review. My argument is that for AIP, social well-being should be high at both individual and social levels and that various physical characteristics of public space determine its quality and affect the social well-being of the elderly. Through discussions with experts from various fields, the framework can be developed to facilitate research into the relationship between older people and the environment and guide the design of neighborhood environments and public spaces conducive to AIP.

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Nordic (un)liveability: challenging ideologies of urban development

Title of presentation Nordic (un)liveability: challenging ideologies of urban development

Abstract In his book 'Shaking Up the City', Tom Slater (2021) warns of the allure of 'fashionable concepts and policy buzzwords' in urban research – such as resilient cities, regeneration and placemaking - and asserts the need to wed epistemological critique to social critique, so as to 'call into question the prefabricated problematics and imposed categories of urban policy'. This presentation outlines ways in which the concept of liveability might be so interrogated, with specific reference to the Nordic region where it has been central to much urban development and governance while also being a strong component of the international profile and circulation of its urban planning, design and architecture. Approaching liveability as an ideological construct, it asks how is it defined and in whose interests? What can be learned from some of its contested histories and geographies? How can genealogies of the term and associated positions unsettle or challenge their common framings? What alternative senses of liveability exist or may be developed?

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From Vulnerable Neighborhoods to Financial Imaginaries - The Case of Place-Based Social Impact Investing in Sweden

Title of presentation From Vulnerable Neighborhoods to Financial Imaginaries - The Case of Place-Based Social Impact Investing in Sweden

Abstract In the wake of the 2008 global financial crisis a new ‘movement’ within the field of financial capitalism and the management of social inequalities has emerged: the promotion and growth of ‘social impact investing’ (SII) markets. SII refers to investments made with the intention to generate measurable social impact alongside financial return and has in practice generated a great variety of organizational and financial arrangements or ‘tools’ around the globe, such as social impact bonds (SIBs), social bonds and sustainability-linked loans. What unites these different arrangements is the belief that social returns can occur alongside financial returns. SII can thus, on the one hand be seen as a continuation of decades of privatization and deregulation in the organization and delivery of welfare services, while also signaling a reordering of the relation between the public and private sector: financial markets, rather than displacing the public sector, are here to be integrated into public service delivery through the reconstitution of social challenges as financial challenges and vice versa. As somewhat of an offshoot from green financing, this ‘movement’ is also evident in Sweden: there is a growing body of private, public and third sector actors advocating for, or facilitating, the growth of a Swedish SII market. One geographical target of SII -discursively and through already launched initiatives- are so-called ‘vulnerable neighborhoods (utsatta områden), i.e. neighborhoods that the police has classified as ‘at risk’ regarding the (potential) spread of criminal activity and typically characterized by a high density of racialized populations. This paper discusses the complex geographies of SII in Sweden. Tracing the actors, discourses and practices of place-based SII, I seek to contribute to theoretical and empirical debates on this novel form of social policy financialization, its discursive and material geographies and the intersections between financial markets, territorial stigma, and race.

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Queer migrations and (dis)locating pride in Helsinki and Copenhagen

Title of presentation Queer migrations and (dis)locating pride in Helsinki and Copenhagen

Abstract In recent years, geographic research on queer spaces and communities has been marked by interventions emphasizing the importance of place, context, and specificity, set against both a-contextual narratives of queer recognition and top-down critiques of normative regimes. At the same time, important work has attended to the translocal character of queer spaces, including attention to both the trajectories of queer migrants, refugees, and exiles, as well as the implication of queer communities within broader racial-colonial geographies that create many of the problems that (queer) people on the move face. Bridging these conversations, this research explores how LGBTQIA+ spaces in Helsinki and Copenhagen are being remade by and in response to the political claims of migrant and minoritized queer people. In this sense, it examines queer spaces as sites, simultaneously, of hospitality and bordering, and, crucially, as sites of claims- and place-making by migrant and minoritized queer people. Focusing on political claims and narratives articulated at and in relation to public pride events in both cities, the paper examines moments where a politics of migration emerges within pride events and analyzes how migrant and minoritized queer critiques of mainstream pride events contest and reshape the place of pride in Helsinki and Copenhagen.

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The future of public healthcare?: The intermingling of digital platform work and public healthcare systems

Title of presentation The future of public healthcare?: The intermingling of digital platform work and public healthcare systems

Abstract Healthcare platform companies (HPC) through which healthcare professionals provide online consultations with customer-patients via an app have surged in recent years. As these for-profit companies expand, they are concurrently expanding marketization, privatisation and financialization of one of the essential infrastructures of social reproduction; the public healthcare system. HPCs represent a paradigmatic case of how the platform economy intertwines with the public sector. This intertwinement gives rise to a range of issues relating to issues of social reproduction at scales from the individual, to the collective of healthcare professionals and their interest organisations and trade unions, as well as the public healthcare system itself. This presentation explores how the move of healthcare professionals from the physical clinic to the digital meeting room transforms their work and foregrounds workers as active geographical agents in remaking the healthcare landscape. We do so to highlight how understanding the transformations in the organization of the labour that upholds the infrastructure of social reproduction is vital for a politics that can imagine collective organizing among public sector workers and protecting public healthcare services and in the end the broader welfare state.

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The Dynamics of Repression: Insights into State-Enacted Violence from the Frontline Security Bureaucracy

Title of presentation The Dynamics of Repression: Insights into State-Enacted Violence from the Frontline Security Bureaucracy

Abstract The historical trajectory of the Turkish state has demonstrated a consistent tendency to employ a range of repressive and assimilation-oriented policies, often in conjunction with military strategies, when dealing with the Kurdish population – the largest ethnic minority in Turkey. Scholars in this domain have significantly contributed to a nuanced analysis of state-driven violence, underscoring its alarming implications for human rights. Nonetheless, a notable limitation within these investigations lies in their propensity to conceptualize state violence as a taken-for-granted phenomenon. Such an approach overlooks intricacies, complexities, and various underlying motives behind the state-enacted violence while emphasizing its manifold racist and discriminatory consequences. This study challenges such oversights by treating state violence as a critical analytical lens and delves into the precipitating factors of such aggression. Emphasizing the perspectives of those who enforce these policies, namely police and military officers, this research scrutinizes the prejudices and fears that drive state violence and how it is perceived and rationalized by security forces. This nuanced approach not only unveils the complexities of security bureaucracy but also deepens our understanding of how geographies of violence are initially formed.

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The Practice of Everyday Citizenship in Nickel Extraction: The Case of Morowali, Central Sulawesi, Indonesia

Title of presentation The Practice of Everyday Citizenship in Nickel Extraction: The Case of Morowali, Central Sulawesi, Indonesia

Abstract Nickel has emerged as one of the most crucial minerals for renewable energy technologies particularly as material for battery. The increasing demand of nickel over the past decade has led to nickel booms in producing countries. In Indonesia, this expansion of nickel production is driven by the government ambition to gain economic benefit from the increasing global demand of energy transition minerals for national development and industrialization. However, the expansion of nickel production has created social and environmental challenges including environmental degradation, land dispossessions, and human rights violations. This paper discusses the everyday politics of local communities affected by mining activities, focusing their resistance, renegotiation, and reclaiming their rights to land and resources. Using the empirical data from Morowali District, Central Sulawesi, one of the main nickel producing areas in Indonesia, we elaborate the practice of citizenship among local communities in the area which is designated by the government as the center of nickel downstreaming. This research suggests that citizenship in the energy transition is defined and practiced by different actors, resulting in conflicts, tensions, and negotiations.

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In the North, who is cold and thirsty after a storm? Storm Arwen and the hydrosocial dynamics in Northeast Scotland.

Title of presentation In the North, who is cold and thirsty after a storm? Storm Arwen and the hydrosocial dynamics in Northeast Scotland.

Abstract In the climate crisis, compound extreme weather events that pose challenges for water access are becoming usual occurrences. However, in the global North, reliable access to safe water is usually taken for granted in many places. This contribution aims to discuss the patterns that shape the reliability of access to water in the context of a compound event that severely impacted Scotland in November 2021, when Storm Arwen battered the Northeast region with gales of almost 100km. It left millions of trees down causing disruptions to the power network. Without electricity, water could not be pumped, causing interruptions in the supplies that lasted days for many decentralised supplies. The research builds on the analysis of the digital footprint and news content produced during the extreme weather event, the reports that investigated what had happened and resulting adaption plans, and the testimony of people who lost access to water and the stakeholders who were involved in the response to the crisis. This study highlights underlying inequalities in the ability to respond to the crisis and further adapt. Differences are shaped by individuals' social and economic conditions and wider geographical and governmentality assemblages, thus describing differentiated hydrosocial dynamics across the rural-urban divide.

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Planning for sustainable urban transformations – a matter of competence and agency

Title of presentation Planning for sustainable urban transformations – a matter of competence and agency

Abstract In recent years, academic debates about sustainability transformations have increased. Some argue that we are witnessing a 'transformative turn' in urban studies (Hölscher & Frantzeskaki, 2021). The literature focus on the importance of local actions and the roles of cities and governance in sustainability transitions (Bulkeley, Castán Broto, & Edwards, 2015), including specific types of experiments such as urban laboratories and urban living labs (Evans & Karvonen, 2014), urban testbeds (Eneqvist, 2022), and has also emphasized urban transformative capacity (Wolfram, 2016; Wolfram, Borgström, & Farrelly, 2019).

What has received less attention in relation to urban transformations is the role urban planners play and the new competencies that can be argued are necessary to manage these transformations. Planners operate within a politically steered governance structure, which means that their agency is always limited and subject to debate. Arguably, moving towards urban transformation requires increased agency, but at the same time, but more 'radical' notions require strong political support. This paper departs from Swedish planning, based on interviews and a survey sent out to municipalities and actors related to urban planning, and aims to contribute theoretically to the debate surrounding sustainable urban transformations.

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Spatial renegotiations of everyday life within the emerging spaces of solidarity in Athens amidst the social reproduction crisis

Title of presentation Spatial renegotiations of everyday life within the emerging spaces of solidarity in Athens amidst the social reproduction crisis

Abstract This contribution is based on my PhD dissertation, which examines Greece's recent crisis and austerity implementation through a social reproduction lens, centring on women's engagement in urban anti-austerity movements. Drawing on empirical evidence from two case studies in Athens, I will be focusing on spatial renegotiations of everyday life within the emerging spaces of solidarity amidst the crisis. It delves into how activism challenges conventional notions of the public and the private, including established ideas of where specific activities and subjects belong, and under what circumstances. As the crisis unfolds, and the previous organisation of social reproduction and care activities comes under strain, women's agency, fuelled by their needs, desires and visions for the future, suggests new ways of being in the public and experiencing urban space.

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Architectures and Infrastructures of Fulfillment

Title of presentation Architectures and Infrastructures of Fulfillment

Abstract We propose one or more paper sessions and a panel focused on the architectures and infrastructures of fulfillment in contemporary cities. As platform-mediated gig work has grown in importance, new architectures (e.g. ghost kitchens and dark stores) and infrastructures (e.g. Uber waiting areas; public spaces re-fashioned to accommodate delivery workers) are transforming the city. At the same time, gig workers themselves perform central infrastructural roles of social reproduction in urban spaces. These sessions will explore the forces behind these new architectures and infrastructures, and what they mean for consumers, workers, and the reproduction of urban life. We invite papers on the political economy, labor geographies, gendered and racialized processes, planning, logistics, and migration dynamics of this evolving urban transition, among other issues. We are interested in exploring the question of what it means when urban space is increasingly dedicated to the processes of fulfillment, especially when that fulfillment leads to ghostly spaces in what might otherwise be lively cities. A panel discussion will follow the paper session(s) and both build on ideas that arise from those sessions and present the findings of a soon-to-be-published special issue on the mobilities and rhythms of migrant gig labor in the fulfillment city.

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Navigating Digital and Physical Publics: A Case Study of Activist Strategies in the Swedish Tenants Association

Title of presentation Navigating Digital and Physical Publics: A Case Study of Activist Strategies in the Swedish Tenants Association

Abstract In an era marked by escalating debates surrounding the boundaries and norms of public life, it has become increasingly evident that techno-utopianism is no longer tenable. Now, more than ever, attention must be paid to the inequality, marginalization, and biases woven into our technological systems. This presentation explores the complex dynamics of public engagement in the digital age through a case study of the Swedish Tenants Association (Hyresgästföreningen). In the summer of 2023, during a campaign against a second rent-increase from several landlords in Malmö, Sweden, housing activists tied to the tenants union built their own digital organizational tool for the campaign in dialogue with their real-live campaigning strategies. The case study examine how union tactics like power structure analyses and strategic planning trainings can work reflexively with digital organizing to effect meaningful change in real-world scenarios. Additionally, we shed light on how the digital organizational tool for the campaign underscores the importance of grassroots initiatives in reshaping the landscape of public activism, and elucidate the potentialities and pitfalls of navigating the contested geographies of public life in contemporary society. This abstract seeks to contributes to the sessions themes by providing insights into the evolving landscape of public engagement and activism in the digital era.

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Scaling-up at the expense of community? New community-based housing models for seniors in Denmark and The Netherlands

Title of presentation Scaling-up at the expense of community? New community-based housing models for seniors in Denmark and The Netherlands

Abstract With growing numbers of elderly people in need of care and social connection, countries undergoing advanced demographic transitions experience increasing interest in community-based housing models for seniors. Advantages include bigger opportunities for social interaction among residents through shared spaces and activities, resulting in better physical and mental wellbeing. While traditionally these projects are developed in a bottom-up manner, this usually means long completion times and significant time investment from future residents. Often, elderly people are unable to fully participate in these processes or are not in a position to wait so long to move into their new homes. Thus, solutions are being sought to speed-up and scale-up the development of community-based housing. To respond to increasing demand, new developer-led senior housing concepts are arising in Denmark and The Netherlands. This paper presents findings from a comparative case study in both countries, which explores how these new concepts contribute to scaling-up community-based housing, including their effectiveness to fulfil societal aims. Methods included surveys and interviews with developers and residents between 2020 and 2022. Findings shed light on the potential and challenges of these concepts in terms of ownership of common spaces, creation the community identity, and the commitment of their residents.

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Just transitions? Power, equality and justice in local provisioning for climate crisis in the UK

Title of presentation Just transitions? Power, equality and justice in local provisioning for climate crisis in the UK

Abstract This paper will present critical perspectives on local initiatives operating between welfare, health and environmental crises, drawing on my research that focused on community-led gifting and sharing practices involving food, clothing and household goods in three UK regions. Such initiatives seek to reduce waste and over-consumption and operate via both face-to-face and online spaces. There is however a danger that these (and other local initiatives) are seen as technological or scientific solutions and pay insufficient attention to the social, ethical and political dimensions of the practices involved in their local contexts. I argue that contexts of inequality shape interactions in these spaces in profound and uneasy ways, and that distributive and social justice are not sufficiently attended to alongside climate concerns. This has implications for the democratic and participatory dimensions of a wider environmental politics and programme in response to climate crisis.

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The placing of older people in South London, using a case study charitable organisation and its almshousing to review age-fri...

Title of presentation The placing of older people in South London, using a case study charitable organisation and its almshousing to review age-friendly cities guidance

Abstract Understandings of 'age-friendliness' in the WHO Age-friendly Cities Framework centre on a range of spatial and social parameters including services and opportunities for participation. But the effectiveness of age-friendly design is deeply intertwined with complex dynamics shaping access to housing. We show this through a London-based case study of a model of low-income housing that has roots in the Middle Ages. This is an almshouse providing housing for local people. It was commissioned by United St Saviours Charity which began providing housing in c1580 and today manages three almshouse projects each from a different era and responding to wider attitudes to the placing of older people. Appleby Blue almshouse is set within South London where development pressures and the 1990s 'urban renaissance' has shaped population flows, tending to displace low-income groups - with isolating effects for older people. With traditional working-class communities fractured by gentrification and a shrinking welfare state, it represents a new opportunity for local people but a life-raft for the few nonetheless. Its design creates proximities, porosities, accessibilities, and social spaces that address multiscale dimensions of age-friendly places. And yet it also serves eloquently to highlight the need to rescale solutions beyond the singular exemplar.

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Aquatic geo-power and the making of hydrocommons. Exploring watery counter-cartographies

Title of presentation Aquatic geo-power and the making of hydrocommons. Exploring watery counter-cartographies

Abstract This paper draws inspiration from the post-humanist feminist ecology of Neimanis in exploring how river communities represent bodies of water in a watery world. The paper will employ geo-power and the hydrocommons to conceptualise how the river's nonhuman forcefulness infiltrates its rendering. Through exploring counter-cartographic river imaginations generated in dialogues with communities in India and the Netherlands, the paper illustrates how a river's geopower intersects with aesthetics through the ways in which a river is materially sensed and embodied. This sense making is meant to counter the economic compulsion of river appropriation. The terrain to be cultivated through the counter-cartographic presences are the commons sustaining already the 'uncontained overflowing force' of the multitude (Hard and Negri, 2017). These are commons instituting a scheme of open, shared use and democratic governance which can construct free human conviviality beyond the archaic and destructive pair of the private and the public (Hardt and Negri, 2017). The paper claims that stories of rivers as geo-powers can thus transition geographies to the here and now through differentiating geopower and thereby mobilise politics and aesthetics of future transformations for a planetary hydrocommons informing our culture and strategies for liveability on and of the Earth.

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Enabling citizen participation giving birth to Nordic Superblocks

Title of presentation Enabling citizen participation giving birth to Nordic Superblocks

Abstract Creating new kinds of timings, arenas and practices for citizens to contribute into the development of an urban district can result into strong ideas growing from the local seeds. In this presentation I will share a longitudinal look on the evolution of a new sustainable city district named Hiedanranta with estimated 20 000 inhabitants by a tramline, in Tampere, Finland. As a group of researchers, we have been doing action research and experiments of citizen participation there since 2016, such as co-building a public sauna or organizing a series of co-design workshops before the legal planning process started. In our actions we have often assisted in citizens gaining more agency and learning tools needed for bottom-up urbanism. Our perspective of eight years reveals a variety of examples, where citizens involvement has positively supported the development of the area. After sharing findings from analysing these examples, I will illustrate the potential that citizen participation holds by focusing on the birth and current realization of the concept of Nordic Superblocks, that talks of new scale of collaboration in the city. As a whole, this presentation contributes to the governance and enabling perspectives on bottom-up urbanism.

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Intergenerational transmission of residential segregation after a major societal upheaval

Title of presentation Intergenerational transmission of residential segregation after a major societal upheaval

Abstract This paper brings new perspectives on intergenerational transmission of residential segregation by focusing on a society that has experienced a major societal upheaval. Such upheavals that set a new development path for countries are common to many parts of the world. More specifically, we are interested what are the path dependencies and changes in residential segregation among a generation who was born before the societal upheaval, but whose own residential career was built in rapidly changing conditions after that. Our study context is Estonia, a country that regained its independence in 1991. We focus on the childhood and adulthood neighbourhoods of residence of a generation born between 1976 and 1985 (aged 4 to 13 in 1989 and 35 to 44 in 2020). The study is based on linked census and register microdata covering the period 1989–2020. We also link people with their parents and partners. The findings show, firstly, important intergenerational transmission of segregation despite fundamental changes in society and the housing market over three decades. Secondly, our results show that within-generation differences amplify differences in segregation because of individual social mobility and pooling of the financial resources of partners as residential mobility is often a family-based process.

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Bricks as Memory: Creating space for a new understanding of racialized landscapes in the US South through somatics, sound, an...

Title of presentation Bricks as Memory: Creating space for a new understanding of racialized landscapes in the US South through somatics, sound, and performance

Abstract In Spring, 2023, students, artists, and community members in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, came together for an immersive collaboration centered on one question: can we change our understanding of historical landscapes of racialized violence in the U.S. South through embodied experiences of place? The question was asked against a backdrop of ongoing struggles to address the symbols of white supremacy enshrined on university campuses throughout the U.S. South. It also reflected a desire to record and honor the labor of Black people, both enslaved and free, who built the stone walls, paths, and buildings of the University of North Carolina campus. In this paper, we describe how conversations around the performance, Eclipse, lead to a course structured around somatic experience, cartographic production, and collaborative memorialization of Black artisans. In this presentation, we share the pedagogical and theoretical motivations behind the collaboration between geographers, Culture Mill, Southern Futures at Carolina Performing Arts initiative, and the Marian Cheek Jackson Center; the blending of oral histories, somatic movement, listening, and circling that lead us to a radically different way of mapping and experiencing a place; and the final performance/intervention including a sound art installation and circling practice at UNC's iconic Old Well.

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'Following a green corridor': From the port spaces of Singapore to the uneven landscapes of Pilbara, Western Australia

Title of presentation 'Following a green corridor': From the port spaces of Singapore to the uneven landscapes of Pilbara, Western Australia

Abstract Global shipping contributes 2-3% of GHG emissions annually. Aligned with the benchmarks of the Paris Agreement, the International Maritime Organization's Strategy on the Reduction of GHGs-2023 lays out a pathway to zero and net-zero emissions by 2030 and 2050, intensifying a multiplicity of public-private initiatives and energy assemblages aimed at accelerating maritime decarbonization through the development of green shipping fuels (methanol, green hydrogen, and clean (liquid) ammonia), production hubs, and harnessing capital investment required for infrastructure. Ports, specifically bunker ports are emerging as critical nodes in this transition. The Port of Singapore hosts the largest bunker economy in the world and has become a key stakeholder in the Silk Alliance, a cross-supply chain partnership forming a 'green corridor cluster' whose collective efforts focus on the consolidation of green fuel demand. This paper operationalizes the cluster framework from the perspective of Singapore, and 'follows the Silk Alliance' fleet to the Pilbara in the state of Western Australia and key site of green fuel production for Silk Alliance partners. The Pilbara is also home to historic and ongoing processes of racialized capitalism and socio-spatial differentiation, and as new relations begin to materialize across these cluster assemblages, 'new geographies of transition' reveal the emerging contours of novel power geometries embedded in the land and sea.

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How can ridesharing be facilitated in car dependent practices? Insights from carless participants in organized leisure


Title of presentation How can ridesharing be facilitated in car dependent practices? Insights from carless participants in organized leisure

Abstract This paper departs from the experiences of carless leisure practitioners, to identify how organized car dependent leisure practices can be performed more sustainably by means of ridesharing. Applying a social practice perspective, car use is viewed as bundled with leisure practices. Drawing on in-depth interviews with 25 carless practitioners of scouting, orienteering, and children's soccer in Sweden, I seek to determine the procedures and frictions of ridesharing, and how it can be facilitated. The findings show that ridesharing occurs and is mediated by digital tools in all three studied practices. Notable variations and sources of friction relate to whether ridesharing is collectively or individually coordinated, which is connected to the meanings and competences of the leisure practices themselves. The paper illustrates that, to facilitate ridesharing, competences beyond the management of digital tools are needed. More concretely, the promotion of ridesharing as part of a more formalized exchange within clubs and associations for organized leisure is suggested. Carless performers of car dependent practices illustrate potential "proto-practices" beyond the private car.

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 Health (and) Urban Green: preliminary reflections from an interdisciplinary research project funded by the European Union - N...

Title of presentation Health (and) Urban Green: preliminary reflections from an interdisciplinary research project funded by the European Union - NextGenerationEU

Abstract The relationship between human health and green areas has always characterized the reflection of territorial studies. This interest is even more relevant today in light of urbanization processes and the intensification of climate change outcomes. On the one hand, it has been shown that urbanization facilitates access to health services and offers social and employment opportunities. On the other hand, urban environments increase the incidence of chronic diseases. The contribution proposes the first results of the European Union-Next Generation EU funding research Urban green infrastructure, policies on green spaces, and health outcomes, which, starting from a dialog among geography, town planning, and public health, is measuring itself with the identification of the potential relationships between specific diseases and the spatial organization of green areas. Initially, the project proposes a spatial analysis of green areas at regional and municipal scales, through the reprocessing of spatial data (e.g. Sentinel-2 data). The research is intended to help reorient urban planning and public policies to affirm the support of interventions to protect or implement green areas to contrast some diseases and reduce human health effects.

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"Why work here if you're a racist?": Attitudes and reflections on housing discrimination by housing actors in Malmö, Sweden

Title of presentation "Why work here if you're a racist?": Attitudes and reflections on housing discrimination by housing actors in Malmö, Sweden

Abstract Housing discrimination is a phenomenon much talked about, but severely understudied in a Nordic context. It is intimately felt by tenants, and widely reported in newspapers and to anti-discrimination NGOs, but its mechanisms are poorly understood from a research perspective. Even less attention has been drawn to the actors and agents themselves, landlords, municipalities, city councils, banks, financial institutes etc with latent discriminatory power (exercised or not) in the housing regime. This paper is not a study on the scope and scale of discrimination, but an exploration of the ways in which powerful actors within the housing regime conceptualize, understand, and think about discrimination and discrimination risks within the Swedish housing regime in general and Malmö in particular. It also examines how respondents perceive their organizations' roles in either upholding or dismantling a housing regime that is generally regarded by all actors as more or less discriminatory. The paper is based on an interview study with 18 respondents working for 12 housing actors (predominantly landlords) in Malmö.

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The role of Singapore as a green finance hub in advancing renewable energy in Southeast Asia

Title of presentation The role of Singapore as a green finance hub in advancing renewable energy in Southeast Asia

Abstract Regional value chains are receiving increasing attention as beneficial pathways for integrated firms and regional development. Similarly, the latest Asian Economic Integration Report points out the importance of regional cooperation to advance economic development and addressing the challenges of climate change. Southeast Asia is facing significant challenges as one of the regions most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. At the same time, the region's economic catch-up process is heavily reliant on industry, which has been largely based on fossil fuels. Thus, there is a need for an energy transition in Southeast Asia which can only be achieved with a vast amount of capital allocated towards these areas.

Singapore, being a major financial centre in the region, is heavily invested in becoming a hub for green finance in Southeast Asia and supporting sustainable energy transitions in its neighbouring regions. Besides being the base of project developers and financiers, there are various efforts by the Singaporean government to support sustainable financing, such as the recent launch of the Singapore-Asia taxonomy by the MAS. Against this backdrop, we aim to explore the role of public and private governance in establishing regional financial networks to advance renewable energy in Southeast Asia.

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The 15-minute city in Sweden: exploring local accessibility, built environments, gentrification, and socio-spatial inequalities...

Title of presentation The 15-minute city in Sweden: exploring local accessibility, built environments, gentrification, and socio-spatial inequalities in the 200 largest Swedish cities

Abstract In recent years, the 15-minute city has emerged as a prominent vision for urban development in many cities worldwide, emphasizing decentralization, proximity, and sustainable mobility. In this presentation I will report results from a research project exploring how the 15-minute city is fulfilled and developed in the 200 largest Swedish cities. I use longitudinal register data of the total population geocoded at a 100-meter level spanning over a 25-year period and operationalize the 15-minute city as the proportion of the population in cities and neighborhoods that can reach various non-work amenities close to home. I examine how key features of the built environment influence the development of the 15-minute city, revealing that increasing population density and promoting mixed land use clearly contribute to fostering the 15-minute city, also in smaller cities. Additionally, I explore the relationship between gentrification and the realization of the 15-minute city vision, finding that gentrification and improved local accessibility intersect. Finally, socio-spatial disparities in access to the 15-minute city across cities are highlighted, showing, for example, that neighborhoods with access to a broad range of amenities tend to have higher average incomes, reflecting segregation patterns.

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The future of landscape geography, in the Nordics and beyond.

Title of presentation The future of landscape geography, in the Nordics and beyond.

Abstract This panel centers on three crucial questions for landscape geography: 1) What is the intellectual/political merit of thinking with and conceptualizing 'landscape'? 2) What difference might theorizing 'Nordic' landscapes, or theorizing landscapes within 'Nordic' academia, do? and 3) Where should landscape geography go from here?

Landscape has since long been a concept at the very heart of Geography as a discipline, from Sauer's (1925) attempts to understand the morphology of cultural landscapes, to Cosgrove's (1988) explorations of landscape as a 'way of seeing', or Olwig's (1996) work on self-governing polities. And much like all concepts at disciplines' centre, 'landscape' is surrounded by both calls to reinvent scholarship (Inwood & Alderman, 2023; Mason & Riding, 2023; Mitchell, 2008; Whatmore, 2006), and attempts to anchor new topics to the concept, ranging from morality (Setten & Brown, 2009), environmental justice and human rights (Egoz et al., 2011; Krupar, 2013; Mels, 2023), to memory and heritage (Burlingame, 2020; De Nardi & Drozdowski, 2019; Gandy & Jasper, 2020). In an ever-evolving discipline, focused on understanding geographies in transition, we aim to continue a dialogue about the meanings and possibilities of 'landscape,' including its relevance in deciphering contemporary socio-spatial processes and an unfolding climate crisis.

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Skills create a processual hierarchy within social practices: Case food self-provisioning in rural communities

Title of presentation Skills create a processual hierarchy within social practices: Case food self-provisioning in rural communities

Abstract Skills have gained limited attention in sustainability studies. In the practice of self-provisioning, for example, a vast array of skills is crucial, especially as the success of food production is dependent on the ability of its practitioners to adapt to the seasonal nature of growing edibles in specific biophysical and sociocultural local conditions.

In our Research Council of Finland funded project, we studied the emergence of skills in the context of food self-provisioning in rural communities through two cases: a municipality in Northern Finland, and a school of self-sufficiency in Eastern Finland. The municipality has a strategy for pursuing self-provisioning and sustainability in food production, while the school has a novel pedagogical mission of teaching practical knowledge about self-sufficiency and an artisanal way of life. This paper conceptualizes skills in relation to social practices and develops a metaphor of a spiral to describe them. This spiral of skills is a processual hierarchy, which consists of concrete and abstract skills that develop over time and vary according to season. We find that the focal skills are place-specific, embodied ways of being and becoming embedded in the socio-ecological fabric of practices, which create a constantly negotiated hierarchy within the community of practitioners.

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Aging in place. Adaptation of the public spaces of post-socialist large housing estates to the needs and limitations of the e...

Title of presentation Aging in place. Adaptation of the public spaces of post-socialist large housing estates to the needs and limitations of the elderly. Example of Łódź (Poland)

Abstract Poland is one of the fastest aging countries in Europe. And the city of Łódź selected for analysis is one of the fastest aging cities in Poland. Older people in Łódź live mainly in the central areas of the city, but also in large post-socialist housing estates built in 1960. and 1970. In the age structure of some of them, elderly constitute over 1/3 of population. The aim of the work is to present the process of demographic aging of the large housing estates in Łódź and its spatial diversity and to show how the public space of these estates is adapted to the needs and the limitations of elderly. This analysis is based on statistical data and the results of field studies conducted in six largest estates in city. They were designed and built with the needs of young people in mind. Currently, due to the demographic ageing of these estates, their public space is also evolving. The research shows examples of their transformations that take place both spontaneously (bottom-up) and in a planned way (top-down). These changes, however, are not always sufficient. Therefore, the results of these studies can constitute the recommendations for the city's senior policy.

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The Transition to AI Urbanism

Title of presentation The Transition to AI Urbanism

Abstract Innovation in artificial intelligence (AI) is transforming cities in unprecedented ways. In this presentation we will explore the connections between AI and the urban by focusing on the concept of urban AI and reflecting on its most prominent incarnations: autonomous vehicles, urban robots, city brains and urban software agents. We will then see how the emergence of urban AI is producing a new urbanism, an AI urbanism, that originates from smart urbanism but also departs from it along three main axes, namely function, presence and agency. Empirically, we will draw on the findings from several international case studies to examine the repercussions of urban AI and give evidence of how the emergence of AI in cities is reshaping urban society, urban infrastructure, urban governance, urban planning and urban sustainability. Theoretically, we will discuss the implications of the emergence of urban AI for urban theory and the future of cities. We will conclude the presentation with a warning about the impending risks posed by multiple urban AIs and the obscure black boxes driving their operations, but also with an invitation to politically engage as citizens with increasingly autonomous cities that might forever escape our understanding and thus our control.

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Transforming a street in Berlin

Title of presentation Transforming a street in Berlin

Abstract Streets are infrastructures that play an essential role in the constitution of urban ecosystems by influencing, among others, temperature rise, air quality, noise, health conditions, and living conditions of humans and non-humans.

As a crucial infrastructure of the Anthropocene, many streets are being intervened in different ways and places, becoming matters of public concern. These interventions are contesting not only the modern idea of a city with a network of main arteries and leading to manifold controversies and conflicts but also showing that streets are more than mere spaces of mobility and beyond the usual scope of analysis related to the quality of public space. Therefore, the analysis of street worlds, considering not only co-existence but also how these co-existences are entangled in co-construction processes, may be promissory for future perspectives in urban research.

The presentation will be an empirical contribution on one ongoing street transformation project that has been taking place for more than a decade in Berlin-Neukölln, addressing the engagement of community groups in the complex processes of street transformations as it explores- based on ethnographic field research- their views of street spaces as constitutive of urban assemblages.

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Reimagining Nature: The Role of Environmental Art in Shaping Post-Natural Imaginaries

Title of presentation Reimagining Nature: The Role of Environmental Art in Shaping Post-Natural Imaginaries

Abstract Art has the potential to create imaginaries that assist people in reinventing their everyday practices, their relationship with the world, their aesthetic preferences and their futures. In the Anthropocene, the concept of nature has been called into question. However, it is still considered as an imaginary (in a post-natural period) that produces ontological security and a sense of pleasantness, with a peculiar sense of beauty. In this new post-natural idea of nature, a sense of co-belonging between humans and biological and geological non-humans is implied. This presentation discusses the potential of environmental art for ecological reconciliation and for creating bonds of interdependence between people (local and non-local) and rural landscapes and territories. Through Foz Côa project (Portugal), which successfully integrates Landart and rewilding initiatives, it will be explored how art creates a new post-natural imaginary of nature and a sense of pleasantness, promoting a more horizontally-oriented ontological relationship between people and non-humans, establishing a new sense of more-than-human community. I aim to discuss how art can broaden our understanding of material environments and the production of new meanings and imaginaries of nature, as well as how it can open new productive forms of relationship between rural communities and the environments they inhabit.

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Class dynamics at the margins: Shea nut collectors in a global market

Title of presentation Class dynamics at the margins: Shea nut collectors in a global market

Abstract Collected in the dry Savannah of West Africa by rural women, shea nuts are shipped globally to enter the recipes of industrial chocolate and cosmetic products. The shea nut collectors, who have been processing and trading this commodity locally for centuries, find themselves at the very basis of a global value chain. This presentation will focus on two points. First, I show that social differentiation takes place among collectors despite the minor share of shea in the household economy. Capitalist relations appear among women and are exacerbated by the asymmetrical power dynamics between transnational companies and the collectors. Second, I link this analysis with the discourses of empowerment produced on rural West African women by companies selling shea-based products. I argue that it revolves around assumptions of neoliberal feminism and siloed approach towards global issues such as climate change, gendered distribution of labour or poverty. These discourses elude and depoliticize the central question of the social relations of production between actors of a global value chains. These two points highlight the disarticulations produced through global market integration by transnational corporates and the durable impacts of such measures on the material conditions of existence of marginalized commodity producers.

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Justice concerns in large-scale renewable energy projects: echoing the importance of procedural justice from energy-affected ...

Title of presentation Justice concerns in large-scale renewable energy projects: echoing the importance of procedural justice from energy-affected people in rural Kenya

Abstract Energy projects are increasingly being rolled-out across rural Kenya, driven by various state-led and state-centric focused policies such as feed-in-tariffs and power purchase agreements. While these policies are indeed attracting many private investors, existing studies document how social and environmental justice concerns are often overlooked – sometimes causing local contestations against these projects. However, to date, there has been less attention to cases where justice principles have been observed in host communities and where land has been successfully negotiated without outright conflict. This study aims to bridge this gap by showing how a fair application of various elements of procedural justice in land consultation, has facilitated the establishment of a wind farm in Kenya. It argues that for energy projects to be accommodated in and by communities, access to land must be properly negotiated. Second, local people's perception of what they regard as a 'just' or 'fair' process of land consultation constitutes the basis for their acquiescence and compliance. Thus, ensuring a 'just' procedure in land consultation with landowners is a necessity, particularly in individualised landownership contexts. Land investors, governments, and policy-makers who interact and negotiate with communities must ensure the provision of procedural justice is at the core of decision-making.

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Blueish regener-a(c)tions: more-than-wet materialities, figurations and urban planning in the South Coast of Palermo

Title of presentation Blueish regener-a(c)tions: more-than-wet materialities, figurations and urban planning in the South Coast of Palermo

Abstract This contribution presents a part of my ongoing research on the South Coast of the city of Palermo (Sicily, Italy). While in other parts of the city's waterfront, sea-related urban regeneration projects are already underway or completed, in the South Coast – the district that includes some of Palermo's most marginalised neighbourhoods – these are still in the planning or just imaginative phase. But what if we plan by turning our gaze to the sea? What other possible alternatives could the sea's materiality engage and suggest? A coastline born out of post-war and industrial ruins (Edensor, 2005), as well as Wasteocene's productions (Armiero, 2021), this more-than-wet (Peters & Steinberg, 2019) urban space let emerges how the sea – with its maritime coastline extensions – is a fluid archive and an accumulative site of memories, more-than-human co-habitats, and sea-related practices. Through its turbulent materiality, made of liquidity, other volumes and, above all, circular temporalities, the sea gives everything back, in a continuous process of regener-a(c)tions and becoming-with. This contribution intends to observe the waterfront of Palermo's South Coast through the more-than-wet perspectives in order to explore how to think-with the sea can let emerge other possible blueish transitions, regenerations, futures.

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Activity Network Spaces: using graph theory to analyze spatio-temporal human movement data

Title of presentation Activity Network Spaces: using graph theory to analyze spatio-temporal human movement data

Abstract The concept of activity space is frequently used to describe the locations and spaces individuals interact with as a result of their activities. Although current technologies such as GPS provide detailed spatio-temporal data on people's movements, their full potential in modeling activity spaces remains underexploited. This paper proposes a novel approach by modeling activity spaces as networks of places connected by trips, using graph theory to analyze the spatial and temporal mobility patterns. This method allows for an in-depth examination of how different locations are interconnected through movement patterns and how these connections shape the overall structure of an individual's activity space. We introduce a framework to compute relevant variables, categorized into node-level metrics, edge-level metrics, and network-level metrics.

Data were collected from seventeen older adults in the Netherlands, using GPS tracking and activity diaries, recording 333 places and 924 trips. Various metrics at the three levels were analyzed in R. Our findings highlight the advantages of integrating these metrics to enhance our understanding of peoples' mobility patterns. This approach improves comparisons of activity spaces across individuals and/or time periods, and enhances the accuracy of estimating potential activity spaces. These results support urban planning applications, such as the 15-minute-city concept.

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Modeling of future land use/land cover patterns in the Krkonoše Mts. National Park using machine learning classification and ...

Title of presentation Modeling of future land use/land cover patterns in the Krkonoše Mts. National Park using machine learning classification and CLUE-S model.

Abstract The tracking and estimating losses resulting from land use changes, such as deforestation and urban expansion, are crucial as they present significant environmental challenges. Land use modeling, specialized simulation models, play a crucial role in understanding and managing these transformations. Protected area, the Krkonoše Mountains in the Czech Republic, renowned for their environmental biodiversity and watershed preservation, have undergone significant land use changes over time. These changes have been primarily attributed to environmental pollution in the 1980s and natural disasters at various points. We utilized Landsat imagery and machine learning to generate land use maps from 1985 to 2022, achieving an overall accuracy of 65% to 83%. These maps provided the identification of land use changes. Afterward, we employed the CLUE-S model and incorporated factors like restricted areas, population and housing development, annual demand changes, and environmental variables, to simulate future scenarios for 2030 and 2060. Kappa for model accuracy ranges from 65% to 98% for each land use type. The study reveals a drastic reduction in deciduous forests from 8% to 1.4%, alongside a rise in clearings, and transitional forests from 10% to 42% by 2060. These trends highlight biodiversity threats, urging immediate adoption of proactive management strategies.

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Mid-Term Rentals and the Airbnbification of Housing

Title of presentation Mid-Term Rentals and the Airbnbification of Housing

Abstract The market for mid-term rentals is growing fast in many cities, due to a number of factors: the increasing attractiveness of those cities for, e.g., non-resident students, or temporary inhabitants more generally; the higher profitability and lower risks that mid-term rentals ensure for homeowners; the shift towards longer-term stays we can observe in booking platforms such as Airbnb.com, also as a side-effect of the restrictions many cities introduced to short-term rentals; the diffusion of online intermediary platforms that are specifically addressed to this market segment, as well as the interest many traditional real estate operators and investors show towards it.

The presentation will summarize the results of an ongoing research that provides a comprehensive mapping of those mid-term rentals platforms that are the most active in Italy, to explore how their operating mechanism differ or converge, and what are the implications. The aim is to show, first, how the growing attractiveness of mid-term rentals perpetrates many of the negative effects that are associated to short-term ones and to over-touristification. Second, the research will approach mid-term rentals as some sort of intermediate and ideal terrain for experimenting the extension to the housing market at large of the logics of platform capitalism, such as digital automation, algorithmic management, tenants' profiling, datafication, digital disruption, 'regulated deregulation' and rent extraction. On this basis, we will reflect upon how to broaden the scope of research, public debates and urban regulations that, up to now, have targeted predominantly tourism booking platforms.

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Re-islanding the UK: The Guardian reports new imaginaries of the UK as island

Title of presentation Re-islanding the UK: The Guardian reports new imaginaries of the UK as island

Abstract 'Re-islanding' - that is re-imagining and re-narrating islands and seas - is at work in UK media. This paper explores entangled imaginaries published in The Guardian 2021-2022 and aimed at re-islanding the UK. Analysis of coverage of UK coastal and marine affairs reveals dynamic relations between islanders and seas. Reporting of investment in UK wind power and disinvestment in oil and gas highlights new materialities and infrastructures in a shifting calculation of moving resource frontiers. Reports of environmental outcomes not only range from the apocalyptic to the revitalized but also feature a UK imaginary as 'sewage island'. Reports of waterfront developments echo this apparent ambivalence and a coastal divide is reported with many coastal towns understood to be 'poverty sinks'. Simultaneously, Britain is challenged by new forms of disconnection. In identifying the narratives used and their associated infrastructures and geographical imaginaries, this paper discusses both their territorial implications and the emerging vocabulary of UK islandness. The implications for relationships among islands and islanders, are considered. UK islandness is being re-islanded, in the process, producing new landscapes and territorial imaginaries of the UK as island, including deepening fractures and heightened dynamics, anxieties and ambivalences.

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Blindspots in Local Climate Change Adaptation Policy – how is ‘problem’ of climate change adaptation framed in Norwegian municipi...

Title of presentation Blindspots in Local Climate Change Adaptation Policy – how is ‘problem’ of climate change adaptation framed in Norwegian municipalities?

Abstract This paper examines how Norwegian municipalities frame the problem related to climate change adaptation at local level. The framing of the problem of climate change adaptation enables us to explore how planning and decision making is influenced by how different actors understand the policy at hand and the issues they are trying to handle. Moreover, policy framing is helpful to examine why actors at municipal level, who are given room to manoeuvre and are responsible for climate adaptation planning and implementation, decide one policy over another when faced with conflicting policies. Drawing on Carol Bacchi’s “What is the problem represented to be” approach, I have conducted a policy analysis of climate adaptation policy in three Norwegian municipalities to understand the presuppositions and deep-seated assumptions behind local climate adaptation policies. The findings document that actors frame the ‘problem’ of climate change as future-oriented and they understand it as having impacts in the future. Understanding climate change adaptation in this way distracts actors and leads to a low sense of urgency. Moreover, they prioritise mitigation policies, which are framed as an urgent and present problem, over adaptation that will have consequences in the future and to which actors have time to prepare. The consequence of framing climate change adaptation as future-oriented by the municipality actors might lead to challenges in handling climate-related crises in face of already experienced negative impacts of the changing climate.

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“All the things you could do if someone would just give us a city and put us in charge”: Revisiting Google’s abandoned plans ...

Title of presentation “All the things you could do if someone would just give us a city and put us in charge”: Revisiting Google’s abandoned plans for a privatised smart city district in Toronto

Abstract In 2017, Google’s former sister company Sidewalk Labs launched its interest in building a privatized smart district on Toronto’s waterfront. The plans were abandoned in May 2020, but they still give us a unique insight into how one of the world’s largest tech giants thought/thinks about urban development and how these plans may have heralded a new era in urban neoliberalism. This paper argues that Google’s former extensive plans for a new district at Toronto’s waterfront could be regarded as a disruptive version of the smart city that effectively sought to take over part of the territorial sovereignty of public local authorities. Google not only aimed to control the construction of an entire city district adjacent to downtown Toronto, but Google-owned authorities would de facto exert powers that traditionally belong to public authorities. In the process, it would, as it were, ‘roll over’ public authorities and install a new variant of urban neoliberalism: ‘roll-over neoliberalism’. This should not be interpreted as some dark move to ‘grab’ government by a private entity but as a ‘logical’ outcome of the very nature of their urban development plans. Google aimed at making their Toronto district “a model exportable all over the world”. In order to control their ‘Toronto prototype’ of a smart city district that would have been replicable elsewhere, it needed to set Google technology-friendly standards for inward investment, it needed to be in charge of procurement procedures to ensure that all goods and services are compatible with Google’s smart city version, and it had to establish its own private authority institutions that control specific urban policies to make sure the built environment is constructed and used to comply with Google’s mission in the district.

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Nokia Design 1995-2010: 'Networks', 'Flows', 'Nodes'/People, Places, Things

Title of presentation Nokia Design 1995-2010: 'Networks', 'Flows', 'Nodes'/People, Places, Things

Abstract Between 1995 and 2010, the Nokia corporation built an international network of centres to design its mobile phone products. Employing up to 300 designers, and multiple sub-contractors and partners, Nokia dominated the mobile phone market at this time. Behind these lay extensive and sophisticated product development processes that included ethnographic studies, future forecasting and the generation of speculative concepts and objects. This paper draws on research using the Nokia Design Archive which includes some 5,000 objects (prototypes, models, drawings etc.), digital files, internal communications and extensive interviews with former designers and managers. It shifts attention away from ideas of 'networks', 'flows' and 'nodes' that were circulating in spatial theorisations of the time (Amin, Brenner, Castells etc.) to ground a narrative in the people and their social relationships, where they got together and how they created stuff at Nokia. Thus it emphasises the meeting points of the real-world activities of designers and how they balanced a highly analogue set of practices, internal corporate struggles and a relentless techno-optimism. In so doing, I analyse how these produced particular social and technological imaginaries as well as historically specific embodiments.

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Translating transition discourse

Title of presentation Translating transition discourse

Abstract Increased demand for minerals for green energy technologies and other advanced applications is resulting in a new global 'race for resources', with the opening of new mines and an expansion of resource frontiers across the globe. The backdrop of rapidly mounting geopolitical tensions and demands for green energy transitions, has resulted in the formulation of a range of new policies aimed at swiftly establishing control, directly or through trade agreements, of critical mineral resources. Justifications of these policies uncomfortably straddle the tension between ambitions to undertake a green transition and the negative social and ecological impacts driven by the extraction of these materials. Building on a study on justification in European Green Deal policies, this project examines the articulation of discourses of green transition and extraction across scales and actors in Sulawesi, Indonesia. The aim of the study is to examine how the justifications of the tension at the center of extraction for the green transition is translated across the scales, from the European Green Deal, to national, regional and local policies in Sulawesi, Indonesia, the main nickel producing region in the world.

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Advancing our Understanding of Lock-Ins in Economic Geography

Title of presentation Advancing our Understanding of Lock-Ins in Economic Geography

Abstract Lock-ins has been a powerful concept in (evolutionary) economic geography explaining self-reinforcing mechanisms in regional economies and clusters, potentially leading to system dominance and inertia. Grabher (1993) introduced it into economic geography in his seminal study on the Ruhr Area, in the 1990s. Martin and Sunley (2006) and Martin (2010) further conceptualized the concept in economic geography. Empirically, initially, it has been used in economic geography to analyze the development of clusters through time. Later on, its usage has been extended to areas such as sustainability transitions, the agricultural sector, infrastructural projects, and social capital and bonding. Lock-ins are by definition context-dependent and hence geographically different. In current crisis-ridden and poly-crisis times, there is an increased need for understanding inertia and hindrances to change. Therefore, in our view, it is time to take stock of the economic geography literature on lock-ins. We aim to do so with a combination of a bibliometric analysis and literature review, from which we will derive research gaps and avenues for future research.

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“By the time the coconut is ripe, we will be back in Tibet.” – A spatial-temporal analysis of the home garden practices of Ti...

Title of presentation “By the time the coconut is ripe, we will be back in Tibet.” – A spatial-temporal analysis of the home garden practices of Tibetan refugees in south Karnataka

Abstract This paper explores the evolving home gardening practices in Tibetan refugee settlements in South India, contributing to scholarship on refugee gardening and on Tibetan exile in South Asia and beyond. Following their resettlement in Karnataka in the 1960s and 70s, Tibetans were allotted land for kitchen gardens. These plots have since become spaces for fostering connections – to the land, to the local biosphere, and to the host communities. While extensively researched in refugee and migration studies, these processes of emplacement are often examined within limited time frames. Drawing from five months of fieldwork, this paper adopts a longitudinal approach to explore how the meanings and roles of gardening for Tibetans have changed over time. A temporal perspective enables a nuanced understanding not only of the shifts in gardening itself but also serves as an analytical lens into broader transitions in Tibetan lives and livelihoods in exile over time and across settlement boundaries.

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The circular economy and regional labour markets: Skills in a core Nordic region in transformation

Title of presentation The circular economy and regional labour markets: Skills in a core Nordic region in transformation

Abstract As a response to mounting grand societal challenges, an increasing share of literature in economic geography and regional development address labour market aspects and the skills necessary for such transformation. A research area that has been less addressed so far is the circular economy, and specifically, the skills required for such transformation. The circular economy is assumed to disrupt traditional labor markets particularly in industries heavily reliant on linear production models; that is, in manufacturing. The objective of this paper is to unpack the notion of circular skills, and how circular skills align with already existing regional economic specializations and skills on regional labour markets. The theoretical framework of the paper draws on contributions from regional innovation systems and regional labour market dynamics, as well as the circular economy. Empirically, the paper bases on a qualitative case study of the Västra Götaland region in Sweden, a region often referred to as Sweden's manufacturing stronghold. Hence, the paper provides insights into labour market and skill dynamics of a core Nordic region in transformation.

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Child, Place, and Art: Expressing Urban Narratives through Children's Creativity

Title of presentation Child, Place, and Art: Expressing Urban Narratives through Children's Creativity

Abstract In the rapidly changing urban villages of Guangzhou, this study explores how participatory artistic practices become a means for rural-urban migrant children, aged 7–12, to articulate their experiences and perceptions of urban living. By engaging in map painting, collage making, and architectural model construction, 30 participating children express their nuanced understandings of place and belonging within these hybrid urban spaces. This approach, integrating art-based activities with semi-structured interviews, allows for a rich, child-centric exploration of urban environments from their perspectives.

The research reveals that through artistic expression, children not only reflect on their immediate surroundings but also critique and reimagine their roles within the urban landscape. This artistic engagement thus becomes a lens to view the city afresh, highlighting the importance of child-friendly urban planning that genuinely considers the voices of its youngest inhabitants.

Positioned within the session on "Child accessible societies? Children's agency in planning (more accessible) public spaces," the research underscores the need for inclusive urban planning that prioritises children's voices. It suggests that participatory arts can inform city-making practices, fostering environments that resonate with the experiences and aspirations of its youngest inhabitants and contribute to the development of more child-friendly urban spaces.

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The infrastructures of localist-populism – insights from small-town Sweden

Title of presentation The infrastructures of localist-populism – insights from small-town Sweden

Abstract This paper concerns localist-populist governing regimes in relation to technical, social and institutional infrastructures. The findings are based on empirical research in a single peri-urban municipality in Sweden. Here, a new right-wing coalition government has emerged as part of a politics of discontent with the previous planning regime, in particular a multi-level contract signed by the municipality in 2017 to develop two new station-communities. Not only is this contract seen as lacking in democratic legitimacy, but the new communities and associated infrastructures are understood as threatening the very identity of the local community and the material well-being of residents. In all, the station-community project is seen to represent an amalgamation of elite interests as opposed to the needs and interests of local residents. Within the localist-populist agenda it is possible to identify a set of distinct imaginaries for the transformation of socio-material and political infrastructures. The paper explores these imaginaries, moving from technical infrastructure, in particular concerning attitudes to public transport and automobility, to social infrastructures including housing and community-building, and finally to the institutional infrastructures of local planning and governance.

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How Hydrogen Visions Enact with 'Atmospheres of Place'

Title of presentation How Hydrogen Visions Enact with 'Atmospheres of Place'

Abstract We utilise an infrastructural lens to explore how people living in two towns in South Wales UK are responding to industrial decarbonisation Hydrogen visions and plans in their neighbourhoods. Our paper draws on qualitative research conducted in 2022 at port Talbot and Pembroke Dock. Although environmental studies attend to social impact frames by emphasising ethical strategies and reparative solutions to change, there remains a gap in understanding of the affective relations entwining people within both localised and global infrastructures (Dal Gobbo, 2023). Both material infrastructures and corporate industrial visions enact forceful descriptions of possible futures, endorsed through powerful affiliations, formal structures and media outlets (Longhurst and Chilvers, 2019). We argue that the new energy decarbonisation proposals are 'living signifiers' (Larkin, 2013, p.329) with less socially coded aesthetic and sensory signifiers. How people engage with the proposals and the new material installations may involve new forms of iconographic experiencing (Hinshelwood, 2012) of their neighbourhoods. We argue that reading atmospheres of place presents an opportunity to understand how townfolk live with a range of cross-temporal experiences and ideations that construct neighbourhood sensitivities. Seen through this lens it is possible to understand about how some places invite psychosocial stabilisation (Richards, 2018), invoking ideations of belonging and home with risks and uncertainties managed. Moreover, reading atmospheres of place also identifies information about how some objects may hold ruptures and wounds active in everyday engagements.

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Capturing Cross-Border Mobilities of People: A Twitter study

Title of presentation Capturing Cross-Border Mobilities of People: A Twitter study

Abstract Measuring human mobility on a large scale in a timely manner, especially across country borders, is a task that requires data sources and methods that to date are not readily available. We propose that inherently transnational novel data sources, like social media data, can provide much needed insights into cross-border mobilities. We consider human mobility to be a tool to understand society, as mobility indicates social interactions, which form functional systems like border regions.

Building on the first individual case studies studying mobilities across borders using openly available Twitter data, we expand our research to the whole of Europe. We reveal the spatial distribution of cross-border mobility flows in Europe and their temporal dynamics. From the characteristics of cross-border mobility flows, we profile border regions at the European scale. We discuss the feasibility of the proposed approach to monitor development projects and evaluate cooperation and governance actions of border regions from cross-border mobility as an indicator for social interaction and integration of people. Finally, we address future avenues in enhancing this methodology to better characterize mobilities and gain insight on who exactly are crossing borders and their motivations, and how their movements can be measured using novel data sources.

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Learning to Winter Well: Practicing Cultures of Light to Reimagine the Geographies of Seasonal Affective Disorder

Title of presentation Learning to Winter Well: Practicing Cultures of Light to Reimagine the Geographies of Seasonal Affective Disorder

Abstract Our paper reflects on the lived experience of those people who experience symptoms of wintertime Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) and we will ask what it would mean to give greater consideration to their heightened emotional experience of the winter season. We examine this question via a series of snapshots from 'Wintering Well', an arts-led workshop programme designed for a group of people who self-identify as experiencing SAD. The workshops were a collaborative interdisciplinary venture that involved us, as practitioner cultural geographers, an artist-poet, and a psychosocial psychiatrist, taking place in Glasgow, Scotland, across the autumn, winter and spring of 2022-23. We will reflect on Wintering Well variously, as an opportunity to: (i) reconfigure disordered and disturbing feelings of seasonality through creative re-encounter with the sun, light and weather; (ii) understand SAD-impacted social relations among family, friends and the local neighbourhood, and to explore the possibility of biosocial community among those experiencing SAD; (iii) share a replicable workshop model for use by self-starting SAD-experience community groups in order to intervene in anticipatory seasonality anxiety. The paper will conclude by considering the implications for future disruptive seasonality whereby many more people may grapple with SAD because of climate change.

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Taking women's worries seriously: On housing inequality and displacement pressure

Title of presentation Taking women's worries seriously: On housing inequality and displacement pressure

Abstract When politicians claim to that they “are taking people’s worries seriously” [tar människors oro på allvar] they most often, explicitly or implicitly, refer to issues of migration and criminality. Rarely displacement pressure (Marcuse 1985), although rent increases is a much more urgent concern for many people in Swedish cities today. Within the scope of the research project “For whom is the city built? A study of goal conflicts, migration patterns and living conditions in the densified city” (Formas 2018-2024, led by Catharina Thörn) I have spent the last years interviewing low-income residents in up-grading areas in Gothenburg (“Strategi för Göteborg 2035: Utbyggnadsplanering, 2014). To recruit participants, I put up posters with the text “Are you worried about your rent?”, and in this paper I highlight the fact that half of the people that answered to my call were women in single households, between 25 and 80 years old, in different life situations. As a group they are among the most affected by the growing housing inequality (Listerborn 2018) and, at the backdrop of Gothenburg municipality’s aims on equality, I argue that their worries about displacement and their material vulnerability need to be better acknowledged.

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The peace of the grave and its limitations on the future of Swedish cemeteries

Title of presentation The peace of the grave and its limitations on the future of Swedish cemeteries

Abstract A number of Swedish laws address issues related to protecting against any disturbance of the dead after the burial: The Criminal Code, The Historic Environment Act and The Burial Act. The protection is set to hinder moving or damaging the corpse or ashes of a deceased person, including relocation of coffins and urns in cemeteries. Despite the longstanding tradition of safeguarding the final resting places of the deceased, Sweden also has a history of grave reuse under specific circumstances, such as after sufficient time has elapsed for decomposition or when burial rights have expired. However, key figures within the burial authorities in Sweden indicate an ambiguity in how the peace of the grave is interpreted in practice. The peace of the grave is traditionally considered eternal, but how does this align with today's thinking of sustainability? How does this impact the possibility for developing future cemeteries as multifunctional and multicultural places? Furthermore, what happens to the management of cemeteries or cemetery sections when there is no longer space for additional graves? These are example of questions we explore in the research project From Here to Eternity: A Study of How the Peace of the Grave is Interpreted in Practice.

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Agricultural restructuring through contract farming: implications for the study of contemporary agrarian change

Title of presentation Agricultural restructuring through contract farming: implications for the study of contemporary agrarian change

Abstract Millions of producers take part now in contract farming (CF) arrangements, a form of production lauded by policy makers because it promises to help overcome the barriers to smallholder participation in more profitable markets. CF has been the main form of agricultural restructuring in the wake of deregulation and liberalization and has been credibly associated with re entrenched unevenness both between producers and buyers and among countries locked in patterns of commodity dependence. What is new in CF studies is a growing sense of the very large scale and prevalence of CF at different national income levels, for a wide variety of crops, and both in export and domestic markets. This paper uses three case studies to examine how contract farming dominates agricultural export sectors (Southern Africa); how it became embedded in domestic markets (Colombia) and how it is intertwined with processes of financialization (Philippines). We find ample evidence to suggest that the exploitation of smallholders in contemporary capitalism is not necessarily predicated on dispossession and that far more attention needs to be paid to the forms in which it is enacted, including contract farming.

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Constructing Hopeful Geographical Imaginaries during the 1980s Recession: The Case of the Great Belt Bridge (Storebæltsforbin...

Title of presentation Constructing Hopeful Geographical Imaginaries during the 1980s Recession: The Case of the Great Belt Bridge (Storebæltsforbindelse)

Abstract Finalized in 1998, the Great Belt Bridge (Storebæltsforbindelsen) is a combined bridge and tunnel project with a total length of 18 kilometers. The project was put in motion by Danish parliament during the mid-1980s economic recession, and it followed a Keynesian logic of state-driven economic stimulation. The bridge did more than change the geography of Denmark: it promised to resolve national economic disparities at a time when Denmark was transitioning toward a postindustrial economy and a post-welfare political system and was struggling to find its place in the European Economic Community.

The bridge was spoken of as a beautiful, gigantic object that would hover over the Danish landscape for centuries to come—a massive built monument to modern Denmark's efficiency, strength, and technological superiority. In this paper, I will read this fusion of imaginaries of power and greatness and the images of masculinized labor found in the Danish Broadcasting Corporation's TV documentary series Brobyggerne (1991-1998), documenting the bridge's construction process.

Today, we are also placing great faith in massive building projects, hoping to build our way to a better future through a "green transition". But before we do so, let us consider: what can we learn from the hopeful and sometimes cruelly optimistic imaginaries surrounding the Great Belt Bridge?

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The role of municipalities in path creation and sustainability transitions

Title of presentation The role of municipalities in path creation and sustainability transitions

Abstract The ongoing climate crisis and biodiversity loss warrants a shift towards more sustainable modes of production and consumption. This shift requires development of new (green) industries capabilities, and the transitioning of existing ones. This paper departs from the notion that our understanding of the role that municipalities (and their administrations) can play in these industrial development processes, is limited. By putting municipalities up front and at the centre of analysis, the paper does not aim to underplay the role of other actors, but rather contribute with a deeper understanding of how municipalities intermediate between different actors and different levels of governance to promote (local, green) industrial development.

The paper draws on the agency in path development literature and contributions from the sustainability transitions (ST) literature on municipalities as intermediaries to explore the role of two Norwegian municipalities in industrial development (path creation) related to STs. The qualitative exploratory case study draws on interview data and the analysis is guided by RQ what roles can municipalities play in path creation processes related to sustainability transitions? In so doing, the paper explores both the actions taken, and the expectations shaping these actions, to promote industrial development in the studied areas.

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(UN)FAMILIAR NEIGHBOURS: PERCEPTIONS ACROSS THE FINNISH-RUSSIAN AND US-MEXICAN BORDERS

Title of presentation (UN)FAMILIAR NEIGHBOURS: PERCEPTIONS ACROSS THE FINNISH-RUSSIAN AND US-MEXICAN BORDERS

Abstract To cross or not to cross the border, that is the question. The answer can perhaps be found in the concept of (un)familiarity. Though this research project is based on the 'bandwidth of unfamiliarity' model (See Spierings & Van der Velde 2008), it will adopt its own understanding of the concept, which includes a much heavier emphasis on perception to explain why we chose to cross borders and interact with the people on the other side. Until now the concept has mainly been applied to EU tourism and labor mobility, but here it has been used in three different cases: 1) to examine general perception of Russia and why people wish to visit Russia 2) to examine why local Finnish authorities and NGO's want to engage in cross-border cooperation with their neighbor 3) to examine the perception of the U.S.-Mexican border as dangerous. Together these three cases will help to illuminate how (un)familiarity influences cross-border perceptions and interactions on various levels in the cases of the Finnish-Russian and US-Mexican borders?

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Conditions of possibility for the rise of radical geography in Copenhagen

Title of presentation Conditions of possibility for the rise of radical geography in Copenhagen

Abstract Spearheaded by students and some younger members of the faculty, a strong movement of radical geography took form at the University of Copenhagen in the late 1960s and unfolded during the 1970s. This paralleled the rise of radical geographies elsewhere, but in a Nordic perspective, at least, the Copenhagen movement was unique. The Copenhagen radical geographers published their own journal, pursued critical lines of research and developed alternative forms of education. This movement played a key part in conflicts that were close to tear the Department of Geography apart. However, the Copenhagen radical geographers were instrumental in transforming the geography education at the University of Copenhagen, opened new lines of research and were highly involved in founding geography education and research at the new Roskilde University Centre. This paper addresses the conditions of possibility for the rise of radical geography at the University of Copenhagen. At the general level, these conditions were not unique to Copenhagen. But at the Department of Geography, the conditions of possibility were particularly favourable for the rise of radical geography.

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Unpacking Experiences of Climate Privilege

Title of presentation Unpacking Experiences of Climate Privilege

Abstract This paper explores experiences of climate privilege among residents in new sustainability-profiled neighbourhoods in Sweden. While new urban neighbourhoods with a sustainability-profile reflects attempts to plan for more inclusive cities, these neighbourhoods tend to form exclusive urban spaces reserved for affluent residents. In this paper we contribute to the notion of 'climate privilege' by an empirical account of choices and responsibilities of residents living under privileged climate conditions. We ask how responsibilities and choice in relation to living sustainably and climate friendly, are distributed among the residents in the neighbourhoods. Via qualitative semi-structured interviews with 22 residents in two sustainability-profiled neighbourhoods in Sweden, we inquire their choice of home, their everyday life routines and their relation to the sustainability profile. The interview materials reveal how climate privilege is in many ways beneficial to residents, for example in terms of low-energy bills and not needing to own a car. The residents appreciate living in new, modern housing in green neighbourhoods designed to simplify everyday life routines. The paper offers a critical analysis of everyday life, choice, and awareness in a sustainability-profiled neighbourhood, as of questions for whom these neighbourhoods are planned, as well as the consequences thereof for climate justice globally.

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Climate friendly mobility, a possibility for everyone?

Title of presentation Climate friendly mobility, a possibility for everyone?

Abstract There is an urgent need for climate action, but what does climate friendly mobility mean to people's access to everyday activities, and how this is enabled or constrained by different kinds of capital? I discuss how and if different people take and can take part in climate friendly mobility, and how this is linked to accessibility, in contrast to mobility dependent on fossil fuels or lack of access. I investigate climate mitigation policies in a city context with people's mobility as a starting point. Spatial capital (Kaufmann, Bergman, and Joye 2004) is a useful concept to discuss people's access to mobility. Central living is a choice often taken by gentrifiers to get access to workplaces, walking, and biking – and a sustainable lifestyle (Rérat 2018; Rérat and Lees 2011). Policies on climate friendly mobility can be understood as densifying the city, base it on public transport, and make it more walkable and bike friendly (IPCC 2023). In the study spatial capital and climate friendly mobility is investigated in the case of nurses in Oslo and discussed in terms of a just transition agenda. The study builds on interviews with nurses working in hospitals, emergency service or nursing homes.

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Digitalisation in medium-sized cities

Title of presentation Digitalisation in medium-sized cities

Abstract The concept of the smart city has gained in importance over the last 30 years and is recognised worldwide as a model for future urban development. When analysing smart city initiatives, scientific consideration has so far concentrated primarily on large cities and metropolitan areas. Small and medium-sized cities are only slowly becoming the focus of research (e.g. FOR Münster). However, small and medium-sized cities play a decisive role in digitisation at community level, both in absolute numbers and in relation to the number of inhabitants.

In order to gain an overview of the specific requirements of medium-sized cities, a qualitative case study was done to examine the special needs of digitisation and smartification in small and medium-sized cities using the example of North Rhine-Westphalia. Based on qualitative expert interviews, the state of digitalisation was recorded and the special challenges in the field of digitalisation strategies were identified. The planned presentation is intended to show which particular challenges exist in digitalisation in the city sizes mentioned and how differently these challenges are mastered.

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A Place-based Just Transition Framework for Industrial Decarbonization

Title of presentation A Place-based Just Transition Framework for Industrial Decarbonization

Abstract Growing policy focus in many major economies have been devoted to facilitating net zero transitions of energy-intensive industries, such as steel, chemicals and cement, which are responsible for around a quarter of global CO₂ emissions. While policy discourses have often underscored the need for rapid, socially acceptable industrial decarbonisation (ID), how to implement ID projects in ways that are considered fair and just from the perspective of workers and local communities remains unclear. This paper seeks to address this gap by proposing an empirically informed framework for place-based just transitions in industrial clusters. This framework highlights seven key themes developed from four social science projects on ID in the UK and globally: ongoing processes, place sensitivity, genuine community engagement, localized benefits and fairness, trust, credibility and legitimacy, multi-level governance, and trade-offs and tensions. In so doing, this paper provides a collaborative approach for government and industry to work with residents in implanting ID in ways that respond to the needs of declining industrial areas and marginalized communities. It also offers a novel synthesis of three relevant, yet under-connected research fields – sense of place, just transitions and social license to operate – that can inform the broader research on just sustainability transitions.

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Bad data? Or 10 ways to understand public transport development in Sweden over time.

Title of presentation Bad data? Or 10 ways to understand public transport development in Sweden over time.

Abstract Good and reliable data is crucial to understand the effects of governmental changes in policy and planning. Especially in times with increased neo liberal governance and use of key performance indicators (KPI) in public government. In public transport, the focus on optimization, efficiency, and economies of scale influence how policy goals are formulated targeting market shares, customer satisfaction scoring, and the reduction of fossil fuel in operations, etc. Through these measures, public transport authorities hope to showcase development striving towards sustainability of the transport system. At the same time, zooming in on a particular measure, risk presenting rather one-dimensional perspectives to public transport, and focus on elements that are easy to measure, but not necessarily relevant nor representational to the complexity of the transport system.

In Sweden, there are several KPI for public transport that are presented annually. They are collected through self-reporting from operators, ridership surveys and register data. Each KPI come with certain strengths and weaknesses, as to data quality and geographical coverage, individually presenting rather narrow perspectives to public transport development. This paper aims to discuss how different sets of “bad data” can be combined to illustrate a more nuanced view of public transport development over time.

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Experimental co-creation as a tool for citizen participation in living labs?

Title of presentation Experimental co-creation as a tool for citizen participation in living labs?

Abstract Transport and mobility are crucial parts of our lives to reach key destinations in our cities. At the same time, the ways our transport and mobility systems have been designed and planned for are not sustainable but must be rethought. However, such a re-design significantly impacts urban dwellers' daily experiences, underscoring the importance of incorporating residents' needs and desires in future planning. As a response, there is an increasing interest in participatory methods, participatory design, and co-creation processes (Boisjoly & Yengoh, 2017). This is especially visible through a growing interest in more experimental forms of co-creation such as living labs (LLs), which can be defined as real-world laboratories where new solutions are tested together with stakeholders and citizens. In that way a LL is often seen as vehicle for co-creation and the space where co-creation takes place (De Koning et.al., 2016). Even though there has been a development of citizen engagement through co-creation activities within transport and mobility planning many challenges remain (Ebbesson, 2022). Hence, this paper builds on data from 12 European cities working with co-creation processes towards more sustainable mobility. It critically analyses the ways co-creation is being developed within the LLs.

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Provisional livelihoods and infrastructures in the (post)pandemic city.

Title of presentation Provisional livelihoods and infrastructures in the (post)pandemic city.

Abstract Urban majorities in the Global South engage in diverse livelihood and infrastructural improvisations. Many earn a living on sidewalks and markets, and build physical and social infrastructures on which their livelihoods depend. The centrality of these infrastructures for sustaining urban livelihoods was brought to the fore by the COVID-19-induced crisis. This paper explores the dynamics of social and physical livelihood infrastructures in the context of the pandemic crisis in Maputo, Mozambique. The pandemic prompted infrastructural practices and responses that variously supported or debilitated people's livelihoods in different urban spaces. In auto-constructed markets, preexisting associations adopted new practices to mitigate long-standing infrastructural neglect, and operated makeshift water infrastructures temporarily provided by the state. By re-organizing the markets they averted their closure and facilitated the continued long-distance circulation of people and goods throughout the pandemic. These social infrastructures thus played a critical role in maintaining livelihoods and social reproduction in the city and beyond during the pandemic. Based on fieldwork in Maputo in 2022, the paper is inspired by understandings of infrastructure as mediator of everyday life, as a medium and outcome of social, spatial and political processes, as well as a basis for social and political claims.

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Marx and Capital Vol II, Harvey and circuits of capital

Title of presentation Marx and Capital Vol II, Harvey and circuits of capital

Abstract This paper critically engages with one of Harvey's central conceptual frameworks in his model for capitalist urbanization (and its central mechanism, capital switching), i.e., his three circuits of capital. Harvey names Capital Vol II as his main source of inspiration and characterizes his conceptual framework as an elaboration of Marx's original intentions in the text. I have two objectives in my critique. Firstly, while I acknowledge that Harvey's reading (and Sweezy's before him) is plausible and scientifically legitimate, I would argue that it is not the only possible reading of Marx's argument in Capital Vol II. Rival readings are to be judged by their explanatory power vis-à-vis empirical questions, which Harvey has not done in this case, and not by subjective qualities of their respective readings. Secondly, I aim to expose some crucial anomalies in Harvey's exposition and discuss potential empirical challenges they create. I argue that his conceptualization of the three circuits of capital is somewhat counterintuitive as he integrates circuits of capital, household revenue, and commerce into a single category. This conceptualization is a useful tool for his model. Empirically, however, it creates problems as it ignores that various components of his framework have various drivers and pricing mechanisms, all of which create problems in operationalizing the model.

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Non-profit housing actors innovating (in) the housing system?

Title of presentation Non-profit housing actors innovating (in) the housing system?

Abstract Compared to other national housing systems, non-profit actors in the Norwegian housing system have a marginal role in supplying housing. One type of non-profit actor is the so-called 'municipal housing foundation', which mostly builds and administers means-tested rental housing units on behalf of municipalities. These units are meant as temporary accommodation for 'disadvantaged on the housing market'. However, in the current landscape with housing unaffordability and inequality, and with municipalities developing new housing policies, some housing foundations are operating in ways that differ from the ways housing foundations have traditionally been operating. This paper is about two such housing foundations, in different cities, which have piloted new housing models. In this paper, I explore how the models differ from each other and with how they relate to the housing regime. Further, I explore the different roles the foundations take in the housing system by piloting these models, more specifically the foundations' motivations, type of ambitions and relationships to the municipality. While one foundation is still administered as a municipal tool and the model is in accordance with the housing regime, the other foundation operates more autonomously, and the model represents a break with the housing regime.

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At the edge of the municipality: State-citizen relations in the Danish rural countryside

Title of presentation At the edge of the municipality: State-citizen relations in the Danish rural countryside

Abstract In Nordic welfare societies, the idea of 'the state' is often taken for granted as a stable legitimate entity providing public services. However, the state is 'always in the making' (Lund 2017; Das and Poole 2004), coming into being through mutual relations of recognition between citizens and statutory institutions. Drawing on insights from an ongoing collaborative research project on multifunctional landscape management in Denmark, this paper explores the reconfiguration of state-citizen relations in context of the withdrawal and subsequent partial provision of public services. It traces the story of a local landscape artifact – a railway bridge – interrogating how it moved from being a symbol of state power and agricultural expansion, over a site of sabotage and resistance, to being a recreational path connecting villages. Yet, undervalued by 'the state', the recreational bridge was demolished, enhancing local citizens' feeling of abandonment and state withdrawal that followed the closure of the local school, doctor's clinic and railway station. As local citizens mobilize 'to be seen' (Honneth 2001), the municipality responds by facilitating an alternative recreational route. While this does not remedy the general perception of state abandonment, it generates a sense of recognition and incites local citizens to mobilize for further improvements.

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Measuring perceived transfer inconvenience in commute trips combining bicycles and public transport

Title of presentation Measuring perceived transfer inconvenience in commute trips combining bicycles and public transport

Abstract Public transport and bicycles are two essential components of a sustainable urban transport system, with their integration increasing their potential to reduce car use in urban areas. However, their combined use has one essential weakness, which is having to transfer between two travel modes. This additional step creates a feeling of inconvenience to potential travellers. Understanding the factors that cause this inconvenience allows to implement policies and measures that ensure an efficient integration and consequently an effective transition to more sustainable travel options. However, the factors that cause this inconvenience are currently understudied. This study fills this knowledge gap by identifying these factors and measuring their effect on transfer inconvenience. This study identifies five categories of factors: (i) transfer environment, (ii) bike facilities and regulations, (iii) accessibility, (iv) information, and (v) surroundings. Using data from the region of Nord-Jæren in Norway a Structural Equation Model (SEM) has been developed examining the relationship transfer inconvenience perception and the different factors. The results indicate the characteristics of the urban environment or the existing transport system that contribute to the perception of transfer inconvenience and consequently restrict travellers from choosing this travel option, making them less willing to change their existing car-oriented lifestyles.

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Transition Talks – island communities as pioneers and consolidators of sustainability transitions.

Title of presentation Transition Talks – island communities as pioneers and consolidators of sustainability transitions.

Abstract Worldwide island communities are leading in sustainability transitions. Island communities often have a strong drive towards self-sufficiency and form concerted socio-cultural networks. Simultaneously, islands are generally remote, locally-organized and dependent on external resources and extra-local drivers to catalyze change.

Ameland – a Dutch Wadden island – is a pioneering community with regards to the energy transition and ambitions to become frontrunner in the circular economy transition too. Given this particular setting, our research examines what a small-scale island community learns across transitions in order to maintain their frontrunning position. While learning processes for single transitions have been researched extensively, the connection between learning capacity and long-term transition trajectories remains underexplored.

For our qualitative empirical research we used the learning history evaluative tool to structure interviews and a validating focus group with key stakeholders. This tool allows to simultaneously reflect, generate an overview of the critical moments and to distill key lessons.

Our research reveals that transitions are highly dependent on local organizational capacities: creating a taskforce, breaking up a transition in manageable steps and followed by a pilot project. Extra-local relations and institutionalization however turn out to be crucial to consolidate success: funding and external expertise to scale up projects, but also attention from national media appeared to be catalyzer of successful transitions.

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Migration and life style preferences among the elderly

Title of presentation Migration and life style preferences among the elderly

Abstract In 1989, H. Myklebost, in the article Migration of elderly Norwegians, identified two primary elderly migration patterns in Norway: return migration from cities to places from which people migrated at a younger age, and amenity migration towards regions with a better climate. Despite lower migration rates among the elderly, there has been a significant increase, with the number of movers aged 60 and above doubling since 2000. Most of these migrations occur within municipalities, an area that has been underexplored.

The HEIM project examines the impact of rural to urban migration on the lifestyle, health, and well-being of the elderly. Using national statistics and detailed migration data from Trøndelag, this presentation revisits and updates Myklebost's findings and investigates intra-municipality migration patterns. Through understanding of migration behavior, the aim is to identify lifestyle preferences among the elderly.

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Sustainable urban development in Sweden: roles, beliefs, and expectations of municipalities and developers

Title of presentation Sustainable urban development in Sweden: roles, beliefs, and expectations of municipalities and developers

Abstract New neighbourhoods in Sweden are increasingly being planned and developed with high sustainability ambitions. These urban development projects are often initiated and driven by the municipalities. However, the municipalities are dependent on developers and other local actors for the actual implementation of the sustainability ambitions. This paper seeks to understand roles, beliefs, and expectations of municipalities and developers during the planning, implementation, and follow-up of sustainability ambitions in these urban development projects. The focus is on two case studies in Sweden, the urban development projects of Brunnshög in Lund and Vallastaden in Linköping. Institutional logic is used as a framework to explore how the realization of sustainability ambitions is enabled in these urban development projects, focusing on the roles, beliefs and expectations of both the municipality and the developers. The analysis of the empirical material indicates that there is very limited formal follow-up from the municipality during the later phases of the urban development process, and that the municipality is struggling with its role in the implementation of sustainability ambitions. This paper provides insights into the progress of sustainable urban development and discusses the challenges and opportunities of the urban development of sustainable neighbourhoods in Sweden.

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Rural as Platform

Title of presentation Rural as Platform

Abstract AI and LLMs are, necessarily, topics of immense interest and concern because of the rapid development and deployment of various algorithmic and machine learning systems of varying stakes and complexity. Research and investigations of fairness and bias in these systems and the need for adequate policy is being undertaken in various contexts, from health to finance, criminal justice to human resources. Less research has focused on geography as a context for AI deployment and policy. This paper examines the intersection of geography and AI using the idea of the platform. The term “platform” allows for discursive positioning of these technologies, demonstrating how they are framed for different audiences, and lead these audiences toward a particular way of viewing them. Inherent in the idea of platforms is a focus on the computational nature of the systems. This research notes the computational and programmable architecture of digital media technologies, like LLMS, while recognizing the importance of considering the impact and influence on the social (communities), particularly as it relates to the collection of data. This perspective offers an ecological approach to understanding the implications of the creation and deployment of AI that is unique to rural areas.

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A geographic ecological momentary assessment of how exposure to parks affect wellbeing and sleep quality

Title of presentation A geographic ecological momentary assessment of how exposure to parks affect wellbeing and sleep quality

Abstract ParkSeek is a national research initiative funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada to understand access to, and quality of experiences in, parks and recreational facilities across Canada. Medical professionals are considering park prescriptions to address a range of chronic health conditions; however, there is currently weak cross-sectional evidence linking parks to wellbeing. Our study makes use of a novel geographic ecological momentary assessment protocol. Participants installed a smartphone app, logging their locations every two minutes over two weeks. They received prompts to complete a short survey about their wellbeing twice per day. They received a survey prompt every time they were inside a park, and again shortly after they left the park. Sixty-seven individuals completed the full two-week study protocol (Fall 2023), resulting in 777,035 locations collected across all participants. A generalized linear mixed-effect modelling approach had mixed results for wellbeing. Engagement with parks among participants was lower than anticipated. This study makes several methodological advances over prior exposure-response studies related to parks and health, including directly collecting geospatial data logs alongside in-situ survey responses. The study provides further justification for park prescriptions to be carefully trialed before recommending their adoption within broader general medical practice.

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Is the path to an accelerated sustainable mobility transition paved with experimentation?

Title of presentation Is the path to an accelerated sustainable mobility transition paved with experimentation?

Abstract The challenges society faces in achieving net emission reduction are largely recognised by public actors. However, traditional planning processes and institutional settings, conventionally characterised by limited transformative capacity, can present problems when navigating these challenges. Experimentation has been heralded as a means of accelerating the sustainable mobility transition. Yet, experimentation has been criticised for not facilitating transformation of the magnitude required. With this study, we challenge the assumption that the path to an accelerated sustainable mobility transition is paved with experimentation. The apparent links between experimentation, transformative capacity and the acceleration of the sustainable mobility transition are decomposed by applying a reflexive methodology to the experimentation structure employed by the Mistra SAMS research programme in a living lab setting in Botkyrka, Stockholm. The rhetoric behind experimentation, and the roles of the actors involved in the experiment-based temporary organisational structure are disentangled. Our findings centre around the criteria that should be fulfilled for an activity to be classed as experimentation, leading us to question the conclusions that can be drawn if these criteria are not fulfilled. The scale of experimentation compared to other planning functions is highlighted, while differentiating between experimentation and transformation is emphasised.

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From the Balance Sheet to the Cash Flow: Maintaining Rental Housing as an Asset

Title of presentation From the Balance Sheet to the Cash Flow: Maintaining Rental Housing as an Asset

Abstract This paper engages with the literature on assetization and on the financialization of rental housing, investigating the manifestation of apartment renovations in Sweden. Drawing on the analytics proposed by Birch and Ward (2022), the paper examines how Sweden's rental housing market has undergone a process of enclosure in which private rental housing has become an investment asset. The paper presents two main arguments. First, the paper argues that this assetization has been maintained through rent extraction in the form of apartment renovations. Yet, through renovations and their links to increased asset values in the balance sheets, investors are not only re-making property, but they are also re-making (Birch 2020) how rental housing functions as an asset. The second argument points out the limitations to this assetization process, proposing that assetization within the rental sector, following the rising cost of capital, most recently manifest in the adjustments of the cash flows through increasing rents, deepening the tensions between tenants and landlords. In turn, this paper elucidates how the assetization of rental housing is grounded in two interlinked trajectories of the re-making of property and the re-making of the asset, consequently fueling a heightened tension in the tenant-landlord relationship.

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Do they matter? A study on the inclusion of children in regional public transport planning in Sweden

Title of presentation Do they matter? A study on the inclusion of children in regional public transport planning in Sweden

Abstract Public transport is crucial for children's mobility. To access spaces and places without accompanying adults, buses, ferries, trains and trams constitute an important part of children's daily mobility – both to school and leisure activities. But do public transport authorities (PTA) plan and organize public transport based on children's needs and wishes? In 1990 Sweden ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and 2020 it became an integrated part of Swedish legislation. Drawing on interviews with regional public transport planners and regional documents we wish through notions of children's perspective to unpack if and in what way the convention has influenced how PTAs include children in their planning. The study demonstrates that very few of the 21 regional PTAs have translated the convention to a public transport language and thereby work with a child rights perspective in a systematic way. Although PTAs wish to have a more child friendly perspective, lack of resources, access to and knowledge from children are barriers in their work. Furthermore, a great focus on adults' commuting, spaces and places prevent them from being in accordance with the convention. We thereby illustrate a continuous lack to plan public transport for children's needs and wishes.

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Structuring transit spaces – exploring the interface between public transport workers and users

Title of presentation Structuring transit spaces – exploring the interface between public transport workers and users

Abstract Digitalisation, new transport modes and new business models are jointly changing fast how public transport space is both produced and how travelers use it. For example, the deployment of mobile phone applications or the replacement of human presence with digital surveillance impact both workers and travelers in public transport; the latter has led to intense conflicts in Sweden lately. In this presentation we theorize and explore the evolving interface(s) between public transport workers and users by exploring three levels: 1) the sociotechnical and material elements of public transport interfaces, 2) the underlying political economic processes and rationalities that structure the interfaces, and 3) the (non)encounters between people that the interfaces give rise to. We also discuss the impacts on different groups when public transport interfaces are restructured through social, economic and technological reorganization. The research is undertaken through theoretical elaboration and a literature review to identify interfaces theoretically and empirically. Our research thus offers a novel analytical framework to contribute to deeper explorations of the relationship between economy, technology and space that together constitute what public transport is and becomes for different individuals and groups.

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Contestation and crisis: Power and politics in a public consultation process on nature and landscape diversity in Norway

Title of presentation Contestation and crisis: Power and politics in a public consultation process on nature and landscape diversity in Norway

Abstract Different concepts and values of nature are deeply embedded in diverse human practices of landscape and environmental management and policies. What has recently been dubbed the 'nature crisis' is testament to this. The 'nature crisis' refers to the globally accelerating loss of biodiversity and the degrading of landscapes and ecosystems due to human activity. However, 'the crisis' is contested, takes multiple forms across space and scale, materially as well as discursively. By implication, there is always more than one nature, nature is never neutral or given, and thus always political.

In this contribution, we understand the agency and force of documents, legal texts and other bureaucratic devices as key to an investigation of how natures and landscapes are politicised and enacted within a 'crisis narrative'. We draw empirically on the ongoing Norwegian Government's public consultation process for the upcoming white paper on nature diversity (Stortingsmelding om naturmangfold), to be launched towards the end of 2024. We analyse responses from the public consultation process with the aim to identify key narratives conveyed in the respondents' underlying value judgements of what the Norwegian landscape is and ought to be. We specifically ask: in what ways are landscapes and natures enacted in the responses, what values and perspectives are shaping the meaning of these landscapes and natures, and what and whose natures and landscapes are at stake within the crisis narratives?

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No Place to Live: How tourism and investment prevents local people living in the Lake District UK

Title of presentation No Place to Live: How tourism and investment prevents local people living in the Lake District UK

Abstract The growth of second homes emerged as the most disliked aspect of tourism in a survey of Lake District stakeholders. It also exhibited the largest discrepancy between desires and expectations for the National Park, with 88% wanting a reduction in the next 10 years, but only 5% expecting it. As residential properties, mainly the oldest, prettiest houses at the core of villages, are transformed into second homes and holiday lets, remaining residents, often on the periphery, find social life eroded with schools, churches, sports clubs and shops no longer viable. Paradoxically, tourism businesses often struggle to recruit staff who can afford to live in the area or travel to work.

This paper investigates the mechanisms behind this change and the growing inequality between people with the financial capital to buy into enjoyment of the natural and cultural landscape while simultaneously depriving local people of the opportunity to live locally. The research continues and we will endeavour to bring the results of interviews with second-home owners, local businesses and displaced people as well as fuller findings from the original survey. The wider implications for other holiday areas are examined.

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Technoliberalism - Grain Markets, Profits and Livelihoods

Title of presentation Technoliberalism - Grain Markets, Profits and Livelihoods

Abstract The paper reveals how the international grain trade and its infrastructures have recently developed, how the roles played by Europe, the US, Russia and Ukraine have changed, and focuses on the consequences for North Africa – home of the world's largest wheat importing nations. A number of little-known actors are 'framing and overflowing' the international grain market: these include grain logistics companies, investment banks, high-frequency traders and their algorithms, which dominate digital trading in agricultural commodities. The speed of trading now exceeds the possibilities of human intervention and takes place within nanoseconds. I argue that the causes of greed, of food price fluctuations and of hunger only become understandable in the context of technoliberalism - the interaction of technology/infrastructure, research, and neoliberalism. The interlocking of increasingly privatised science with digitalised technology and market-liberal practices gives rise to new human-machine connections and new insecurities. These connections are by no means permanent, nor are they limited to a single location. Rather, they are configurations, alliances and procedures that are – based on various infrastructures - generated, often invisibly to the public, in offices and trading floors, concealed in the guise of mechanised processes of value creation and hidden in anonymous bureaucratic instructions.

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Spatial patterns of sector transformations – A conceptual elaboration and research agenda

Title of presentation Spatial patterns of sector transformations – A conceptual elaboration and research agenda

Abstract Geography of Sustainability Transitions (GeoST) literature shows important gaps when it comes to specifying the spatial patterns of transformation in different sectoral contexts. The current state of theorisation lacks frameworks for analysing how sector transformation follow diverse spatial patterns that are jointly conditioned by territorial (urban, regional, national) and sectoral (often ‘global’) structures. Integrative approaches are urgently needed to develop a more comprehensive understanding of the (spatial) determinants of deep sectoral transformations. This paper addresses this gap in the literature by developing a novel and integrative heuristic for characterizing sector structures from a combined socio-technical and spatial perspective. We argue that transformation dynamics and their spatial patterns vary depending on the ‘system architecture’ of a sector, referring to the constellation of coherent socio-technical configurations that co-exist in a given sector and the varying degrees to which they are institutionalized and aligned to each other at different scales, and in different places. With this argumentation, we build on foundational research on the role of path-dependency, structuration, co-evolution, and semi-coherence in sectoral transformation trajectories and combine them with new insights from the sociology of knowledge and organization studies.

The analytical utility of our heuristic is illustrated with illustrations from existing literature on the urban water management- and mobility sectors. Our approach clearly shows that the relevant transition dynamics and scales of intervention fundamentally differ between sector types, which questions whether one-size-fits-all approaches for analysing transition dynamics across sectors and spatial contexts are feasible. Rather to the contrary, our heuristic aims at providing a conceptual inroad and analytical toolbox for theorizing the geography of transitions in more sector- and place-specific ways.

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A popular public sphere: uncovering the making and memories The Swedish People's Parks

Title of presentation A popular public sphere: uncovering the making and memories The Swedish People's Parks

Abstract The public sphere is a key geographic dimension of struggles for democracy, and democratic life more broadly. Yet, the notion of a public sphere is often treated as a spatial metaphor for diffuse conversations. Drawing on critical geographies of social movements as makers of public places, we in this paper turn to the case of the early Swedish labor movements' several hundred so-called People's Parks. We propose that these parks were created as what might, drawing on Margaret Kohn, be understood as a "popular public sphere". These public places proved, we suggest, key to Swedish social democracy's decades-long contestation of hegemony. Unlike many other powerful spaces of political struggle forged in the same period, these places were not crushed by repression. Instead, they appear to have been used as one of the models for how the welfare state sought to generate an even more ambitious set of public institutions from the top down. Gradually undermined by social democracy's turn to state-funded public meeting places, this popular public sphere slowly fell into disarray. With this paper, we propose that uncovering the history of the People's Parks as popular publics prefiguring the welfare state might be an important way to make sense of the memory politics of what today still is a movement infrastructure, yet remains unmoored from both democratic and social political ambitions.

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Death and green space in the urban landscape

Title of presentation Death and green space in the urban landscape

Abstract In a time of rapid urbanization and city densification, a growing body of research has begun exploring the urban cemetery as a multifunctional green space. While cemeteries are foremost characterized by their very specific function as burial sites, they also have high values for biodiversity and recreation in the urban context, as well as involving health concerns in terms of potential contaminations. The increasing demand for multi-functionality in densifying cities is not without conflict. Thus, urban cemeteries are arenas where sensitive topics such as cultural norms concerning burial, death and religion are negotiated in relation to other interests of access and planning of urban space.

In the growing conflicts, profound questions arise such as: are the cemetery for the living or the dead, which ideas do we have about healthy processing of grief, how well are we equipped to talk about death at the same as time this is part of ecological processes? And, how can we agree on how these urban green spaces can be used?

The renegotiated meaning ascribed to cemeteries are not exclusively experienced and practiced by visitors, but is also highly relevant for city officials tasked with planning for the added benefit of social, cultural and ecological integration. In this presentation, we present a case study of a cemetery in the process of being built in the north of Stockholm. It is intended to be an interreligious burial space, specifically designed to also permit recreational activities – as well as being positive for biodiversity.

We aim to initiate a discussion that problematizes urban cemeteries as places of burial, death and memory and as greens spaces that may be used for biodiversity, relaxation and recreation. As an essential part of this we raise the question whether cemeteries are primarily aimed for the dead or the living – and if for both how should they be linked?

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Funding fads and donor interests shaping 30 years of international conservation funding in Madagascar

Title of presentation Funding fads and donor interests shaping 30 years of international conservation funding in Madagascar

Abstract Tens of billions of dollars in official development assistance have been spent over the past decades to address the increasing loss of biodiversity. Despite this expenditure, detailed knowledge of who has provided these funds and who has used them, for what purpose, where, why, and with what effect within aid-receiving countries remains surprisingly limited. To address this gap, we apply a mixed-methods approach to map, categorize and analyze international aid for biodiversity conservation to Madagascar, a high priority country for biodiversity. We find a decline in overall biodiversity aid to the country between 1990-2018, punctuated by clear drops during times of political unrest. Funding flows were marked by periods with distinctive emphases, from protected areas to community involvement, to market-based conservation. These patterns reflect key donor interests and quantitative funding results resonate with the views and perceptions of conservation practitioners on the ground. Conservation professionals highlighted how increasing administrative short-sightedness and power structures has led to difficulties in finding funding for basic operational costs. Our findings hold relevance for future biodiversity funding commitments under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

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Climate change adaptation in small remote communities in Iceland: the case of avalanche risk

Title of presentation Climate change adaptation in small remote communities in Iceland: the case of avalanche risk

Abstract Even though risk awareness of natural hazards and climate change has increased in Iceland, a comprehensive approach to adaptation is still lacking, and some Icelandic researchers have pointed at the lack of both local and national adaptation plans. Climate change-related hazards are a rather young phenomenon, especially with regards to social impacts and local adaptation. Through a case study approach looking at avalanche risk in remote communities in the Westfjords, qualitative methods were used to shed light on how small and remote communities in Iceland handle adverse effects and build capacity for response and preparedness. It was discovered that there was extensive place attachment in the communities, which offers a strong foundation for capacity building and community resilience. Nonetheless, because of the remoteness of the communities, first response must originate from within the community, making state institutions, their preparedness, and their response system primarily depend on local residents and their willingness to volunteer. That results in a demand from the communities for decentralized resources for first response and dependency on local knowledge, which can be challenging in the context of current demographic trends, such as increased tourism and the migration of foreign nationals to the communities.

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Exploring the Eudaimonic Well-being Effects of Nature: Insights from Mental Health Service Users

Title of presentation Exploring the Eudaimonic Well-being Effects of Nature: Insights from Mental Health Service Users

Abstract This research investigates the eudaimonic well-being impacts of nature, focusing on individuals utilizing open mental health association services. Eudaimonic well-being emphasizes long-term, value-based flourishing, with a central focus on the meaningfulness of life. The data collection aims to provide in-depth insights into the significance of nature for this population, exploring how nature both supports and, at times, challenges their eudaimonic well-being. The rich qualitative dataset of creative nature writings reveals that nature holds particular importance for environmental mastery within this group, as individuals experience agency in utilizing the natural environment in ways aligned with their values. Moreover, the significance of nature extends to social relationships, including interactions with non-human species, introducing a multispecies perspective on eudaimonic well-being.

The findings also highlight various aspects diminishing well-being, such as value conflicts when confronted with ample environmental knowledge but limited means to enact changes in their immediate surroundings. This research contributes nuanced understandings of the complex dynamics between nature and eudaimonic well-being, from the point of view of mental health service users' experiences.

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Social inclusion on the waterfront. (Upper)-Middle classes and the practice of preventing segregation in Turku, Finland

Title of presentation Social inclusion on the waterfront. (Upper)-Middle classes and the practice of preventing segregation in Turku, Finland

Abstract Social and functional segregation is institutionalized through the property market (eg. Madanipour 2020). Land at the waterfronts is among the most expensive in cities, and typically new dwellings in such locations attract wealthier residents, who can self-segregate if no policy interventions are in use (eg. Kovacs 2020). Nevertheless, wealthier households are largely absent from the discussion on how to reach inclusive neighbourhoods. In this paper we explore how (upper) middle classes on the waterfront in Turku describe their neighborhood and its residents. How do they understand social inclusion and segregation? Social inclusion and the prevention of segregation is an important aim in Finnish urban and housing policy as well as an important goal in the development of waterfronts. Social inclusion in this paper refers to both the equal access to public spaces on the waterfront as well as opportunities to live by the waterfront. We use policy analysis and resident interviews as our data to understand if there is a discrepancy between the stated goals of policymakers, and the practices and discourses of the (upper) middle classes on the waterfront, who have the financial resources to make a choice on where they want to reside. We are particularly interested in understanding the way in which social inclusion is interpreted, how it looks in practice, and if the goal of social inclusion is feasible in our case-study city.

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Digital inequality as a lens to urban AI

Title of presentation Digital inequality as a lens to urban AI

Abstract Non-embodied urban artificial intelligence, such as digital systems intended to support decision-making and societal arrangements of the Nordic welfare state, have the power to transform cities' landscape on many levels. In recent years, Finland has been heavily investing on the development of AI. These experiments include, for example, AuroraAI, which was a preliminary study project on national artificial intelligence programme to investigate AI's potential in provision and management of smart services. Municipalities are interested in using AI as well and have already carried out some experiments; in Finland's welfare state system, cities are a central unit that organizes and manages a broad set of public services which grants them a lot of power in the ongoing urban AI transition. However, designing just and sustainable public urban technologies requires paying attention to digital gaps, understood broadly. We take the social scientific concept of digital inequality as a starting point and have a look at the ongoing transition with the framework it provides. Digital inequality is considered as a phenomenon that includes unequal differences between individuals in regards to digital technology access, skills, understanding, and benefits, but also differences between citizens and service providers, and between actors of public and private sector.

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Circular value chains and globalized production: Whose sustainable regional development?

Title of presentation Circular value chains and globalized production: Whose sustainable regional development?

Abstract This paper examines (regional) circular value chains vis-à-vis globalized production and its relationship to variegated regional development. Countries of the global South participate in globalization as part of global value chains and international division of labor. Given growing socio-environmental issues of globalization, geopolitical tensions, and instabilities of value chains, several home countries are rethinking both their role in global trade and the international dependence of their economies based on industrial policies. Circular (often regional) value chains provide a potential solution to these issues, offering new spatial configurations of production and consumption, and are discussed as a welcome example of contributing to sustainability. We question an overly positive view of these developments, arguing that it is currently unknown how these chains relate to or will be embedded in global value chains, how such changes will affect regions around the globe, how these transitions will be regionally legitimized, and whether they will contribute to more responsible chains. Against this background, we discuss emerging interregional and intraregional tensions, trade-offs, and unintended side-effects of circular value chains both in and vis-à-vis global value chains. We close by sketching opportunities for responsible state-led industrial policy and local agency.

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Five Finlands: Segmenting climate attitudes to manage equitable decarbonisation of housing

Title of presentation Five Finlands: Segmenting climate attitudes to manage equitable decarbonisation of housing

Abstract People grasp the climate crisis differently. Decarbonising our housing and household consumption requires taking stock of vulnerabilities, living standards, and attitudinal landscapes. Housing is a societal issue, yet for some factions, housing becomes an extension of values of owning outside of the logic of state planning. This paper builds on a latent class analysis of a survey on climate attitudes (n=1446) that segmented Finnish residents as Engaged, Aware, Cautious, Unsure and Divergent. Understanding the spatialities and socioeconomic differences allows us to push for more effective policies to think through incentives to decarbonise housing. The results show a clear variation in education, mobility, and age, explaining the spectrum of attitudes. However, the most potent separation is conditioned by communal-individualist traits that are reflected in ideological stances. The paper also recognises that regardless of attitudes, households can decide to cut their consumption in ways that can be unattainable for those who are more anxious about the climate. Thus, in planning more just and sustainable future housing, three things, at least, need to be considered: 1) the attitudinal landscape for climate practices and policies, 2) the abilities of households to manage decarbonisation and 3) ways to balance regional disparities with socially equitable support.

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Challenges and opportunities for ageing regions in Denmark and Sweden

Title of presentation Challenges and opportunities for ageing regions in Denmark and Sweden

Abstract Our societies are ageing. In Europe there are now fewer than 3 adults of working age for every citizen aged 65 and older. In 2050 there will be fewer than 2. These demographic changes come with a variety of societal challenges, which are also receiving increasing policy (and media) attention. Increased old age-dependency drives a growing pressure on fiscal resources for welfare services, labour shortages and shrinking cities, for example. At the same time, a growing silver economy is also considered to offer opportunities ranging from entrepreneurial activities to innovations and initiatives in the public sector and in local communities.

However, the spatial pattern of ageing regions is highly uneven, as is the economic geography of skills, jobs and innovation. Combined, this implies that the challenges as well as opportunities associated with ageing societies will vary across regions, and an urban-regional perspective is essential and urgent. Using data from Denmark and Sweden, we start by categorizing ageing regions based on population dynamics as well as labour market preconditions for future development. This leads us to a more nuanced and variegated understanding of regional potentials and (latent) opportunities associated with ageing societies.

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Turnover time in the Pandemic Era: industrial poultry, avian influenza and the compulsions of supply-chain capitalism

Title of presentation Turnover time in the Pandemic Era: industrial poultry, avian influenza and the compulsions of supply-chain capitalism

Abstract This paper takes mounting challenges to agro-industrial capitalism posed by emerging infectious diseases (EIDs) as a focal point for revisiting foundational debates in critical agrarian studies. While the early formulations of the "Mann-Dickinson thesis" and its critiques revolved around obstacles and opportunities for capital in the face of natural processes and organization of labour within agriculture, agro-capital has gone far since in the real subsumption of nature -- especially so in sectors such as poultry. Under contemporary conditions of supply-chain capitalism, turnover time has come to be shaped by actors rooted in circuits of capital beyond the farm itself, namely in the logistical organization of distribution, exchange and consumption. These insights have so far remained relatively neglected within scholarship pertaining to EID's role in contemporary agrarian transformations. Drawing upon empirical material from Norway and Denmark's poultry industries' recent confrontations with avian influenza, and by paying close attention to the questions of temporality and disaggregating the agency of capital, this paper contributes by elucidating various strategies of the implicated classes of poultry capital responding to the differentiated challenges that they face from avian influenza through their particular position within the industry. In conclusion, we argue for the relevance of conceptual tools derived from the under-acknowledged second volume of Marx's Capital for critical agrarian studies more generally.

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Ongoing Colonialism, White Supremacy, and Emotional Labour in the Placing of Neighbourhoods in Kelowna, BC, Canada.

Title of presentation Ongoing Colonialism, White Supremacy, and Emotional Labour in the Placing of Neighbourhoods in Kelowna, BC, Canada.

Abstract This paper explores the relationship between ongoing colonialism and white supremacy, and how these structures impact the everyday experiences of the researcher, as a woman of colour, living in a central neighbourhood in Kelowna, Canada. Once a small resource town, Kelowna has developed into the fastest-growing metropolitan area in Canada. At the same time, the city has just half the national average percentage of minoritized people. The city is known for being a place of 'white fantasies,' lacking the so-called 'multiculturalism' for which white Canada has come to know itself. Using auto-ethnography as method, and including critical mixed-race and post-structuralist feminist theory, I attempt to understand the interlocking character of white supremacy and ongoing colonialism in the production of Kelowna neighbourhoods. 'Placing neighbourhoods' involves a great deal of emotional labour on the part of people of colour, as they navigate colonialism and white supremacy in their neighbourhoods.

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Perceived “darkness“ during the visit of Auschwitz-Birkenau memorial and museum

Title of presentation Perceived “darkness“ during the visit of Auschwitz-Birkenau memorial and museum

Abstract Dark tourism or travelling to sites associated with death, suffering and the seemingly macabre is becoming more popular for tourists as consumers and for the academics for whom it is an object of their studies. There is an ongoing debate about the “shades” of dark tourism sites, ranging from darker (places of death) to lighter (places associated with death). It is quite common to see Auschwitz as an example of the darker tourist site, sometimes it is even considered as the darkest tourist site in the world. On the other hand, there are typologies that consider “darkness” of the tourist. The focus of this paper is to show Auschwitz-Birkenau in a different way, based on the research that consists of participant observation and semi-structured interviews with Auschwitz-Birkenau visitors. The objective is twofold – firstly, there is an effort to look at the “darkness” not as an attribute of the tourist site or tourist, but as a relation between site and tourist, as the sites affects the tourists. Secondly, showing the Auschwitz-Birkenau memorial and museum not as just a singular place that possesses certain degree of darkness, but consists of several sites (e.g. different national exhibitions or division to Auschwitz and Birkenau).

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Rethinking strategic planning in the climate crisis

Title of presentation Rethinking strategic planning in the climate crisis

Abstract The idea of strategic planning stresses the need of town planning's engagement with urban, local, and regional economic development. Strategic planning is thus first defined in contrast to more restrictive tasks in municipalities/local authorities' planning regulation. Second it implies that planning agencies engage in cooperation with other, often business, actors. Finally, the typical full enrolment of strategic planning is associated with the delegation of strategic planning tasks to development corporations, performing entrepreneurialism as conceptualised by David Harvey (1989). However, coping with the emergency of the climate crisis, strategic planning needs to be rethought. Since firmly associated with objectives of economic growth, strategic planning and the way it has been organised, clashes with the questioning of the growth paradigm needed to mitigate climate change. In their climate policies, municipal leaders are in search of strategic climate planning, but efforts are often directed to notions of 'green growth' in need of greenwashing scrutiny. Through diverse examples of 'sustainable' Danish urban policies in relation to every day and tourist mobility, the paper investigates if and how strategic planning can be reprogrammed to deliver the kind of regulations and 'developments' in need to respond to the climate crisis emergency.

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Assessing the potential for local agriculture by 2030 through a machine learning modeling approach: the case of southern France

Title of presentation Assessing the potential for local agriculture by 2030 through a machine learning modeling approach: the case of southern France

Abstract The latter half of the 20th century witnessed a shift in European agriculture towards a predominantly industrial model (Temple et al. 2018), associated with the agricultural market liberalization and the globalization of food supplies (Lange et al. 2013). This transition generated important environmental and socio-economic impacts, such as the 31% decline of small-scale farms observed in France from 2010 to 2020 (Agreste, 2020). In response, initiatives such as Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) emerged in the 2000s, aiming to sustain agriculture near consumption areas (Morgan et al., 2018).
The literature on land use dynamics, notably land abandonment, either offers various predictive models or/and identifies drivers including climatic, topological, and socio-economic factors (Rey Benayas et al., 2007; Hatna & Bakker, 2011; Prishchepov et al. 2013; Vacquie et al., 2015). In this context, the study we propose here relies on a modelling approach based on finely spatialized databases from the Graphic Parcel Register (RPG) and machine learning tools. Applied to the southern France, the developed technique enables us to analyze the persistence of agriculture near consumption areas, focusing on the contribution of initiatives such as CSA to maintaining agricultural spaces nearby consumers.

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E-bike Commuting Patterns Across Urban and Rural Regions in Denmark

Title of presentation E-bike Commuting Patterns Across Urban and Rural Regions in Denmark

Abstract E-bikes are increasingly recognized as an efficient and sustainable alternative to cars, particularly for commuting. They offer greater flexibility and range than traditional bicycles and promote moderate physical activity during travel. This study explores the commuting patterns of e-bike riders across regions with varying population densities and urban sizes, focusing on their role in bridging urban-rural transportation-related divide. Utilizing survey data from 3,000 Danish commuters, we analyze user characteristics, commuting distances, and reasons for choosing e-bikes. To classify respondents, we calculated population density within a 5-kilometer radius of their living environments and a 25-kilometer commuting range. By integrating geographic information, we assess the interrelations between commuting behaviors in diverse settings. The findings highlight e-bikes' potential in connecting urban and rural areas, providing valuable insights for policymakers and urban planners striving to promote sustainable transportation and enhance infrastructure to meet diverse commuting needs.

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Putting tenure solidarity in its place: reframing the housing crisis as crisis of the welfare state.

Title of presentation Putting tenure solidarity in its place: reframing the housing crisis as crisis of the welfare state.

Abstract The first of the Sustainable Development Goals is 'No Poverty', implicitly reflecting its status and importance. However, as former anti-poverty community activists/practitioners, we observe a steadily growing tendency within the UK and beyond to silo issues of poverty - and wealth - in favour of single-issue struggles which serve to obscure underlying causes and necessary solutions.

While retaining a keen awareness of specific factors underlying the UK housing crisis, such as interwoven developments of the right to buy, the financialisation of housing generally, and the residualisation of public/social housing (from 'general needs' to 'tenure of last resort'), we argue that current approaches to housing struggle would benefit from a re-examination of their historically intertwined role within the wider class struggle against the ravages of poverty. In reasserting the 'cradle to grave' model of social provision, housing can then be reclaimed as a pillar of the welfare state.

Revisiting earlier roles, we situate and evidence our argument through autoethnographic accounts of grassroots activism and organisation within our own community in Partick, Glasgow, demonstrating contemporary relevance through insights and analyses derived from that defining experience.

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Digging into the private – exploring the interplay between creative practices, social engagement and site-specific art in a p...

Title of presentation Digging into the private – exploring the interplay between creative practices, social engagement and site-specific art in a public toilet

Abstract Informed by autoethnography and grounded in my professional, practice-based experiences in modern and contemporary art, this paper seeks to critically reflect on how processes of artistic and creative practices unfold in relation to top-down policy incentives, instrumentalism, social engagement processes and a value-loaded site – the public toilet. What happens in artistic practices when facing these multiple criteria and conditions and to what effect? Empirically, this research departs from the artist-researcher collaboration Thunderforce as part of the “multi-targeted” cooperation project Accessible Art for All at the Regional Museum of Skåne and Kristianstad Konsthall in Sweden, co-funded by the Creative Europe Programme (2021-2022). Emphasizing processes of social engagement, the project frames the making of a permanent art installation thematizing ‘toilets against bullying and discrimination’. Theoretically the research is informed by (de)peripheralisation, placemaking and Doreen Massey’s understanding of place as ‘throwntogetherness’. The presentation combines a visualisation of the creative processes (a.o. call & response, bricolage) intertwined with an academic reflection and analysis.

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Productive, inclusive and smart? The (un)timely endings of shared cycle schemes in Stockholm, Sweden

Title of presentation Productive, inclusive and smart? The (un)timely endings of shared cycle schemes in Stockholm, Sweden

Abstract An expansion and diversification of personal transport using small, lightweight, electric or muscle powered vehicles is taking place in urban areas world-wide. The development implies more vehicles of different types (e.g e-scooters and cargobikes), different ownership structures, diverse rhythms, and increased electrification. Such micromobility options are promoted as environmentally friendly, efficient, healthy, cheap and space saving, and shared solutions as flexible ways of reducing private consumption. The development is however also criticised, and shared schemes currently prohibited, restricted, downsized or replaced. The paper focusses on the life course of shared micromobility schemes, and asks a) what is “shared” in the systems, and b) how these types of endings, as well as new beginnings can be understood. The analysis derives from a case study in the Swedish capital Stockholm, currently lacking a shared procured cycle scheme after the failure to replace an old system with a new, “smart”, expanded, and electrified system. Through a narrative analysis of interviews and policy documents, and by a theoretical framework inspired by the new mobilities paradigm and mobility justice, the findings are discussed in relation to logics of neoliberal city planning and ideas of the productive travel, including its effects on the inclusion and exclusion of different practices and social groups.

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Local political leadership of sustainable transformation – what does it take?

Title of presentation Local political leadership of sustainable transformation – what does it take?

Abstract This paper explores the conditions for local political leadership for sustainable transport. As is well recognized, transport and mobility are critical issues for climate mitigation, but also have significant impacts on local environment, social inclusion, justice, urban development, land use and pollution etc. At a time when knowledge of effective strategies and measures are well covered – but not implemented at the scale and pace needed – political leadership is crucial. Contemporary societies are at the same time marked by broad social trends like segregation, mistrust towards political elites, populism, and individualism. Mobilizing public support for sustainable transformation is a complex and challenging task. Approaching political leadership as socially and materially situated, i.e. existing in relation to social and organizational settings, as well as to local geographies and issues at hand, we explore local politicians' experiences of exercising leadership and how this is conditioned in various ways. The analysis builds on more than ten in-depth interviews with active politicians in Swedish cities of various sizes and locations. The findings display both enabling and constraining forces on politicians' capacities to lead initiatives for sustainable transformation.

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Ideologies of the 15-minute City

Title of presentation Ideologies of the 15-minute City

Abstract The 15-minute City concept has in a short time penetrated the world of urban planning and transportation. This presentation focuses on the ideological underpinning of this concept and the social implications of these. It builds on a discourse analysis of top-cited research articles engaging with the 15-minute concept and transportation, including contributions by Carlos Moreno who originally coined the concept. The findings suggest that while the 15-minute City might be far from the “international socialist concept” some critics have suggested, it is still heavily laden with values with social justice implications. These findings are relevant to discuss given how this concept is being picked up and utilized both in research and in practice. The 15-minute City concept has become an established and well-known idea of future transportation and urban living. This can be seen in how the 15-minute City has been promoted by The United Nations and how there is European funding for research dedicated to the 15-minute City (Driving Urban Transition). This begs the question in the center of this presentation: What ideologies are articulated in and through this concept?

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Platformed cities in the CEE context. Example of Airbnb within Kraków and Lodz

Title of presentation Platformed cities in the CEE context. Example of Airbnb within Kraków and Lodz

Abstract Since the beginning of the discussion about platformed cities, Airbnb has attracted a lot of researchers' attention. However, there is still little known about how exactly the structure of this phenomenon changes over time within urban space, especially after the disruption caused by the pandemic. The situation in Central and Eastern Europe, which quickly changed from a pandemic reality to the reality of the proximity of an armed conflict in Ukraine, created different conditions for Airbnb.

The aim of the paper is to discuss research results on the evolution of Airbnb within two Polish cities - Krakow (a historical tourist city with a strong brand) and Lodz (a post-industrial city).

The dynamics and directions of spatial changes in the Airbnb offer will be presented, as well as changes in the structure of hosts (including their location in space) taking place in both cities from the appearance of Airbnb in them until 2023.

The obtained results will be compared with patterns discussed in the current literature.

To sum up, the proposed paper contributes to the discussion about spatial foundations of (short-term rental) digital platforms within (CEE) urban environments.

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Young adults negotiating their sense of home as newcomers in rural neighbourhoods

Title of presentation Young adults negotiating their sense of home as newcomers in rural neighbourhoods

Abstract How do young adults negotiate their sense of home in rural places? I present the theoretical frame and the research plan for the third article of my PhD, one that I hope to conduct in 2025. I focus on young adults (18–35 years old) who have recently moved to a rural town, village or another rural area in Northern Karelia, Finland. My goal is to find 15–20 participants willing to participate in interviews and to create solicited photo diaries about their everyday life in their rural home. I draw from the geography of home and the idea of home as multi-scalar as I explore how young adults' processes of (re)making home cross the borders of home as a dwelling or a house and become attached to the rural everyday environment where they live: their rural neighbourhoods. I am especially interested in diverse feelings in the process of (re)making rural home, for example feelings of safety or calmness, or on the other hand isolation or loneliness, and how these feelings become intertwined with how meanings of home are negotiated in relation to material and social geographies of both the house and the neighbourhood.

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Divergent Pathways of Land-Use Intensity: Agricultural Dynamics in the Northern Carpathians and Northern Norway

Title of presentation Divergent Pathways of Land-Use Intensity: Agricultural Dynamics in the Northern Carpathians and Northern Norway

Abstract Global trends in rural-urban transitions are leading to the underuse and abandonment of farmlands, alongside instances of agricultural intensification. This study focuses on contrasting trends in the Central European Carpathians and Northern Norway from 1985 to 2023. Our aim is to understand the gradients of land-use intensity change through remote sensing and Landsat time series. We employ temporal and spatial analyses to detect changes in land use. In Northern Norway, data reveal a trend towards agricultural intensification driven by technological and policy supports. Conversely, the Carpathians show extensive farmland abandonment due to socio-economic factors. Results indicate emerging secondary forests and novel ecosystems in abandoned areas, while intensified areas exhibit altered land use impacting landscape resilience. This study highlights the driving mechanisms of these changes and their implications on environmental sustainability and societal well-being. In conclusion, the comparative analysis underscores the need for tailored policy interventions to manage the diverging paths of land-use intensity in the study regions.

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'The sea is the only means of feeding': Coping strategies in coastal fishing communities during the closed season in Ghana

Title of presentation 'The sea is the only means of feeding': Coping strategies in coastal fishing communities during the closed season in Ghana

Abstract Seasonality is a core aspect of life in West African artisanal fishing communities. Fish stocks vary in line with seasonal upwelling periods in coastal waters, resulting in fisherfolk having long adapted to bumper and lean fishing seasons. A range of factors, however, including changing sea temperatures, fish stock depletion, increasing number of foreign commercial trawlers, and high fuel prices are impacting the industry. Moreover, in an attempt to ensure sustainable fishing practices, the Government of Ghana has introduced a closed season of one month, during which all artisanal fishing is banned. This paper explores how Ghanaian fishing communities survive during the closed season, which they claim coincides with a period of peak fishing. Despite fisherfolk being resourceful and drawing on multiple coping strategies, the closed season brings real hardship. Since disposable income is minimal during the closed season, it is not only those directly involved in fishing who are affected but all community members. We argue that while many fishermen and women have limited education, they are highly knowledgeable about their trade and their voices should be listened to in relation to the need for and timing of a closed artisanal fishing season.

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New nature projects in Denmark: a space to negotiate uneven state citizen relations.

Title of presentation New nature projects in Denmark: a space to negotiate uneven state citizen relations.

Abstract In response to the biodiversity and climate crisis new nature management projects implemented by the Danish Nature Agency and local municipalities in the Central Jutland are currently to reverse historical ways of governing the landscape. This paper is based on ethnographic material from an industrial PhD project exploring citizen involvement process and land use debates in new nature projects in Denmark such as nature national parks and multifunctional land consolidation. Past, current, and future landscape changes are reinterpreted and formed by the stories, which public project managers and local citizens tell about the landscape, and storytelling becomes a way of negotiating citizens' position to place and to the state.

The paper explores how previous or anticipated changes in landscapes locally perpetuate experiences of structural injustice, marginality and territorial stigmatization and interrupt the peace and quiet of rural landscapes that many people see as a haven from a busy, urban society. New nature projects make a state - which many citizens experience as too absent when it comes to the access to welfare - too present in the nature projects. While public sector biologists and nature managers seek to protect and enhance rare species and vulnerable nature types, many citizens value their existing landscapes, including current practices and aesthetics, such as the open fields or plantation forests and understand the productive landscape as part of nature. In this way local citizens distinguish themselves from the project managers whom they consider as representing urban elites and "cobblestone biologists" ('brostens-biologer'), who do not regard the intensively cultivated agricultural landscapes or productive forests as 'real nature'.

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“Archipelagic” Substantive landscapes vs. “Continentially” Enclosed and Landscaped Ethnonationalistic Spaces: Implications for...

Title of presentation “Archipelagic” Substantive landscapes vs. “Continentially” Enclosed and Landscaped Ethnonationalistic Spaces: Implications for Law and Justice

Abstract This paper continues arguments made in the critique of the continentally landscaped heritage of blood and soil ethnonationalism in my chapter in Landscape, Law and Justice 20 Years On. The meaning of “continent” used here derives from the Latin terra continens, in which territory is conceptualized as an uninterrupted, continuous, containing and enclosing space. The “continental” is lexically defined in opposition to the archipelagic in which pelagic refers to a sea, notably the ancient classical Greek Aegean archipelago with its meshwork of emplaced, substantive, island landscape polities, interlinking surrounding similarly discontinuous coastal polities such as Athens and Smyrna – which has now been absorbed, as Izmir, within continental Turkey’s ethnonational space. This understanding of the archipelagic contrasts with its modernized sense as a group of individualized islands, disaggregated from the context of a sea and its coast. The paper builds upon evidence and theories taken from historical/landscape geography, philology, anthropology, musicology and archaeology, as well as field work in “classic” archipelagos in Greece, the Caribbean, the North Atlantic, and Frisia.

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Fixed Capital and Urban Ground Rent

Title of presentation Fixed Capital and Urban Ground Rent

Abstract Marx's insights from Capital Volume 2 on fixed capital in buildings, have been, for the most part, left out of modern Marxist geography. Their absence has seriously hampered our ability to discuss capital accumulation and urban growth in a rigorous manner. Contemporary discussions of this critical phenomena of capitalist societies remain deeply indebted to the urban ground rent debates of the 1970s and 80s, which focused entirely on 'updating' Capital Volume 3's rent categories for urban property (Haila, 1990; Harvey, 1974; Kerr, 1996).

In this paper, I will focus on Volume 2's capital circuit, and particularly, the form of fixed capital in buildings and its 'dual existence' (as both a static use value and circulating exchange value) as a sorely-needed corrective to the current approach to urban economic geography. I will begin with a brief discussion of the historical consolidation of the urban ground rent consensus, its uses and abuses, and finally, what introducing fixed capital (and its production) fully into the equation does to the theory. I will then close with some notes on possible advances in better understanding urban agglomeration in capitalist societies, as well as in presenting an unavoidable challenge to orthodox urban economics.

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Measuring perceived urban walkability with public participation geographic information systems (PPGIS)

Title of presentation Measuring perceived urban walkability with public participation geographic information systems (PPGIS)

Abstract Urban walkability can enable more walking and therefore physical activity. Thus, developing walkable cities is critical for public health and sustainable mobility. Walkability can be measured with objective spatial measurements using geographic information systems (GIS) and statistical data, but also with subjective evaluations by the residents. For subjective measurements of walkability (perceived walkability), public participation geographic information systems (PPGIS) may offer important benefits but its use for this purpose has been underexplored. In this research, we applied PPGIS to assess walkability in three small Norwegian cities which are largely car-dependent but have high potential for more walking. PPGIS was used in the form of a survey with residents, combining GIS-based questions with closed- and open-ended questions. We assessed attractive places to walk in, places that need walkability improvements, and the reasons behind these evaluations. Important advantages emerge from the assessment of urban walkability with PPGIS: (a) accuracy in walkability measurement based on exact locations, (b) increased visualization of the outcomes with map-based results, (c) nuanced findings from the combination of geospatial, quantitative, and qualitative data, and (d) potential for increased public engagement and participation in transitions to sustainable mobility in cities.

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Urban gardening as part of urban sustainability transition

Title of presentation Urban gardening as part of urban sustainability transition

Abstract Sustainability transition is often understood as a systemic change in cities (Wolfram & Franzeskaki 2016). This presentation brings sustainability transition closer to the people by linking it to urban gardening communities and their potential of action. The presentation is based on my ongoing PhD study on urban gardening politics in Tampere, Finland, and asks, how urban gardening as communities of practice can contribute to the urban sustainability transition. Looking at gardening initiatives as communities of practice (Wenger 1998) is linked to both the ecological and social sustainability of cities. Gardening communities shape urban space by adding the amount and qualities of urban green and bringing it visible even in surprising locations among urban fabric. In addition, community gardening enhances social encounters and peer learning concerning e.g. self-sufficient food growing practices. It promotes social engagement and participation skills and offers urban dwellers something meaningful to do other than consume. Cities as the largest landowners, often set the boundary conditions for gardening. It is therefore important that gardeners have a proper dialogical connection with the city, and that the city is seen as part of the gardening communities of practice. The city can assist the gardeners when needed and promote openness and inclusion as well as ecological values of urban community gardening.

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State and space? Opening the black box of the state

Title of presentation State and space? Opening the black box of the state

Abstract 40 years ago Theda Skocpol (1985) famously argued for 'bringing the state back in' as a pivotal research object in the social sciences. In urban studies, we have, in the last 20-30 years, witnessed a profound interest in relations between state and space (Brenner 2003; 2009; Peck 2004), changing geographies of state and the role of the state in processes of spatial restructuring of cities/areas and the state itself (Brenner et al 2004; Jessop 2004; 2008; 2012;2016). Whereas Skocpols warned that we should not '...become embroiled in a series of abstruse and abstract conceptual debates' and was wary of 'grand theories of the state' (Skocpol 1985:28), contemporary theories of state-space relations has progressively sought to theorize at an even greater (planetary) scale at the cost of developing empirical studies of state-space relations. In the light of Skocpols plea, this paper outlines a neo-bourdusian model of the state as series of nested fields. This model is designed and geared for empirical and comparative analysis of the relations between the spaces of the state and state spaces. The model helps to demonstrate how struggles within and over the state contribute to the production of physical, social and symbolic space.

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Urban experiments as planning tools

Title of presentation Urban experiments as planning tools

Abstract Increasingly, cities have become involved in a wide range of activities to meet current sustainable challenges. Experimental governance has become a common way for cities dealing with sustainable issues where urban experiments are frequently used as a planning tool to achieve sustainability goals and as an intervention for transformation. Many cities around the world are adopting experimental governance to transform urban areas, by using e.g. city street experiments, living labs, testbeds, innovation districts, and demonstration arenas, where experimentation is used to try out innovative solutions to address pressing sustainability challenges and uncertainties. In this paper we will focus on experimental governance and how urban experiments are used as a planning tool. We will do this by studying how micromobility solutions in Sweden (light, low-speed electric or muscle-powered vehicles and walking) are used in urban planning. Urban micromobility expands and diversifies at a rapid pace, including more vehicles of different types, diverse rhythms and increased electrification, many cities experience inadequate infrastructure. This brings new challenges since regulations and policies have not kept pace with the rapid growth and differ between municipalities, and conflicts arise in the urban realm. To understand this, we have done interviews with planners together with policy analysis

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Exploring the Geographical Dynamics of Ageing Population and Age-Friendly Cities and Communities

Title of presentation Exploring the Geographical Dynamics of Ageing Population and Age-Friendly Cities and Communities

Abstract The demography of Norway is shifting towards an older population and the elderly relocate towards more central places. The Norwegian government is promoting age-friendly society through reforms with objectives to develop a more age-friendly society, enabling more older people to live active lives for longer and experience the security of living in their own homes. The HEIM project at Nord university investigates the impact of relocation on elderly well-being, considering changes in living conditions and service availability. It recognizes the significant role of residential location in elderly health and well-being. The project aims to contribute to a resilient, inclusive, and equitable society, promoting full participation of the elderly that fosters age-friendly cities. This presentation, which is part of the HEIM project, examines the implementation of “age-friendly development” in an institutional context between geographic scales, ranging from national to municipal level.

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From Hospitality Crisis to Exceptionalism: The Reception of Refugees in Denmark

Title of presentation From Hospitality Crisis to Exceptionalism: The Reception of Refugees in Denmark

Abstract Our paper starts from an interest in the question of Asylum - as a historical, normative notion of protection and as a legal and political practice. Building on Nanda Oudejans' inquiry into 'What is asylum?' (2020), which posits it as 'More than protection, less than citizenship,' we examine the reception of refugees through the lens of hospitality. This perspective underlines how refugees are located at the edge or maybe rather nowhere since the edge is no place to be. Hospitality is an ethical practice or 'a spatial relational practice with affective dimensions' (Bulley 2017) – it is performed within a triangle of ethics, power and space.

Furthermore, this paradoxical practice has a temporal or historical side as well – that is, a continuous inconstancy of the reception of refugees. We will demonstrate this inconsistency through the lens of Denmark's reception of refugees over the past decade, encompassing the arrival of primarily Syrian refugees in 2015 (termed as the so-called refugee crisis) and the arrival of Ukrainian refugees after 2022. By tracing these developments, we contextualize the fluctuating reception within the broader historical construction of 'the figure of the refugee,' prevalent in European history.

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Network-based spatial analysis of flood-induced mobility disruptions in Accra

Title of presentation Network-based spatial analysis of flood-induced mobility disruptions in Accra

Abstract Daily mobility is increasingly disrupted or constrained by flooding of road infrastructure in many areas of Accra. Overall, 87% of the residents in four surveyed peripheral areas have experienced some form of mobility disruption due to heavy precipitation within the past year. Some of the reasons for increased flooding are related to urban development practices including planning and land-use zoning issues. Further, there is a lack of network redundancy in terms of providing alternatives to flooded routes. The study presents methods for identifying hotspots of flood-induced mobility disruptions that may assist planners and policymakers in providing more resilient infrastructure. Using survey data on mobility patterns and detailed population data, we present a transport model with estimates of traffic volumes based on Betweenness-Centrality measures. We use the model to identify road segments that act as critical connectors or gatekeepers within the urban transport network. We combine the transport model with maps of flood-prone locations derived from digital terrain models. At the local scale, we propose a method for analyzing the impact of flood events that restrict access to urban neighborhoods with the aim of estimating the degree of potential isolation and identifying flood prone locations with high potential impact. (The research is financed by a grant from the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs).

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Connecting strategies for addressing climate change and adaption within the contexts of events and tourism: A Case Study of B...

Title of presentation Connecting strategies for addressing climate change and adaption within the contexts of events and tourism: A Case Study of Bad Essen, Germany

Abstract While climate protection strategies have been studied in the event and tourism industry for many years, the topic of climate adaptation is still a relatively young discipline, particularly in the context of events. Even less attention has been paid to the simultaneous consideration of climate mitigation and adaptation within the same destination strategy, as well as resulting synergies. This may be since the two strategies pursue very different goals and enable different societal. Due to the different priorities of climate protection versus climate adaptation strategies, obstacles can arise in the establishment of regulatory structures when coordinating objectives. Accordingly, the establishment of transparent as well as clear governance structures is needed to adequately address these obstacles "institutionally and instrumentally". Using the town of Bad Essen in the north of Germany as a case, this paper explores the following research question: "How can climate protection and climate adaptation strategies be realized in one strategy and what synergies can be created for destinations?"

The analysis was conducted in the form of a qualitative case study analysis. Using the case study of Bad Essen, we show how smaller tourism destinations can implement both climate protection and adaptation strategies simultaneously, yielding synergies. For instance, emphasizing regional products reduces CO2 emissions and enhances climate resilience in supply chains.

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Debility in the Post-Welfare City: Surplus Populations, Surplus Capital, and Extractive Abandonment under the Danish 'Ghetto ...

Title of presentation Debility in the Post-Welfare City: Surplus Populations, Surplus Capital, and Extractive Abandonment under the Danish 'Ghetto Law'

Abstract The so-called 'Ghetto Law' in Denmark has attracted a great deal of scholarly attention, with many analysts suggesting that it is some sort of exception to the norms of urban political economy in post-welfare Nordic cities. In this paper, we bring together abolitionist, autonomist, feminist, Marxist, critical race, and critical disability studies perspectives in a productive dialogue in order to develop a somewhat different understanding of the urban political economies and biopolitics at work in the current conjuncture. In this regard, rather than seeing the Ghetto Law as some kind of exception, we argue that the law is a response to the inevitable need for capitalism to manage crises. In other words, it is "capitalism saving capitalism from capitalism" (Wilson-Gilmore 2024) yet again. In this instance, the crises facing capital involve two kinds of surpluses that must be managed in order to allow for 'value-in-motion' to continue apace: surplus capital and surplus populations. We argue that the Ghetto law can be seen as a way to entrench forms of extractive abandonment that provide investment opportunities for surplus capital and carceral management of surplus populations in the urban political economies of post-welfare Danish cities.

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Global infrastructure and precarious work: insights and experiences of road workers in Accra

Title of presentation Global infrastructure and precarious work: insights and experiences of road workers in Accra

Abstract Accra, Ghana's capital, is investing massively in its road infrastructure, reflecting a broader trend of infrastructure-led development across Africa. Similarly to the experiences of other African cities, many of the city's road projects are funded and constructed by Chinese actors. These new infrastructures are transforming the urban fabric, and previous research has analyzed the techno-political promises and outcomes of these developments. However, less is known about the labour practices and relations that 'global infrastructures' both enable and require. This paper adds an everyday labour perspective, sensitive to political-economic relations at various scales, to the growing infrastructure literature. It analyzes the situation of road workers in Accra and how Sino-Ghanaian relations at various scales inform working conditions and labour agency. The paper draws on fieldwork conducted in 2022 and 2023, including interviews with road workers, government officials, building consultants, the union, as well as observations and text analysis. It demonstrates how initial high expectations among road workers soon shifted into precarious working conditions, ultimately leading to unemployment. The precarious situation and constrained agency of road workers can partly be explained by the state's prioritization of infrastructure over worker's rights and its reliance on China in materializing its 'global infrastructure' agenda.

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Experienced tranquility in outdoor recreation

Title of presentation Experienced tranquility in outdoor recreation

Abstract Experienced tranquility in nature is gaining increased attention in global research, and for good reasons. Experiencing tranquility is a main motivator for visiting nature, but increased urbanization causes more and more people to live in crowded and noise polluted areas, which means that actual tranquility is becoming harder for people to attain. Meanwhile tranquility as an experience value must be balanced with a multitude of other needs, e.g. biodiversity, production, resource extraction, climate adaptation, health, recreation, and tourism. This study compares the spatial distribution of both relative and actual tranquility in nature and urban green spaces across different area uses and protection designations. The study finds clear spatial differences between the two types of tranquility: while relative tranquility is found mainly in forests, explicitly mapped tranquility places are mainly located in coastal places. The share of places mapped for their relative tranquility values in built up areas and urban green spaces further decreases from 24 % to 13 % for explicitly mapped tranquility places. These shifting patterns point to the importance of natural and green spaces in proximity to the home place for relative tranquility experiences while rural and coastal nature are more important for the actual tranquility experience.

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'Covid-19 was just the beginning': Vendors' changed practices in Blantyre, Malawi to survive multiple crises

Title of presentation 'Covid-19 was just the beginning': Vendors' changed practices in Blantyre, Malawi to survive multiple crises

Abstract Street vendors across the world rework meanings of public space by using these spaces to sustain their livelihoods. Certain urban spaces may be more attractive than others to vendors, and they may use these spaces in different ways in order to make ends meet. This study aims to unravel how street vendors in Blantyre (Malawi) have adapted their practices on central city streets in order to survive multiple crises. Both Covid-19 and a recent climatic event drained most vendors' capital and material assets drastically, and their means to recover are severely impeded by the global rise in cost of living. Semi-structured interviews were conducted in the fall of 2023 with more than 50 vendors in different parts of Blantyre. Findings illustrate that for many vendors it has become more difficult to eke out a living on the streets, resulting in more hand to mouth businesses. In order to survive, a majority has made adjustments to their livelihood strategies, including increasing their mobility, finding additional urban and/or rural sources of income, or changing their business. Such changes may also resemble some of the efforts of vendors to become more resistant to major income shocks in the future.

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Predicting and Characterizing Backcountry Skiing Activity in the Swiss Alps using VGI Data

Title of presentation Predicting and Characterizing Backcountry Skiing Activity in the Swiss Alps using VGI Data

Abstract In recent years, the popularity of backcountry skiing has grown, and increasing use of GPS technology in mobile devices has progressively enabled research on backcountry skiing behaviour. To date, few studies focus on the spatio-temporal distribution of backcountry ski tours and particularly the prediction thereof. Knowing when and where individuals engage in backcountry skiing is a key to assessing the avalanche risk that skiers face. We use obfuscated GPS tracks of user-generated backcountry ski tours to predict backcountry skiing activity in the Swiss Alps. Furthermore, we propose a methodology to enrich geographically obfuscated GPS data with weather variables. Using a random forest algorithm, backcountry skiing activity in 128 Swiss mountain regions could be predicted with a 77% accuracy by incorporating the avalanche conditions, weather conditions, free time variables, and popularity of the region (defined as the standardised overall density of recorded GPS tracks), as predictors. Popularity, avalanche danger level, and sunshine duration were the most important predictors for backcountry skiing activity. Our approach provides important additional information that can provide a useful input in avalanche forecasting and risk estimations, especially with respect to relating backcountry skiing activities to avalanche events.

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Greening Urban Development with Debt: The Emergence of Green Financialised Urban Entrepreneurialism in Sweden

Title of presentation Greening Urban Development with Debt: The Emergence of Green Financialised Urban Entrepreneurialism in Sweden

Abstract Funding the transition towards sustainable – so-called green – urban provision poses a major challenge for local and regional authorities worldwide. Shouldering this task, Swedish regions, municipalities, and municipal companies have taken a global front-runner position to expand the volume of green urban investments by accessing capital with Green Bonds. Today, 20 municipalities and regions are engaged in Green Bond financing amounting to a total debt of SEK 134 billion (€ 1.173 billion) (Kommuninvest, 2023). Notably, over 40% of the outstanding loans from the municipal-owned bank, Kommuninvest – the holder of 59% of Sweden's total municipal debt – comprise Green Bonds. Examining the green municipal indebtedness in Sweden through secondary document analysis of selected municipalities, this paper contributes to the emerging critical scholarship on green financialisation of urban environments and infrastructures at the local level. Drawing from three theoretical frameworks: capital switching, urbanisation of capital, and financialisation, it investigates the phenomenon of green municipal indebtedness in terms of:

- 1) how it furthers the penetration of finance capital into the production of urban space,
- 2) how the enabling conditions for the indebtedness are created by long-term neoliberal policy and austerity, including underinvestment in the municipal sector,
- 3) to what extent it creates new financial risks and pressures for the municipal sector, and
- 4) what are the possible sustainability outputs, economically and socially.

By delving into these aspects, our argument posits that the green municipal indebtedness reflects the emergence of a form of green financialized urban entrepreneurialism.

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(Mis)placing optimism? Nordic population development and residential mobility post-pandemic

Title of presentation (Mis)placing optimism? Nordic population development and residential mobility post-pandemic

Abstract Mobility patterns and migration trends observed in the Nordic countries during the COVID-19 pandemic invited optimism regarding the regional development potentials of increased remote work. Early evidence showed increased outmigration from larger urban areas in favour of smaller towns and rural areas and expectations were building about the potentials this may offer struggling regions in the longer term. While several studies have considered the implications of these moves for different types of municipalities (e.g., urban, rural, etc), rather less is known about how they fit with longer-term population development trajectories. This knowledge is important in understanding the extent to which an evolving geography of labour may benefit municipalities struggling with demographic decline. This presentation considers internal migration during (2020-2021) and directly following (2022-2023) the pandemic in the context of pre-pandemic population development trajectories (2000-2019) for all Nordic municipalities. The findings are contextualised relative to how the potentials of remote work were interpreted within (national level) regional development policy in each country in the early stages of the pandemic. The intention is to provide a critical perspective on the opportunities and limitations of increased remote work for Nordic regions, with a particular emphasis on how pre-existing conditions impact future prospects.

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Realities of diversification in a locked-in region

Title of presentation Realities of diversification in a locked-in region

Abstract Does the experience of a regional crisis influence how firms operate in order to mitigate the risk of future crisis? Olofström municipality (Sweden) was hit severely by the financial crisis in 2008 due to their strong dependence on the automotive industry, with a Volvo Cars factory as a strong local motor. A thousand jobs were lost in a place of only 13,000 inhabitants. The crisis set free local agency, that earlier had been focused on managing the Volvo legacy. Local actors, including local and regional government, firms and business support organization, together formed a new local strategy, developed collaborations and regained the number of lost jobs.

This follow-up case study of Olofström, focuses on the local firms. Previous research indicate that diversification of different forms can be an attractive solution for places with strong dependence on a single industry. Based on interviews, the papers finds that there is a perception, among both core firms and suppliers, of that a too strong dependency between the two is not desirable. Yet, the paper finds that although the cognitive lock-ins have loosened after the 2008-crisis, the practical realities of firms, and supplier firms especially, still create constraints to diversify customer base.

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Navigating the praxis of alternative urban governance

Title of presentation Navigating the praxis of alternative urban governance

Abstract This paper explores the role of economic models in fostering alternative understandings of prosperity in city governments. Taking the point of departure in an ethnographic case study of the city government of Amsterdam and its application of the economic model Doughnut Economics (DE), the paper will show the possibilities and pitfalls in translating such an alternative model into practice. Cities have concentrated economic activities resulting in large ecological and social degradation. The city of Amsterdam is no exception, but marks with its application of DE an intention towards transforming the municipal organization and hence the local economy. The paper conceptualizes DE as a particular “ontological design” (Escobar 2018) carrying alternative visions for what constitutes economic activities and prosperity. Little research has yet been carried out to understand the practical implications of implementing such an alternative model in a city government (Crisp et al. 2023). The paper sheds light on the practical usage and interpretations of models, the tactics used, and navigations of municipal employees in a context comprised of multiple ontological designs, “institutionalized thought styles” (Douglas 1986), and multiple models. The paper argues that these navigations, termed “persuasive quests”, are creative and relational, but also pragmatic, exhausting, and conflictual.

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Local solutions to global problems? Social justice implications of sustainability transition efforts in Swedish forest berry ...

Title of presentation Local solutions to global problems? Social justice implications of sustainability transition efforts in Swedish forest berry harvesting

Abstract Swedish forest berries are often touted as an underutilised resource which, if sustainably refined into high-end consumer products, can regenerate the sparsely populated north. However, evidence suggests that the extraction of berries often involves socially unjust practices. Vulnerable migrant workers, mainly from Thailand, harvest forest berries under what is often described as exploitative working conditions. If the forest berry industry is to transition sustainably, it is consequently imperative to address not only the economic potential of wild berries but also the social and ethical considerations that arise from unjust global food systems, and from attempts to transform them.

This paper, drawing on Nancy Fraser, Iris Marion Young and J-K Gibson-Graham, critically interrogates the implications for social justice in ongoing efforts to sustainably transform the berry harvesting industry. It argues that by advocating for alternative forms of labour such as local volunteers and picking robots, many ongoing efforts exclude migrant workers, thereby exacerbating existing unequal, global divisions of labour. The paper also considers whether alternative forms of economic organisation could foster inclusive and socially just harvesting practices in the berry industry, emphasising the necessity of empowering migrant workers to influence their work for a truly socially just transition.

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Publicness and public transport – unsafety in the political discourse in Stockholm

Title of presentation Publicness and public transport – unsafety in the political discourse in Stockholm

Abstract This paper studies the relationship between public transport and notions of publicness through the lens of political discourse around the Swedish concept for (un)safety (otrygghet). In Swedish, (un)safety is a multifaceted concept that implicates fear of crime as well as other perceptions of (un)safety. The concept is both shifting and elastic, as it appears in public and political discourse. Research into unsafety and fear of crime in public spaces has often focused on individual perceptions. In this article, we look at how fear of crime and (un)safety are ideas that institutions act on and shape. With Stockholm as a case study via a discourse analysis based on document and media analysis. Drawing on critical policy studies and Bacchi's WPR-approach, we ask what the problem of (un)safe public transport is represented to be. The analytical discussion explores two key themes: the discursive framing of what is (un)safe public transport, and the implications of this discursive framing for publics and the publicness of public transport. Our findings highlight tensions between different political ideologies to define and respond to the problem of (un)safety in this context. This struggle includes various implied publics and raises ongoing questions related to the securitization of public space.

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Governance Dynamics in Transnational Municipal Networks: Examples from the Baltic Sea Region

Title of presentation Governance Dynamics in Transnational Municipal Networks: Examples from the Baltic Sea Region

Abstract The governance approach has evolved into a prominent and widely utilized analytical tool of various disciplines, facilitating the examination of complex interactions and collaborations among actors and institutions. Within this framework, the network is considered a governance form characterized by voluntary, interdependent, and reciprocal relations.

In the field of spatial sciences, transnational municipal networks (TMNs) play a significant role, enabling inter-municipal cooperation against the background of global processes such as urbanization, digitization, and climate adaptation. The literature on TMNs indicates both an increase in their size, scope, and number, and a structural diversification in terms of their functions. In this respect, this paper analyzes the existing governance structures of TMNs focussing on actor constellations, cooperation spaces, exchange processes, institutions, and spatial interdependencies.

A comparative qualitative research design was used, drawing on data from interviews, observations, and documents pertaining to three TMNs in the Baltic Sea Region: Union of Baltic Cities, Nordic City Network, Nordic Smart City Network.

This research contributes to a deeper understanding of TMNs while simultaneously highlighting their diversity, as it identifies various governance types. The findings enable a comparison of network-specific characteristics and the evaluation of key factors contributing to the success of network activities.

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Understanding subsurface planning through and beyond the lenses of risk

Title of presentation Understanding subsurface planning through and beyond the lenses of risk

Abstract Increasingly, urban planning is calling attention to the subsurface as a space for thorough and systematic consideration. Often hidden out of sight, and left to the technical decision-making sphere, the underground is made visible and invisible through a series of conceptualisations, calculations, and modellings (i.e., maps). This paper is moved by the concept of Geosystem Services – those services deriving from the subsurface – as a planning concept to understand how new underground resources are ‘created’, their risks assessed, and how, in this process, the underground becomes both a space of calculation (i.e., explorations and measurement) and a space of risk, where “not knowing” what exists can be both a blessing and a curse. Drawing on the notion of “resource making” as a process whereby the subsurface is made useful/visible, we propose the notion of “risk making” – as a material process of navigating uncertainty underground.

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Extractive Warehousing: Carceral Economies of Containment in the Greek Islands

Title of presentation Extractive Warehousing: Carceral Economies of Containment in the Greek Islands

Abstract The paper explores the extractive processes at stake in the governance of migration in the European context. It does so by focusing on the Greek islands, which have been transformed, particularly in the last decade, in extended containment zones where newly arrived migrants have been systematically stopped and confined. Drawing on interview data collected from a diverse range of actors between October and December 2020 as well as on non-governmental reports and policy documents, the paper examines the ways in which the forced warehousing of migrants in the islands has produced carceral economies. The latter will be discussed from different angles, such as the economy of camps (i.e. construction, supply and maintenance), the economies of humanitarian and border control professionals (i.e. jobs, rents, amenities, etc.), and the informal predatory economies beyond camps (i.e. goods, services, etc.). Building on the Greek case study, the paper provides a new perspective on the policy of containment that is key to border operations across the world. It shows how protracted waiting and spatial confinement that characterize containment do not only serve the purposes of deterrence and spatio-temporal control, but they also create the conditions for profit and accumulation.

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Transatlantic landscapes: Gottmann and the roots of Lowenthal's intellectual heritage

Title of presentation Transatlantic landscapes: Gottmann and the roots of Lowenthal's intellectual heritage

Abstract Based on David Lowenthal's writings, exchanges with the author, and original archival research, I discuss how the encounter with Jean Gottmann during WW2 and its aftermath introduced Lowenthal to the French historical-geographical canon and French culture, contributing to his intellectual development at a time of uncertainty about which direction to take. Their transatlantic perspectives helped Lowenthal to perfect his comparative method. Gottmann introduced him to French geography's connection to history and the role of the terrain, or the need to relate regional to general geography. Their exchanges of the late 1940s and 1950s particularly highlight two important aspects of Lowenthal's work: his search for an American philosophy of nature, which would root his approach to cultural regionalism and landscape, and the problematic relationship between past and present, opening to his future work on cultural understanding and heritage.

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Vulnerability and Social Infrastructure

Title of presentation Vulnerability and Social Infrastructure

Abstract We, among the very first to examine social infrastructure for vulnerable populations in rapidly transitioning suburbs, would share our experiences in conducting this type of research conceptually, methodologically and empirically, hoping that the shared geographic contexts between Canada and Nordic Europe may instigate some insights on the geographies of social infrastructure which we define to include both physical and knowledge-based structures.

Rapidly transitioning from relative homogeneity to intense diversification on social-economic-demographic fronts, traditionally low-density and car-oriented suburbs accentuate accessibility problems for their vulnerable populations needing social services. Guided by the vulnerable society and the social inclusion literatures, we engaged GIS, surveys and focus groups to understand the compatibility between the need and the supply of services for the vulnerable (e.g. recent immigrants, the low-income) in one of Canada's fastest growing suburbs. Assessing the magnitude of socio-demographic change, the level of service provisions and personal narratives, we identified the determinants of service utilization and spatial equity issues in service provision and reached a better understanding of the geographies of vulnerability. Our findings debunk the myth that vulnerability does not exist in suburbs and enhance decision-making with respect to social service development as a tool to promote a socially just society.

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Impact of data on analysis of land use change during military conflict

Title of presentation Impact of data on analysis of land use change during military conflict

Abstract Land use changes have been occurring for centuries, but unpredictable and extreme situations take place due to warfare. The study of land use during this time is extremely difficult, as the basis for analysis should be current data from before the conflict and during and after the conflict. It is on their quality that correct analysis and inference depend. The purpose of the presentation is a theoretical discussion designed to relate to the science of land use in the context of accurate identification of urban land use. Aggressors attack technical infrastructure and industrial facilities but also public facilities such as hospitals or residential buildings. This is unethical but unfortunately practiced. The authors, presenting various data sources: satellite, public data, OSM, VGI will trace the possibilities of their interpretation and analysis. A certain problem may be similar and at the same time different patterns of urban land use classification in countries, as well as in different sources. Analysis of land use in areas of military conflict must at the outset include certain assumptions covering time and space, and the scale of accuracy of the data. The purpose of such an analysis must be explicitly specified, as the research approach will depend on it.

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Who's sustainability? Does the Community gardens, play any role in the fulfillment of SDG11 in Stockholm, Sweden?

Title of presentation Who's sustainability? Does the Community gardens, play any role in the fulfillment of SDG11 in Stockholm, Sweden?

Abstract In urban gardening communities in Sweden, hobbyists use urban land to develop it into vegetable gardens. Such urban gardening is guided by sustainable community ideals which are part of the motivation of the gardeners. However, gardening alone cannot fulfill the requirements of creating a sustainable community in an urban environment. First this function and ideals of this urban space must be negotiated and communicated to various interest groups, including local institutions, other citizens, and city governments. Based on a lengthy field study of urban communal gardens in Stockholm Sweden I describe how the negotiation and articulation of material, and ideological ideas and sense of place develop in those communities and if this creates sustainability. I provide examples of how such communities develop and what challenges they face. I use the lens of sense of place and the sustainability movements as a point of departure for the analysis. Showing that the gardeners believe they are creating a sustainable model of community life, The contribution of this research are insights into how these community gardens influence the illusion of sustainability and fulfillment of SDG11 in Stockholm.

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Managing circulation under the Pandemic Era: Avian influenza's barriers and interruptions for poultry capitals

Title of presentation Managing circulation under the Pandemic Era: Avian influenza's barriers and interruptions for poultry capitals

Abstract Under conditions of supply-chain capitalism, agrarian political economists are emphasizing the political and economic salience of dynamics around the sphere of exchange in structuring processes of production. This has led to calls for grappling with actors rooted in circuits of capital 'beyond the farm' and an increasing dialogue with global value chain literature, which has exactly had the broader "interconnections of capital" (Marx 1993, 639) in supply chains as its unit of observation. In this paper, we contribute an analysis of how differentiated capitals across the poultry supply chains in Denmark and Norway variously strategise around the moment of exchange through managing what Marx calls 'circulation time', i.e. selling of produced commodities and reinvesting part of the profit into new production. Circulation time is a challenge to capitalists even in the best of times due to the potential interruptions that it brings to the realisation of their capital. In our case, this general challenge is exacerbated by the interruptions and barriers to the circulation process presented by the emergence of avian influenza. Consequently, we seek to illuminate whether and how the pandemic era is re-shaping capitalist strategies.

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ClimatePol – Climate adaptation in communities: Towards a cross-border regional innovation system in Denmark and Germany

Title of presentation ClimatePol – Climate adaptation in communities: Towards a cross-border regional innovation system in Denmark and Germany

Abstract Climate change is affecting regions, and impacts from climate change will intensify in the future. Climate change does not respect borders, and regions must develop climate adaptation infrastructures that keep socio-economic benefits in the region whilst also securing sustainable resilience. In doing so, a range of stakeholders is involved in deciding upon and implementing solutions. There is a need to understand the involved dynamics, especially the socio-economic implications, including the impact on regional development and on vulnerable communities.

Many countries have initiated legislation, often on national governance levels, putting a duty on regional communities to develop climate adaptation initiatives and respective plans. These initiatives and plans are developed in a fragmented way, at differing speed, with differing capabilities, and with little exchange or collaboration with other communities, not beyond the immediate small region and certainly not beyond national borders.

ClimatePol is an INTERREG funded project that brings together regions, communities and scientific institutes from the border regions of Denmark and Germany. In this presentation we introduce the structure, key partners, and core aims of the project. We also connect very initial findings with the cross border regional innovation system concept.

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Nimby attitudes towards housing densification: differences between residents in market and affordable housing

Title of presentation Nimby attitudes towards housing densification: differences between residents in market and affordable housing

Abstract This paper explores the reasons behind “not in my back yard” (NIMBY) attitudes with respect to the construction of new affordable housing in a neighbourhood. It adds to the existing knowledge about factors shaping the NIMBY attitudes (Matthews et al., 2014; Nguyen et al. 2013) by testing whether and to what extent, the housing status influences the individuals’ perception of (potential) impacts of new affordable housing on a neighbourhood. To address this goal, we use affordable housing survey data collected in Luxembourg in 2023. The novelty of this study is twofold. First, we define the housing status as a combination of a housing tenure (owner or tenant) and a mode of housing production (publically subsidized or market housing). Luxembourg offers affordable dwellings for rent but also affordable housing for sale. In this way, we add to the scholarship that typically compares the views only across tenure groups (owners versus tenants). Second novelty lies in adopting a comprehensive approach to the effects of new AH on neighbourhood by testing the perception of seven possible outcomes while previous studies typically focus on one specific, e.g. the change in house price (Voith et al. 2022; Ellen et al. 2007), or some stereotypical images of troublesome (social) tenants (e.g. Juvenius, 2024).

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Changing local impacts of power plants and contested future paths – the case of renewable energy in Iceland

Title of presentation Changing local impacts of power plants and contested future paths – the case of renewable energy in Iceland

Abstract Despite of high presence of renewable energy from hydropower and geothermal plants in the Icelandic energy mix pressure is increasing on producing more for a 'green transition' of the transport sector. Wind farm companies are now rushing to secure land, mainly targeting depopulated rural municipalities struggling to provide service to inhabitants. In the Icelandic context proposed energy projects with capacity of 10 MW or more, need to be evaluated according to The Master Plan for Nature Protection and Energy Utilization. I will discuss results from interview studies carried out by the expert committee on social impacts in the Master Plan, looking both at historical development of socioeconomic impacts in selected rural areas, as well as opinions of municipal leaders and other local people on planned renewable energy projects. The results on social impacts are varying and changing, including factors like employment creation, landownership and revenue to individuals or municipalities. Conflicts with growing nature-based tourism and values of nature conservation, uncertainty about job creation from future energy projects, revenue sharing between state and local governments, as well as suspicion towards foreign investments, are among the emergent themes when evaluating the socioeconomic benefits or burdens from placing new energy production in rural areas.

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Revisiting scale and context in the face of 'pilotism' in the aftermath of smart urban technologies

Title of presentation Revisiting scale and context in the face of 'pilotism' in the aftermath of smart urban technologies

Abstract The paper presents the results of a qualitative mapping of the widespread 'pilotism' resulting from the past 8-10 years of smart city projects in Denmark. Short term budgets, silo-structures, and lack of digital competences are among its obvious explanations. Adding to this are problems of data quality and ownership, technical standards, and vendor lock-inns. A preliminary conclusion is that the challenges facing automated and digital technology in Danish cities today are just 20% about the actual technology and 80% about addressing 1) defining the actual human and practical needs, e.g., proper use cases, and 2) developing the data and governance structures that allow for scalability. While these conclusions are not surprising, and in fact resemble obstacles well-known, for instance, within the healthcare sector where the term 'pilotism' was coined (see e.g., Andreassen et al., 2015), they do raise new questions with respect to the role of space/geography. Theoretically the paper takes grips with the notions of 'context' and 'scale' and presents a reading of these in the context of digital technology in the Nordic urban context.

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Strategic planning and public administration leadership – dilemmas for moving towards sustainability in urban development

Title of presentation Strategic planning and public administration leadership – dilemmas for moving towards sustainability in urban development

Abstract Strategic urban planning has been on the rise over the last decades inducing new leadership roles for public planning authorities emphasizing capacities for more visions-based, relational, and resource-mobilizing ways of organizing urban development. Although often associated with economic development and large-scale projects there is an increasing interest in how strategic planning, and public urban leadership can promote more sustainable modes of urban planning. This evokes new concerns for the leadership role as well as dilemmas between growth-orientation and responding adequately on the mounting ecological crisis. This paper analyses how the top management in Danish Municipalities interpret and perform their leadership role through strategizing. It discusses the dilemmas that arise for sustainable urban development as strategic planning primarily is organized around large-scale urban planning projects. These leadership dilemmas concern (1) long-term visioning on sustainability and an immediate political concern for securing welfare and prosperity in a context of rising demographic challenges, (2) balancing between demands of the market and claims for democratic control, (3) environmental implications of large-scale projects and marginality of sustainability initiatives. The paper argues that strategic urban government leadership can be an important vehicle towards sustainability but that it needs to depart from current fixity on growth.

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Law, bordering and asylum adjudication

Title of presentation Law, bordering and asylum adjudication

Abstract In this paper, I examine the spatiality and practice of asylum adjudication in the context of the Danish asylum system. People who make an asylum claim in Denmark are required to participate in interviews conducted by the Danish Immigration Service. These interviews serve as the principal way through which the Danish state gathers evidence, assesses a person's credibility, and determines an asylum claim. Bringing together insights from feminist political geography and feminist legal theory, I conceptualize the asylum interview as a quasi-legal space marked by wildly uneven but also uncertain power relations. I illustrate how the asylum interview and its 'internal' power dynamics are connected to and informed by other geographical sites, policing practices, and imaginations across multiple temporalities, spaces, and scales. While state authorities and politicians often represent the asylum interviews and the spaces in which they take place as impartial and sequestered from politics of any kind, I argue that the asylum interview is more akin to the quasi-legal dynamic of police interrogations.

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High mobility lifestyles: Unpacking travel behavior in Accra's rapidly expanding periphery

Title of presentation High mobility lifestyles: Unpacking travel behavior in Accra's rapidly expanding periphery

Abstract This research examines everyday travel among urbanites in Accra's periphery and unpacks how their travel choices and preferences are constrained in a wider context of unregulated residential sprawl, infrastructural deficits, severe congestion and changing socio-economic conditions. We present evidence from a mobility survey (n=2107) targeting economically active adults residing in Accra's peripheral neighborhoods and qualitative interviews (n=48) exploring their travel choices and preferences and lived experiences of working and travelling in Accra. We propose the concept of "high mobility lifestyles" to characterize travel behavior among residents in peripheral neighborhoods, distinguished by a high share of adults travelling regularly outside their neighborhoods, over relatively long distances (10+ km) and mainly using motorized transport. The research illuminates how infrastructural deficits, long distances travelled, severe congestion and rising transport costs combine to make high mobility lifestyles exceedingly strenuous, costly, and time-consuming. Ultimately, in-depth insights on travel behavior, embedded in contextual conditions, can provide insights on how travel choices may be changed and how transport systems can be made more sustainable and inclusive.

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Climate Relief Maps: A New Method for the Study of the Impacts of Climate Change on Everyday Life

Title of presentation Climate Relief Maps: A New Method for the Study of the Impacts of Climate Change on Everyday Life

Abstract Climate change is impacting every aspect of life and is affecting people differently based on their social positions. Despite this, literature shows that systematically capturing the differential impacts of this phenomenon on everyday life still remains a challenge. To address this gap, we propose a methodology to gather, analyze, and visualize data on the impacts of climate change on everyday life based on the Relief Maps digital tool (Rodó-Zárate, 2014): the Climate Relief Maps. This method enables us to understand the impacts of the physical effects of climate change, such as the rise in temperature or the decrease in precipitation, on the different spaces of everyday life and the emotions that relate to each. By taking participants through a reflection on their lived experience of climate change in day to day experiences, the Climate Relief Maps captures the perceived effects of the climate emergency on people's everyday life both qualitatively and quantitatively. Moreover, the tool gathers an intersectional profile of the participant that allows for the analysis of the differential impacts according to social positions. This method has been deployed in Catalonia, Spain, and has the potential to be replicated for empirical studies of the impacts of climate change on everyday spaces in other contexts.

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Urban socionatures and climate strategies in medium sized Italian cities

Title of presentation Urban socionatures and climate strategies in medium sized Italian cities

Abstract The re-greening of cities has been an important issue in urban sustainability since the eighties, and now, with the growing attention to climate change, it is part of urban climate strategies. The paper addresses this issue by analysing the socio-ecological metabolism in the processes of urbanisation of nature, highlighting the need to consider socio-ecological dynamics from the perspective of urban political ecology. The main objective is to identify the different socionatures produced during the urban socio-ecological transition towards sustainable and climate-resilient cities, focusing on medium-sized urban areas. Nature is used in the city from different perspectives, producing different urban socionatures: commodified natures as aesthetic or functional components, green design as eco-technological modernisation characteristic of late capitalism, natural resources to be managed or as forces to be controlled, urban-natural hybrids where non-humans play an active role. The analysis focuses on the socio-ecological consequences of the urban climate strategies promoted and implemented in some cities of Northern Italy, in particular Brescia, Bergamo and Mantua. The study examines the plans and documents produced by the urban climate projects and the views, practices and actions of other stakeholders: environmental associations, experts, active citizens.

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Making the post-neoliberal city? The model neighborhood of Vallastaden and the limits and possibilities of challenging hegemo...

Title of presentation Making the post-neoliberal city? The model neighborhood of Vallastaden and the limits and possibilities of challenging hegemonic planning logics

Abstract This paper uses a case study of the Swedish neighborhood of Vallastaden to shed light on the challenges and opportunities of city-level initiatives to transcend hegemonic neoliberal approaches to urban development. In light of the failure of market-oriented urban development strategies to address pressing issues such as inequality and housing shortages, a growing number of cities have sought to foster alternatives to these approaches. Yet our knowledge about these experiments with post-neoliberal urban development is still very limited. This paper contributes to this literature by means of exploring the intentions and outcomes of Vallastaden, a project explicitly intended to challenge the status quo of urban development in Sweden. The paper traces how Vallastaden partially successfully broke new ground insofar that the city which spearheaded the project managed to wield comparatively extensive influence over the planning and design of the neighborhood. However, due to a combination of a reluctance on the city's part to fully challenge prevailing planning practices and political and economic processes largely beyond the city's purview, several of the project's core goals were ultimately not achieved. These experiences provide insights on the unfolding efforts to challenge market-oriented planning and their potential merits.

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Enhancing Social Infrastructure through Place Activation: A Case Study of Sättra Square in Skärholmen

Title of presentation Enhancing Social Infrastructure through Place Activation: A Case Study of Sättra Square in Skärholmen

Abstract There is a trend in decreasing safety and security in Swedish urban areas. Awareness that interventions need to be locally relevant contributes at the growing interest for place activation as a type of activity where different actors come together to address local needs. In response to incidents of criminality around Sättra Square, the Skärholmens district administration (SDA) initiated a place-activation project in summer of 2022. The project sought to activate the public space, aligning with the broader imperative to foster safer and more liveable neighbourhoods in Stockholm. Our team at Södertörn university was commissioned to evaluate the project. The collaboration consisted of three parts: an overview of place activation in Sweden and abroad; interviews with stakeholders involved in project; and lastly a workshop to strategize efforts for cultivating safer and securer urban environments. The collaboration helped us to see how municipalities engage with place activation in local contexts and the challenges they meet in building social infrastructure (SI). In this conference paper, we report on this collaboration by putting special emphasis on how place activation may contribute to SI. Our analysis underscores the significance of proactive governance and of leveraging SI to mitigate social challenges and enhance community well-being.

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The legal coding of capital circulation

Title of presentation The legal coding of capital circulation

Abstract Central to Marx's notion of the circulation of capital are the processes of metamorphosis that value undergoes (Marx 1992; Harvey 2018). These metamorphoses, as George Henderson (1999) has shown, occur through exchanges between a range of antagonistic actors that transcend the labor-capital relation. In this paper, I interrogate the role of private legal instruments in facilitating these exchanges and hence the metamorphosis of capital. Empirically, I pursue these questions by analyzing the role of supply contracts, or power purchase agreements, in facilitating the recent boom in renewable energy projects in Chile. In doing so, I argue that the value of fixed capital is co-constituted by private legal instruments in which capitalists establish legal rights to the continued exchange. Theoretically, I combine Katherina Pistor's (2019; 2013) recent institutionalist formulation of capital as legally coded with the classical Marxist formulation of capital as value in motion to suggest that in contemporary capitalism, private law is not an epiphenomenal but a crucial facilitator of capital circulation.

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Dangerous liaisons: unveiling the co-constitution of emerging infectious diseases and industrial meat production

Title of presentation Dangerous liaisons: unveiling the co-constitution of emerging infectious diseases and industrial meat production

Abstract More widespread and intensifying avian influenza (AI) outbreaks of late have led to the death of thousands of birds and other animals, the disruption of rural livelihoods, and the outlay of many millions of dollars spent to try to minimize associated threats. Several valuable disciplinary responses to worsening viral threat including from AI have emerged, but all bear blind spots. A main response in recent decades takes the form of 'epicenter thinking'. Reflecting insights from virology and epidemiology combined with ecology, this interdisciplinary perspective supports the identification of places that bear great potential for new outbreaks and establishes a response repertoire made up of modes of prevention, monitoring, and containment. Via international development 'epicenter thinking' has spread across the world. Critical geographers working within the political economy tradition have also articulated an approach to understanding viral pathogeny, which calls for attention to global circuits of capital that shape geographies of disease emergence. To clarify the limitations of each approach, we review: i) the emergence and global spread of main modes of 'epicenter'-oriented responses, ii) the political economy of the global poultry industry, and iii) the trends in virus outbreaks and spillovers. Our analysis firstly provides a powerful counterargument to the prevailing 'epicenter thinking'. Further, we articulate important steps and in particular concrete research questions towards operationalizing an alternative approach to the role of circuits of capital in the context of avian influenza, which is cognizant of empirical complexities. In doing so, we chart a middle path between the reductionist elements of epicenter thinking but also the abstraction that often characterizes political economic inquiry. Such an analytical approach may thus better enable us to grasp, and perhaps even move beyond, the contemporary pandemic era.

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#CallsFromThePublic: Introducing a methodology to listen to voices from the margins of the city

Title of presentation #CallsFromThePublic: Introducing a methodology to listen to voices from the margins of the city

Abstract In his 1908 essay “The Stranger,” Georg Simmel describes the stranger as a particular type or figure belonging to the city, or more particularly, the modern city. The stranger’s locus is the modern metropolis, their *raison d’être* the anonymity of the urban crowd, and their *modus operandi* that of the estranged individual. The stranger as a lonely, isolated, alienated figure, disempowered and therefore marginalized, is well known in social-theory critiques of urban life. Moreover, the figure of the stranger seems at odds with the positive values embedded in contemporary urban planning, which often draws on normative ideas concerning participation, shared values, and engagement. Today, more often than not, we are urged to make use of the city’s public spaces, choose public transportation, and engage in communal activities that care for the environment and community life. Yet, to all intents and purposes, cities have always been places for the gathering and cohabitation of people who might not have any personal knowledge of one another. People who are are, in other words, strangers to one other. People whose values and everyday practices may be very different, even if they are living side by side. Unlike communities engaged in shared causes, public behavior among strangers is key to the social contract that make up public life in cities. In public spaces, we may say that the “good citizen” is not a devoted community member but someone who earns their place and respect by following rules, giving way, staying in line, and respecting boundaries. Acting as a stranger in this sense thus provides a sense of belonging in its own right. In other words, moderation and mutuality between anonymous individuals or strangers is what makes for an inclusive public space, as it gives room to very different citizens, including both those with strong voices or power positions and those who are marginalized. In this paper, we argue that it is important to understand the different elements that make up the public life of cities. We nuance how and when it makes sense to think about public life in terms of community, active participation, and communality, and when it makes sense to appreciate structures of difference, distance, and diversity of what it means to live a public life among strangers. Indeed, we go so far as to argue that all these “virtues” of a public life among strangers resonate with the behavioral changes demanded by a sustainable future, because they are inclusive of everyone in the city, including those who are disempowered or unable to participate or actively engage. To think in this way requires a new methodology, and this paper introduces a tool to explore the public from its margins—a deliberate strategy developed within disability studies as a way to highlight issues of inclusion/exclusion (Bell 2008). It includes, for example, finding ways to listen to the voices of citizens may be marginalized in different ways, e.g. citizens who challenge established gender norms (Butler 2007), citizens with disabilities, and people whose citizenship is precarious such as migrants and refugees (Arendt 1994). Inspired by #TextMeWhenYouGetHome, we call this method of listening to marginalized voices #CallsFromThePublic. The paper presents some preliminary findings from the data collection currently taking place in Nordhavn, funded by the University of Copenhagen’s Living Lab Nordhavn. This research will help to explore the impact of citizens’ social responsibility for others in public, thereby harking back to some fundamental questions in social theory about the social contract between strangers.

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Planning for risky play: from child-safe cities towards adventurous urban areas

Title of presentation Planning for risky play: from child-safe cities towards adventurous urban areas

Abstract A reduction of urban space dedicated to outdoor play has occurred in recent decades, accompanied by a focus on risk reduction when planning for play. Experts increasingly argue in favor of risky play and enabling settings in the urban outdoors. In this presentation we examine how risky play is enabled and constrained in two Dutch cities – frontrunners in the debate on risky play. Through analyzing path dependencies and institutional change, our case study demonstrates some early indicators of a paradigm shift, but also shows the complexity of planning for risky play in dense urban settings.

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The spatial dimension in indicators of international organizations: a critical reflection on the OECD Better Life Index

Title of presentation The spatial dimension in indicators of international organizations: a critical reflection on the OECD Better Life Index

Abstract Since the 70s, new economic indices capable of exceeding GDP as the only tool for measuring the well-being of a society have been experimented and other indices are elaborated (Stiglitz et al., 2018; OCSE, 2020). This communication aims to analyze the Better Life Index proposed by the OECD to measure a nation's well-being. At the beginning, the parameters used by OECD to calculate the index were studied. Secondly, these values were represented cartographically and it was noted that among the parameters, space was not taken into account as an important and discriminating element in the measurement of well-being. Therefore, hypotheses were developed in order to be able to implement this gap. Finally, discussions were held with the OECD research team, which is working on updating the parameters by considering the importance of including the dimension of space in the measurement of well-being. It remains a central reflection to understand how far an index that should remain as homogeneous and quantitative as possible can give voice to the diversity specific to each territory and each community that has built itself in a specific space (Tuan, 1977; Massey, 2005) and how these indices can improve new urban planning and policies.

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Negotiating the Norwegian leisure landscape under the nature and climate crisis

Title of presentation Negotiating the Norwegian leisure landscape under the nature and climate crisis

Abstract Shifting policies have influenced Norwegian mountain landscapes over the last decades. The ongoing cabin boom is a result diversification and commodification strategies for former productive outfields, which have opened wide mountainous areas to leisure life of the urban population. As such, cabin development has been presented as the rural saviour, preventing emigration and uncontrolled aging of the population, and securing viable living communities.

Meanwhile, cabin development is challenged from several directions. Consumption research has problematised the carbon footprint of construction and use of cabins. Ecological research is concerned with exposed nature areas and their role as habitats, water flow regulation and carbon sinks. On national policy level, there are initiatives to ban development on peatland, to fulfil Norway's obligations in international climate agreements.

Popular resistance to cabin development remains understudied. This paper is based on qualitative interviews with key actors resisting planned cabin development in a Norwegian municipality. We aim to identify the narratives embedded in this resistance. We specifically seek to understand valuations of landscape, nature and climate in these negotiations of right and wrong in Norwegian mountains.

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Reconfiguring a single-industry town in post-corporatist Finland: The role of Corporate Responsibility and other market-orient...

Title of presentation Reconfiguring a single-industry town in post-corporatist Finland: The role of Corporate Responsibility and other market-oriented win-win discourses

Abstract Many of today's 'left-behind places' in Finland are (former) forestry towns, with one or several forestry mills historically accounting for the town's demographic and economic development over long periods of time. While many of these towns have been undergoing 'structural change' for multiple decades already, the gradual Finnish shift away from neo-corporatism over the past eight years (rejecting some foundational arrangements of tripartite bargaining) has represented an additional challenge for those towns that attempt to cling on to their industrial core identity. An archetypal case of such is Kemi, a town in South-Western Finnish Lapland that has hosted two very large industrial forestry sites (owned by Metsä Group and Stora Enso) for over 50 years. In the past three years, Kemi has been rocked by two corporate decisions affecting those sites: the construction of a new, ultramodern 'bioproduct' mill by Metsä on the site of the old cardboard mill on the one hand, and the closure of the historical paper mill by Stora Enso on the other. As a result of these developments, Kemi remains largely a 'single-industry town', although not by choice and with very little of the original 'embeddedness' of its industrial relations profile. Based on 43 interviews with stakeholders of the forestry industry in Kemi, corporate press releases and sustainability reports, public communication and press articles, we study how new market-oriented, post-corporatist discourses are deployed by the key actors who shape the industrial destiny of the city: the corporations and their disembodied Corporate Responsibility rhetorics which exaggerate the positive impacts and downplay the negative impacts of their decisions, as well as the public officials who frame what is good for the town mainly in terms of market opportunities. We find that while these discourses are typically framed as good news from the economic perspective, many of the less powerful stakeholders are increasingly resigned to the inevitability of a shrinking town facing a worsening social crisis.

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A just TRANSport TRANSformation? A TRANSnational, FEMinist analysis of the social reproduction of the lithium and copper supp...

Title of presentation A just TRANSport TRANSformation? A TRANSnational, FEMinist analysis of the social reproduction of the lithium and copper supply chain.

Abstract (another for this abstract is the session titled: Justifying mineral extraction for green transition in a time of urgency).
NOTE: this is a project that has just started so the goal is to present the project to get inputs and network with colleagues working in the same area.
Over the course of four years, this project will employ a mixed-methods approach, to examine the transnational connections of the lithium and copper supply chains from Antofagasta, Chile (and the places of extraction and export) to Skellefteå, Sweden (the place of manufacture of e-batteries). A feminist approach is highly relevant to examine the gender relations and the reproductive work that is often disregarded and rendered invisible, but that sustain highly masculinized sectors, such as the mining sector and the automobile components industry. This project argues that despite Chile and Sweden have vastly different geopolitical and economic contexts, the supply chains of lithium and copper bind Antofagasta and Skellefteå, as two ends of the chains. Both places, Antofagasta and Skellefteå, are experiencing large socio-environmental transformations in the form of increasing immigration, unaffordable housing or community displacement, and land use changes that create environmental conflicts. Thus, it remains to be analyzed the large hidden costs, especially against low income, un-skilled, immigrant workers and women of color who do reproductive work and suffer from social and economic marginalization triggered by the European commitment to energy transition

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Gendered Mobilities: A case of platform transport tracking technologies in Lahore, Pakistan

Title of presentation Gendered Mobilities: A case of platform transport tracking technologies in Lahore, Pakistan

Abstract Since 2016, platform transport services have continually emerged, evolved, and reshaped the transport sector in Lahore, Pakistan. The changing structures of digitised workplaces and consumer environments allow individuals to conduct tasks and transactions flexibly, often utilising various data collection and analysis technologies. These technologies redefine user behaviours across different temporal states. This paper investigates the legitimisations provided by platform transport operators for employing tracking technologies such as live-tracking, rating systems, rewards, and recognition schemes. It explores these within the socio-cultural, religious, and spatial context, illustrating how the gendering of mobilities is influenced by the operational strategies of service providers and associated user engagement. Through expert interviews with high-level management personnel from six platform transport companies, two primary legitimisations emerge: the pursuit of increased profits and the enhancement of user security. Operators claim their services address public transport deficiencies, create jobs, and expand market share, while also mitigating potential harm and fraud. However, the gendered implications of tracking technologies in Lahore's urban environment are overlooked. The paper concludes by raising inquiries into these implications, including the gendered social sorting of individuals by age, class, and other identifiers, as well as the influence on behaviour through self-regulation, moral policing, trust-building, and more.

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Performing diverse collaborative economies: Modes of hospitality amongst Airbnb hosts

Title of presentation Performing diverse collaborative economies: Modes of hospitality amongst Airbnb hosts

Abstract This study examines Airbnb hosting, contending that the sharing economy embodies an inherent paradox; perceived as both utopian alternative to capitalism and an expansion of capitalist activity. Acknowledging economies as inherently heterogeneous spaces (Gibson-Graham, 2008), this work explores the multitude of hosting performances and argues that hosting performances are driven by varied motivations, agendas, needs, and considerations. By exploring the 'contingent and complex articulation' (Richardson, 2015) of hosting performances, this research sheds light on how performances within sharing economy produce a pluralistic landscape of performance within platform facilitated economies and how those relations connect with supposedly 'non-economic' spheres'. Drawing on qualitative research involving 33 active hosts from Copenhagen, Denmark, and Philadelphia, USA, this paper develops five distinct modes of hospitality. Each mode embodies distinct combinations of social entanglements, housing arrangements, and motivational structures, blurring the conventional boundaries between economic and social spheres. Understanding the various modes of hospitality emerging through Airbnb hosting performances is central in comprehending the new economies developing within the sharing economy. In doing this the study contributes to our understandings of cultural-economic subjectivities, as well as provides nuanced insights about the various approaches to hosting relevant for ongoing debates about Airbnb, both academically and politically.

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Governance Arrangements Shaping the Provision of Social Infrastructure Spaces: Examples from the Baltic Sea Region

Title of presentation Governance Arrangements Shaping the Provision of Social Infrastructure Spaces: Examples from the Baltic Sea Region

Abstract Social infrastructure has emerged as a popular concept among researchers, and can be understood aligned with Klingenberg's (2018) description as "the physical places and organizations that shape the way people interact". Although social infrastructure is a relatively new concept, emerging literature explores it from various perspectives such as its typologies, accessibility or distribution. This paper aims to explore the organising aspects of social infrastructure provision at the local level. Therefore, we employ the term governance arrangements for examining this complex array of actors and relations that are shaping the provisioning of social infrastructure in urban areas and combine it with literature on social infrastructure. Methods used is an explorative multi-sited case-study of social infrastructure governance arrangements in Denmark, Estonia, Latvia and Sweden, we combine semi- structured interviews with actors that are engaged in social infrastructure governance, with analysing policy documents. In addition, we will carry out one international stakeholder workshop with representatives from the four countries. This contribution will share insights about the tentative result. In many examples, the local government is displayed as a key actor, strongly involved in the provision of SI space, even though the involvement and role within these arrangements differ in various contexts.

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Danish housing associations as the new urban entrepreneurs? Lessons from the redevelopment of Kildeparken.

Title of presentation Danish housing associations as the new urban entrepreneurs? Lessons from the redevelopment of Kildeparken.

Abstract This article uses the case of Himmerland Housing association to understand how housing associations in Denmark are playing an increasingly entrepreneurial role in urban governance. We argue that, in the time following their hey-day in the mid-late 20th Century, Danish housing associations have largely become what might be characterized as 'managers', building and maintaining a housing stock. However, following changes to their legislation in 2010, conceptualized here as a neoliberalisation, avenues to a new role for housing associations have been opened. Using David Harvey's concept of urban entrepreneurialism as a point of departure, we first describe the changing conditions of existence for Danish housing associations. Following this, we use the case of Himmerland's redevelopment of the 'Kildeparken' neighbourhood to illustrate the potentially changing role of Danish housing associations from managers to urban entrepreneurs. This manifests both in organizational changes such as professionalization and collaboration models, as well as new types of planning/urban interventions. We conclude that an increasingly entrepreneurial role for housing associations is not a priori negative, and highlight the positive potential of this changing for fostering a progressive 'city-as-collective' corporation.

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Multifunctional Green Belts: Using participatory scenarios and artificial intelligence to explore the future governance of co...

Title of presentation Multifunctional Green Belts: Using participatory scenarios and artificial intelligence to explore the future governance of contentious peri-urban landscapes

Abstract Green Belts are longstanding planning policies in England, which are narrowly defined to prevent urban sprawl. Despite the resulting policy zones forming the green and open spaces close to urban populations, the policy neglects the complex and multiple demands on these peri-urban landscapes. In England debates on Green Belts are fuelled by polarising and reductive discourses which often frame them as neglected landscapes, despite recent research showing they can supply important ecosystem service multifunctionality. Drawing from wider interdisciplinary research on multifunctional Green Belts, this paper presents findings from the participatory scenario development of “typical” but fictional Green Belt landscapes 20 years from now. The scenarios propose three Green Belt futures framed around governance and functionality. There is a substantial cross-sector consensus for more multifunctional Green Belts, including as “strategic urban support landscapes” to adapt and mitigate the threats associated with climate change, but require more strategic and holistic governance approaches. The research also tested the use of artificial intelligence landscape photo-visualisations, as a possible tool for co-creative landscape governance research. The paper, therefore, also presents experiences of using these novel tools and suggests insights into possible future use for research.

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Can relocation build resilience? Roundtable discussion on a potentially unpopular approach.

Title of presentation Can relocation build resilience? Roundtable discussion on a potentially unpopular approach.

Abstract Small and remote settlements in the Nordic countries are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, with some facing an increase in disaster risks and natural hazards. The panel seeks to examine the challenge faced by these settlements. While there are different solutions to increase resilience, the option of relocation is often avoided in Nordic contexts. We want to spur an open discussion in an interactive workshop. The workshop will start with brief introductory statements from both proponents and opponents of relocation. Participants are encouraged to express their opinions freely and actively engage in the discussion.

The panel aims to contribute to the overall idea of the NGM 2024, building a more resilient and inclusive future for all by exploring different solutions for disaster resilience and societal transition. Paradoxically, relocation might indeed be a more resilient solution in the long run than a continuation of capacity building and adaptation processes. However, inhabitants of such places often exhibit strong place attachment. Further, societies might lose culturally and socially valuable places.

While the idea of relocating communities may be considered politically undesirable in alleged welfare states, the predicament of small and remote settlements in the Nordic region requires proactive solutions. The panel welcomes researchers, policy-makers, and practitioners from various contexts to share experiences and propose solutions for dealing with places that might eventually lose the fight against climate change.

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How can „left-behind places“ become less left-behind? Empirical experiences from East German lignite mining regions

Title of presentation How can „left-behind places“ become less left-behind? Empirical experiences from East German lignite mining regions

Abstract Terms like „peripheralisation“, „stigmatisation“ or recently „left-behind places“ describe current forms of uneven development, mostly at the regional or local scale. Uneven development is not only a key issue of geography but it is also a major challenge for spatial policy and planning. A recent example is the decision to phase out the use of coal in Germany and its impact for the future development of lignite mining regions. In 2020, the German federal government introduced the „Structural Development Act“ which provides financial support for the three lignite regions. However, the German lignite regions are characterised by small-scale differences and persistent structural problems. Especially small municipalities in peripheral rural areas face economic, demographic and infrastructural disadvantages which are the result of several decades of transformation and austerity. Starting with a quantitative identification of the most deprived places in German lignite regions, we discuss the specific needs of these places for support drawing on first empirical insights from interviews and mobile methods. Our main question is what could be conceptual approaches as well as practical tools to support „left-behind places“ to become less left-behind? Discussing this question provides not only insights for research on the various forms of uneven development but also for spatial planning and governance.

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The inevitability of deep sea mining: Tracing the discursive practices that uphold imaginaries

Title of presentation The inevitability of deep sea mining: Tracing the discursive practices that uphold imaginaries

Abstract The increased demand for renewable energy technologies to facilitate sustainability transitions has resulted in a renewed geopolitical momentum for deep sea mining, reflected in its salience in public discourse. Previous literature has reflected that despite strongly divergent stakeholder interests, the public discourse on deep sea mining reflects a hegemonic and stabilized imaginary of 'inevitability': proponents justify further innovations and investments in deep sea mining as an inevitable necessity, while opponents predominantly frame critiques through calls for precautionary pauses, mitigation, and responsible exploitation. The performativity of this 'future essentialism' closes down the future from alternative, potentially more radical visions, and thus begs a critical analysis of its inner workings and implications for just transitions. We draw on the sociology of expectations and temporality in institutional literature to abductively trace the institutionalization of deep sea mining imaginaries in the public discourse between 1970 up to now. In particular, we seek to analyze what mechanisms cause divergent discourse coalitions to uphold a hegemonic expectation of inevitability, acknowledging the complex and fluid relationships and narratives that evolve and compete among different discourse coalitions. This analysis aims to contribute by an improved understanding of how expectations become and remain institutionally stabilized through discursive practices.

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Using social media data to understand the role of nature for tourism in the Canary Islands

Title of presentation Using social media data to understand the role of nature for tourism in the Canary Islands

Abstract Introduction

Tourism revenue is often used to justify the protection of nature from competing land uses. As climate change and other global megatrends transform tourism flows, geographies of nature-based tourism are also likely to change. Information on the changes is needed particularly in contested areas, such as Canary Islands. Traditional methods may not adequately capture changes in nature-based tourism. Here, we use social media data and Flickr in particular to understand the role of nature in the tourism of the islands.

Data and Methods

We analyzed all available geo-tagged Flickr posts from the Canary Islands (2004-2022) from place-based, user-based and content-based perspectives. We applied spatial analyses and a computer vision pipeline to cluster image contents.

Results

In total, 21 % of the content was posted from protected areas, and 55 % of all users had visited a protected area. There were clear differences between nationalities on the visits to nature. Of the content, 26 % was primarily depicting elements of nature.

Discussion

Social media analysis shows that nature plays an important role for tourism in the Canary Islands. This is particularly relevant now as the entire tourism model of the islands is being challenged by the local population.

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Marginalizing landscape: a planning history

Title of presentation Marginalizing landscape: a planning history

Abstract This paper traces the role of landscape in official documents and political debates during the years that were formative for the contemporary Swedish planning framework (1965 – 1987). By doing so it aims to shed light on the politics behind a “naturalized” geography of landscape in contemporary planning. In particular, it aims to explain why landscape ended up as a marginal, and local, phenomenon in Swedish planning, despite previous calls for national and regional landscape planning. In order to capture this shifting landscape politics, the interplay of the development of a National Physical Planning and the strive for landscape planning is crucial. Therefore, this paper follows how the use of landscape, and landscape planning, has been shifting in the debates and reports concerning the National Physical Planning from the 1960s until its formalization in the late 1980s. The paper is concluded with a discussion on the naturalized geography of landscape, but also on the taken for granted legacy of a rational landscape planning from the 1970s, and on the need to revisit and revise these legacies for contemporary planning.

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Saline coordinates, plastic water: tracing petro-economic violence through pollution with poetry

Title of presentation Saline coordinates, plastic water: tracing petro-economic violence through pollution with poetry

Abstract This research applies a social science lens to a problem that is more commonly addressed in natural science research, that of marine pollution. It analyzes origins and contemporary iterations of plastic pollution in the heavily plastic-polluted region of the west coast of Sweden. Applying a materialist feminist lens to contemporary natural science research on this topic against the framing of the political-economic origins of plastic production and interpreting these understandings through artistic research has provided me with a way to conceptualize care in relation to plastic pollution at the intersection of feminist science and technology studies and artistic research. In addition to qualitative methods, this research uses creative methods—for example, writing through place in a project of poetry in and in response to the field—to articulate ways plastic pollution in the Skagerrak Strait is a trace of hundreds of years of an extraction-based economy. In addition to the fields of feminist science and technology studies (within which oceans are under-studied) and artistic research, materialist feminism and critical Indigenous studies show up both in the theoretical aspects of this work and the more overtly creative (poetic) ones, from which I will also perform during this presentation.

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Left-Behind places in crisis-ridden old industrial enclaves in the Global North: The case of Macomb County, Michigan

Title of presentation Left-Behind places in crisis-ridden old industrial enclaves in the Global North: The case of Macomb County, Michigan

Abstract This paper explores the relationship between industrial capital, the anti-state state, and crisis-ridden old industrial enclaves in the Global North as key components in the production of “left-behind places” (LBPs). I examine the political economy of Macomb County, Michigan, a site of once-booming suburban communities in ‘Metro Detroit’ Michigan. During the height of automobile production by the big three US automakers, Macomb County became a place of choice for unionized white industrial autoworkers fleeing the racialized industrial core of Detroit. These once-wealthy suburbs of Detroit have now become “left-behind places” as the anti-state state policies of consecutive neoliberal governments allowed capital to abandon the region, taking with it middle-class and unionized jobs. The communities themselves have attempted to rebrand — claiming to have moved from a “blue-collar to new-collar” labour market. These so-called ‘new collar’ jobs are no longer blue collar, nor are they secure unionized jobs that pay middle-class wages with high-value benefits such as health care and dental insurance.

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Getting Dirty in the Clean, Green City

Title of presentation Getting Dirty in the Clean, Green City

Abstract The clean and green city is frequently engaged as a novel discourse of sustainable city-making within policy instruments and media representations. It is, however, realized through specific material and digital infrastructures, such as mass transit, which continue to be generated at the intersections of statecraft, modernism, and capital. In this paper we draw attention to these continuations by focusing on the material effects of infrastructures-in-the-making.

We present two cases of rapid transit construction, from Ahmedabad, India and Copenhagen, Denmark, focusing on the dirt piles generated as waste during excavation. Dirt has a unique materiality that resists reduction or transformation. This renders it a resource for different actors over the lifespan of a project—home for human and nonhuman species, infill supporting further capital accumulation, raw material for informal development. Each case begins with an account of the history of its dirt pile(s), then moves to consideration of the alchemy by which dirt-as-waste becomes useful.

We conclude by reflecting on how these usages challenge ideas about waste and sustainability in the clean, green city. In so doing, we contribute to anti-colonial theorizations of sustainability by pluralizing enactments of sustainability as a site wherein multiple imaginaries, bodies, species, and futures might co-exist.

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Global Imaginaries, Intergenerational Relations and Youth Mobilization in Times of Climate Change

Title of presentation Global Imaginaries, Intergenerational Relations and Youth Mobilization in Times of Climate Change

Abstract Climate change has unequal impacts across generations and borders, with some countries being disproportionately affected by environmental challenges, and younger generations bearing the consequences of the (in)actions of older generations. With Fridays for the Future young people all over the world united to address these inequalities, at the same time generating hope among parents, researchers, the media and intergovernmental organizations alike that a global generation of youth could come together across global divides to solve climate challenges. Yet, as a result of this global imaginary, older generations effectively put the pressure of action unequally on the younger generation, while evading their own responsibility to combat climate change. Today, as the young people participating in the school strikes have graduated and they, as well as their younger cohort, have found other ways to engage, but also disengage, the youth appear less united. Based on analysis of primarily website communication and other relevant material and focusing on Denmark and Tanzania, this paper will describe and analyze how the media and institutions, such as intergovernmental bodies, continue to promote youth as a coherent global generation of climate activists, and the ways in which youth movements have adopted and rejected, this global imaginary.

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Solid maps, fluid matter: Representation of wet spaces in cartographic imagery for coastal adaptation planning in Køge Bay

Title of presentation Solid maps, fluid matter: Representation of wet spaces in cartographic imagery for coastal adaptation planning in Køge Bay

Abstract This study engages with the cartographic representation of oceans and wet spaces in municipal Risk Management Plans, with Køge Bay, Denmark, as case. Municipal Risk Management Plans are part of the national implementation of the EU Floods Directive (2007/60EF) and serve to reduce the potential flooding risk from water courses and coastlines, as assessed by the Danish Coastal Authority. While the fluid element of water is the central topic to these Risk Management Plans, the visual representation of water in the plans remains solid. Based on a critique of the current visual representation, this study discusses how a more-than-wet ontology (Steinberg & Peters 2019) would alternate the cartographic imagery and challenge the adaptation planning outcomes related to it.

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Landscape, law and justice in Norwegian medieval laws – and relevance today

Title of presentation Landscape, law and justice in Norwegian medieval laws – and relevance today

Abstract Norway celebrates in 2024 the 750th anniversary of Magnus the Lawmender's Law of the Land (Magnus Lagabøters Landslov) or Magnus Code. Norway was the third realm in medieval Europe to promulgate a unified law code for the whole land (after Sicily and Castille) and the first where it was effective. The code was derived from case law in older medieval provincial laws, Canon Law and new royal legislation. It remained in force, with modifications, until 1687, and some of its provisions can be recognized in present-day law. This paper is an explorative study of how landscape, law and justice were interrelated in the medieval laws, and how aspects of this relationship constitute *longue durée* history still evident today. The paper examines how geographical and topographical features are named, described and referred to in the laws in relation to land rights, how land rights were legislated for, and what this tells about farm systems and the use of mountains, forests, coasts and offshore waters. The justice element is found in legislation on inheritance, land division and tenancy, and the changing role of things (courts) as judicial institutions. Regional variations in implementation and application of the law will be examined.

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Book launch – Landscape, Law & Justice 20 Years

Title of presentation Book launch – Landscape, Law & Justice 20 Years

Abstract This special session will launch the book ""Landscape, Law & Justice 20 Years"", to be published by the Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities in 2024. The book contains essays by 12 authors discussing research on interrelations between landscape, law and justice and possible contributions this research can make to understanding major challenges facing contemporary society. The essays have developed from presentations at a symposium held in Stockholm in 2022 to mark the 20th anniversary of the international research group "Landscape, Law & Justice" 2002–2003 at the Centre for Advanced Science, Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters, Oslo.

After an initial presentation of the book, four or five panelists will be invited to review the volume. The model is from 'Author Meets Critics' sessions at the AAG conferences. Topics covered are: landscape heritage and ethnonationalism; substantive landscape as framework of interpretation; landscape as basic structure for the idea of social justice; justice and outfield commons; the atmosphere as commons; coastal landscape planning; emotional legal landscapes; poetics of place and landscape; posthumanist land- and lifescapes; competing landscape moralities; landscape and spatial injustice in international law; and time perspectives in legal geographies of landscape.

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Unraveling the Role of Allotment Gardens in Urban Circular Economies: Lessons from Poznań and Seville

Title of presentation Unraveling the Role of Allotment Gardens in Urban Circular Economies: Lessons from Poznań and Seville

Abstract Over two centuries of economic and social progress have brought about unprecedented levels of development, yet accompanied by rapid urbanization and environmental degradation. The prevailing linear industrial model, centered on cities, perpetuates a 'take-make-consume-dispose' approach, exacerbating these challenges. However, recent global initiatives, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), advocate for transitioning to a circular economic system. This paradigm shift necessitates local action, compelling cities to enhance resilience and sustainability across various domains, including water management, waste, and food production. Urban agriculture emerges as a crucial player in this transition, offering significant benefits to cities through proper management practices. Conversely, inadequate management exacerbates urban challenges. This article investigates the role of allotment gardens in addressing these issues, focusing on water, waste, and food production, within the framework of urban circular economies. The comparative study of Poznań and Seville, two cities of similar size but with distinct climatic conditions and institutional contexts, makes it possible to assess the extent to which allotment gardens and their users engage in sustainable practices. Our analysis sheds light on the alignment between allotment gardening practices and urban circular economy principles employing questionnaire surveys and on-site inventory research.

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Dutch feminist geography and its place in the local science-society interface (1968-1995)

Title of presentation Dutch feminist geography and its place in the local science-society interface (1968-1995)

Abstract This paper traces the history, circulation, impact, and debates of Dutch feminist geography in the final quarter of the 20th century and highlights its distinctive traits vis-à-vis the Anglophone mainstream. We curate this history through a multi-pronged methodology consisting of a scientometric analysis of digitized historic texts, oral history interviews and archival research. Inspired by the second feminist wave in the Netherlands Dutch feminist geography has been characterized by an applied and pragmatic approach to research and its interconnectedness with formal and informal urban planning networks. Dutch feminist geography developed relatively autonomous of international developments, publishing in form of “grey” and mimeographed outlets. The paper distinguishes four successive phases: a proto-feminist geography (1968 – 1978), the activist years (1978 – 1982), a period of institutionalization (1982 – 1990) and a phase of internationalization and gradual demise (1990 – 1995). The paper concludes by reflecting on Dutch feminist geographers’ and planners’ work at the science-society interface, their impact on policy, and reflects on the tensions, trade-offs and complementarities between “radical” and “moderate” approaches to critical-geographical topics.

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Exploring roles and responsibilities in local government planners' narratives on climate change adaptation: A Nordic case study.

Title of presentation Exploring roles and responsibilities in local government planners' narratives on climate change adaptation: A Nordic case study.

Abstract To address the increasing challenges related to adapting to the effects of climate change, the engagement of citizens is crucial, especially in small and remote municipalities that lack sufficient resources for adaptation measures. While citizen engagement is well-established as an approach to planning in local and national policies, the translation from policy intentions to everyday planning practices has proved challenging due to, e.g., resource constraints, conflicting objectives and communication problems.

Based on a narrative analysis of policy documents and interviews, this paper focuses on how local authorities in three Nordic countries 'story' citizen engagement in climate change adaptation. We explore the roles and responsibilities applicated to both citizens and authorities and the assumptions lying beneath the narratives about citizen engagement. We find that while local planners generally agree that citizen engagement is increasingly important, they find engagement processes difficult to manage. They narrate their own role vis-à-vis citizens in different ways. Some construct citizens as stakeholders with limited capacity to engage in climate change adaptation while others construct citizens as central gate keepers for effective adaptation measures. Finally, we discuss what consequences our findings have on the capacity of local authorities to practice citizen engagement.

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Fulfill the Dream: Advancing skateboarding community through experimenting with urban infrastructure

Title of presentation Fulfill the Dream: Advancing skateboarding community through experimenting with urban infrastructure

Abstract Grassroots actors such as skateboarders are shaping contemporary cities. This paper approaches skaters' practices in relation to the urban infrastructures they work with. The focus is on the enabling role infrastructure can have in terms of broader societal action that has wider impact to the social sustainability of urban development. The research questions of the paper are: 1) how the intertwinement of skateboarders and urban infrastructure is enacted as central element of the skateboarding collective, 2) how does the relational perspective to urban infrastructures increase the capacity to understand the role of skateboarders in socially sustainable urban development? We present an ethnographic case study of a skateboarding organisation Kaarikoirat that has managed to build partnerships with urban governance and contribute to urban development in Tampere, Finland. The paper draws from eight-year period of field work and participatory observation and 18 in-depth interviews during 2016–2023. The outcomes show how infrastructures generate resources, knowledge-creation and social action among skaters and thus achieve wider implications in terms of urban governance. Our study also provides understanding of the transformative potential of grassroots communities to transform urban built environments and shape the conventions of practice leading to new social relations and politics of participation.

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Just food transitions: A case study of Aotearoa New Zealand's Dairy Sector

Title of presentation Just food transitions: A case study of Aotearoa New Zealand's Dairy Sector

Abstract Achieving just and sustainable food systems in an era of anthropogenic climate change is a topic of growing interest and concern among scholars, policy practitioners, food producers and everyday consumers. As a PhD student of human geography with an interest in the intersections of social and environmental sustainability, my research focuses on a case study of intensive dairy production in Aotearoa New Zealand, asking the question of how the sector can transition to support more just and sustainable futures? To answer this, critical consideration of local and global concerns around fairness, equity, and ecological sustainability is needed. My research engages with multiple stakeholders across the dairy ecosystem from dairy farmers, ecologists, and economists, to alternative dairy producers, activists, journalists, and academics, to explore the challenges, opportunities and barriers to transitions for the sector. Most importantly, my research considers whether transitions to alternative dairy (plant-based and precision fermentation based) adequately address the socio-ecological of traditional dairy production. The findings from my research demonstrate that systematic change in the food system spanning from changes at the farm level, to changes in consumer choice and behaviour, and policy decision-making, are all needed to create openings for just and sustainable transitions for the sector.

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Green transition and discursive contradictions: Construing Northern Sweden as a world-leading periphery

Title of presentation Green transition and discursive contradictions: Construing Northern Sweden as a world-leading periphery

Abstract In pursuit of the EU's goal to become the world's first climate-neutral region, Northern Sweden is positioned as a centrepiece within the green transition development. Its innovative industries are hailed as crucial not only for Sweden but for the sustainable future of Europe. Yet, previous research depicts Norrland as an inner periphery of Sweden, subjected to colonisation and marginalisation. This paper delves into this paradox by examining discursive representations of Northern Sweden in light of the prevailing green transition narrative. Through critical discourse analysis used to systematically explore representations from news media, political opinion and government institutions, this paper uncovers tensions and contradictions within the current narrative. The analysis suggests the predominance of two conflicting themes, construing Norrland simultaneously as the future and as a struggle. By contextualizing these discursive themes within the concept of peripheralization, this research argues that the future-oriented narrative dominates the current representations of Northern Sweden, potentially perpetuating spatial disparities within the region. Thus, this research contributes with an updated understanding of processes of peripheralisation under the guise of green policy discourses, suggesting that the development in Norrland seems being part of a broader narrative aiming to frame Sweden as the world leader within green transition initiatives.

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Blue-green solutions and territorial negotiations related to rhythms

Title of presentation Blue-green solutions and territorial negotiations related to rhythms

Abstract In this article, we propose a territorially grounded, rhythm-analytical approach for the study of the relationship between space, time, and everyday life in Augustenborg, a neighborhood with well-established blue-green solutions (BGS) in place. We applied mixed methods and focused primarily on go-along interviews to collect data on inhabitants' use and experience of the area. The results particularly emphasize three aspects: new evolving territorial relationships between urban areas, changing territorial use relating to weather, and territorial use in relation to animals and plants. These aspects also indicate mismatches in the use of the BGS and the design and maintenance of the area.

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WATCH - Water as a multidisciplinary field of study through the lens of a third-cycle research school

Title of presentation WATCH - Water as a multidisciplinary field of study through the lens of a third-cycle research school

Abstract Water is often described to know no borders, and to transverse biological, physical, and social structures (IPCC, 2022). Though awareness is growing for the need for multi- and transdisciplinary research approaches into water challenges (cf. Mamba, 2023; Islam et al, 2022; Taka et al, 2022), transdisciplinary research is often described as “hard [to carry out] in real life” (Sassen et al, 2023). There can be both theoretical and methodological barriers. How does one build transformative capabilities to address increasingly complex water challenges in the built environment? This question formed the multidisciplinary research school WATCH. Jointly hosted by Örebro University and Karlstad University, WATCH is an arena for knowledge exchange between PhD students from different disciplines, and between researchers and practitioners, who all tackle issues related to water management, planning and sustainability.

Under the headline “Water as a risk and a resource in the Nordic context” WATCH hosted a PhD course in the spring of 2024. It was organized around a shared case, a lake southwest of Stockholm. The PhD students addressed water challenges, and literature reviews and field studies that related to the lake. This presentation discusses the main outcomes and learnings from the course and its transdisciplinary efforts.

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Integrating multi-criteria decision analysis and GIS for coastal vulnerability assessment: a case study in Estonia, Eastern B...

Title of presentation Integrating multi-criteria decision analysis and GIS for coastal vulnerability assessment: a case study in Estonia, Eastern Baltic Sea

Abstract Coastal vulnerability assessment in regions with intricate shorelines, like Estonia, is essential for effective coastal management in the face of climate change-induced hazards. This study presents a novel approach integrating multi-criteria decision analysis techniques using fuzzy logic, analytical hierarchy process, and weighted linear combination with geographical information systems to map the coastal vulnerability index (CVI) of Estonian coasts at a high resolution, incorporating 16 parameters. The assessment extends inland by 2 km, capturing coastal inland areas vulnerabilities often overlooked in traditional analyses. The findings reveal predominantly low (47%) to moderate (42%) vulnerability along Estonian shores, with localized high vulnerability segments susceptible to severe waves and elevated water levels, mostly in south of the country. The CVI effectively characterizes low-lying inland areas, enhancing the comprehensiveness of vulnerability estimates. A CVI map based on expert judgments highlights key vulnerability zones, providing actionable insights for coastal managers and stakeholders. By considering less commonly used parameters and extending the assessment inland, this study contributes to advancing integrated decision support systems for sustainable coastal planning and management. The methodology and findings serve as a useful model for coastal vulnerability assessment in similar complex coastal environments, guiding adaptation strategies and enhancing coastal resilience.

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Of novice and master: contrasting seaweed farming imaginaries in European Union and Indonesian seaweed farming policy for just sustainable transformations

Title of presentation Of novice and master: contrasting seaweed farming imaginaries in European Union and Indonesian seaweed farming policy for just sustainable transformations

Abstract Seaweed farming is the most rapidly growing form of aquaculture and hyped for its regenerative properties and sustainable transformation potentials. Asian countries dominate this growth with seaweed farming and processing being a complex industrial sector able to transform coastal livelihoods. In Europe seaweed farming has just been nominated the 'champion' of the (blue) bioeconomy linked to extensive growth, just sustainable transformations, yet with few commercial production. Hence, there is a large-scale, heavily specialized, and export-oriented sector in Asian countries that has experienced a massive growth, and a European sector in its infancy with wide, yet assumptive imaginaries for future development and intentions to repeat such growth story. The paper aims to contrast these nodes of blue transformation and their current imaginaries of blue assembling by dissecting the expressive and material components raised in the institutional frameworks for seaweed farming development in the European Union and Indonesia. Despite vast socio-economic, institutional, and cultural differences of these spatial settings, the shared interlinkage to globalized seaweed markets and the complex expressive-material relations that derive from the biophysical and socio-economic capacities of seaweed farming enable to draw valuable lessons on the potentials, and challenges for spurring just sustainable transformations within these translocal seaweed assemblages.

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Ballast Hills Burial Ground: an example from NE England

Title of presentation Ballast Hills Burial Ground: an example from NE England

Abstract The Ballast Hills Burial Ground (BHBG) in NE England was a burial site for non-conformists, the poor, and mass interments of the sick from the early 1600s to 1853, with over 37,000 individuals interred there. Currently, few are aware of its past or the identities of those buried there. Once an extramural place for burial and mourning, it now lies within Newcastle upon Tyne as an open green space, frequented mainly by dog walkers and joggers. The BHBG project integrates history, library and information studies, human geography, and archaeology to engage the public through enhancing resource accessibility, stakeholder mapping, and discovering its historical significance. This aligns with current trends in heritage awareness and the growing appreciation for hidden or forgotten historical legacies, deepening our understanding of non-conformist burial grounds and England's struggle for religious freedom, while highlighting the voices of marginalized individuals interred at BHBG. The presentation will 1) contextualize BHBG as a place of burial; 2) explore stakeholder perspectives on the site's past and future, and how these relate to communities of interest, place, and lineage; and 3) explore broader engagement events and site enhancement.

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Spatial Policy Since the 2008 Global Financial Crisis

Title of presentation Spatial Policy Since the 2008 Global Financial Crisis

Abstract Renewed political concern about geographical inequalities in the wake of the global financial crisis of 2008 is raising questions about the ability of the prevalent pre-crisis model of development to generate more spatially balanced and inclusive economies. We provide a conjunctural analysis of spatial policy since the crash, viewing this period as one of instability and turbulence marked by the on-going adaptations and mutations of late neoliberalism. We argue that recent reorientations of spatial policy involving the adoption of new strategies for 'left behind places' can be understood as part of an on-going process of regulatory experimentation seeking to address discontent and spatial polarisation as symptoms of the legitimacy crisis of late neoliberalism. Despite the increased focus on 'left behind places' and the return of national industrial policy, the establishment of redistributionist policies capable of closing the divides/gaps between growing and lagging regions remain distant.

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Justifying Mineral Extraction for Green Transitions in Times of Urgency

Title of presentation Justifying Mineral Extraction for Green Transitions in Times of Urgency

Abstract The process of fundamental shift from fossil-based to renewable energy sources through the development of green technology has led to intensified extraction of critical materials in various resource-rich countries. This intensification is also accelerated by geopolitical tensions and global economic competition, providing justification for nations to speed up the mineral extraction. This paper discusses the temporal politics of green transition and justification for mineral extraction. Drawing on the case of Norway's fast tracking for critical mineral extraction and Indonesia's rush for nickel for industrialization and economic development, we analyze how time politics is used to justify state power within the framework of green transitions, and how it influences democratic practices and experiences of justice on the ground. We show that even though the green transition potentially strengthens state power it also opens space for citizen to counter its unjust impacts. This process, we argue, provides a political foundation for temporal negotiation, generating not only single but multiple temporalities of change.

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Towards green, healthy and biodiverse cities in the context of global climate change: perspectives from Bogotá, Colombia and ...

Title of presentation Towards green, healthy and biodiverse cities in the context of global climate change: perspectives from Bogotá, Colombia and Copenhagen, Denmark

Abstract Climate change represents a significant global health challenge for the upcoming decades. Every year, cities around the world experience drastic temperature changes, facing environmental disasters, such as floods and wildfires, that threaten people, fauna, flora and ecological functionality in urban and peri-urban ecosystems. The question of how to integrate resilient and healthy landscapes for citizens and biodiversity in urban settings becomes more critical for the planning of cities in the context of climate and environmental change. With the aim of exploring how to integrate human mental health, environmental health, and biodiversity health in the urban context, this research uses and integrates two theoretical frameworks: therapeutic landscapes and One Health. This research uses and adapts these frameworks to uncover the notion of health in urban green spaces in Bogotá, Colombia and Copenhagen, Denmark. Through theoretical, participatory and qualitative methodologies, we bring different voices, perceptions and ideas on how to conceive healthy urban green spaces that include people, biodiversity and the environment. Moreover, how to integrate into the urban planning interdisciplinary approaches that help us to conceive green spaces as socio-ecological health systems that need to respond to challenges for human health, biodiversity conservation in a changing environmental and climate context.

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The Copenhagen Model: Opportunities and Challenges in Nordhavn and Beyond

Title of presentation The Copenhagen Model: Opportunities and Challenges in Nordhavn and Beyond

Abstract The Copenhagen model of dense urban development has been heralded as a best practice approach for green growth and urban sustainability. Nordhavn, an up-and-coming neighbourhood in Copenhagen, is often cited as a light house example of this model. Nordhavn currently houses 3,500 residents but over the next 40 years will house over 40,000 residents, host 35,000 jobs, and will be home to Copenhagen's newest large green space, a 28-hectare park that is envisioned to be a wild recreative space at the edge of the city. The land sales for the new housing will finance the expansion of the city's metro line and support transit-oriented development in a 15-minute city. By building dense and green transit-oriented neighbourhoods, Copenhagen is poised as a national and global leader in urban solutions to the green transition. Yet the Copenhagen model is challenged by the paradox that urban densification decreases space for urban nature and reduces the connectivity of urban green infrastructure, thereby decreasing the opportunity to support biodiverse and flourishing ecosystems. Drawing on a unique geocoded data set of resident preferences for green spaces and wishes for wild nature, this paper unfolds the challenge and opportunities of the Copenhagen model by analyzing the complex balance of stakeholder interests and visions for the future of urban nature. Results raise important questions regarding the importance of citizen knowledge legitimization in urban development and the viability of planning for urban biodiversity.

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Won't you be my neighbour? Exploring values and importance of neighbourly social interactions in Swedish neighbourhoods

Title of presentation Won't you be my neighbour? Exploring values and importance of neighbourly social interactions in Swedish neighbourhoods

Abstract Growing attention has been given to the role of the neighbourhood, as a site of geographic inquiry, in shaping life course trajectories, place attachment and extended further to debates of urban segregation and systems of equality or exclusion. Neighbourhoods, while each is unique and diverse, are sites of negotiation through social networks, civil society, shared experiences, and even conflicts. Core to these processes are the individuals living in a shared space, who perhaps share similar social positioning through location, but are also diverse. Yet, the processes of everyday relations between neighbours and the importance of these interactions have been given less attention in understanding how neighbourhoods are experienced and further how these interactions shape and form place attachment. This paper explores the social interactions between neighbours and how members of different neighborhoods value and share experiences with those living nearby. Drawing on nation-wide survey of neighbourhoods in Sweden, we explore the importance of neighbours and neighbourly relations. We highlight significant interactions that connect neighbours while also examining factors that may deter neighbours from interacting. We show that neighbours are important relation in shaping the social life of neighbourhoods and these interactions need to be more thoroughly explored in neighbourhood studies.

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Emotion, Space and Society invited lecture

Title of presentation Emotion, Space and Society invited lecture

Abstract The scales of the current climate emergencies and of actions needed results in increased complexities and difficulties in how people grasp issues and act accordingly. Based on recent collaborative filmmaking projects, this lecture addresses how filmmaking methodologies form caring-emotion and touch-sharing practices, which support research collaborations and planning processes toward sensitive, empathic, and regenerative approaches to common future landscapes.

More specifically, the lecture unfolds and discusses how film editing action are informed by assemblages that foster the materialization of feelings and care and characterize an ecological thinking - as a regenerative perspective and vision potential based in emotion and experience sharing across large and small scale simultaneously - which normally are difficult to comprehend and share. This means that climate adaptation actions mediated by filmic emotion and experience-sharing can imbue new understandings of future coexistence. Thus, filmmaking, as shared sensing, and affective knowledge production, is closely entangled with the aesthetics of the tool, the machine used (a camera, a drone), the acts of filming and editing and opens and extends ways of working with space, emotion, and experiential interconnections. Filmmaking, thus, provides a common point of view for action research and co-creation in issues of climate adaptation, founded on and informed by key emotional gestures and emergence operations and can serve as a central driver for regenerative and caring actions.

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Home Invasion: Territory, Scarcity, and Appropriation in Gaza

Title of presentation Home Invasion: Territory, Scarcity, and Appropriation in Gaza

Abstract During the Israeli (re-)invasion of the Gaza Strip that began in October 2023 and continues until today (March 2024), images of Israeli soldiers in Palestinian homes and businesses in Gaza were shared widely through Israeli social and traditional media. These images did not, however, depict Israeli soldiers overcoming purported challenges of modern “urban warfare,” such as taking shelter from combatants passing through narrow streets or leveraging the built environment for advantages in street fighting. Rather, the photos featured Israeli soldiers cooking and serving meals in Palestinian kitchens, rummaging through bedrooms and other domestic spaces, and displaying items taken from homes and small shops. In this paper, I use theories of feminist geopolitics to analyze these photos and trace the historical legacies that produce them and make them popular in Israeli society. Specifically, I employ feminist geopolitics to position the Palestinian home as a geopolitical space, not only in this present moment but in a longer history of dispossession and occupation in Israel-Palestine. I also contextualize these images within the Israeli siege on Gaza and the weaponization of food and other everyday goods. In doing so, I highlight ways that feminist geopolitics allows us to connect intimate spaces with geopolitical projects.

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Sustaining capital accumulation in Icelandic vegetable production

Title of presentation Sustaining capital accumulation in Icelandic vegetable production

Abstract This paper seeks to understand the processes by which capital accumulates and is reproduced within vegetable production systems in Iceland. An extensive geographic study utilizing a survey, interviews, and on-farm observation was conducted among vegetable farmers in Iceland during the years 2021-2023, with 75% of vegetable farmers participating in the study. A schema is developed for understanding the various vegetable production methodologies employed by farmers in Iceland. Drawing upon agrarian political economy, economic geography, and agrifood systems geography, these production methodologies are evaluated as to the ways in which capital accumulates through them, mobilizing particular processes within the specific context of vegetable production in Iceland. These processes are understood to combine in transforming and restructuring various socionatural relationships in Icelandic agricultural landscapes. Farmers make specific claims regarding the sustainability of their growing which are evaluated through assessment of the environmental and social impacts associated with farming inputs, production practices employed on these farms, and particular discourses regarding sustainability deriving from the local context.

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Socio-Economic Dynamics of Climate Adaptation in Viticultural Border Regions: Insights from and beyond Luxembourg

Title of presentation Socio-Economic Dynamics of Climate Adaptation in Viticultural Border Regions: Insights from and beyond Luxembourg

Abstract This contribution draws on qualitative data from viticulture in Luxembourg and its bordering countries to explore sustainability transformation pathways that practitioners take in order to respond to climate change effects and further crises.

As climate change shows substantial effects across national borders, viticultural regions and communities across neighbouring countries are similarly affected by underlying natural and social hazards to which status quo production oftentimes is not fit to respond.

Drawing on empirical evidence from qualitative interviews and case studies (LU,DE,FR), the contribution seeks to explore the socio-economic implications of climate adaptation initiatives linked to viticulture in and across the bordering regions.

Tracing processes of value creation and sustainability transformation, this contribution further seeks to assess the drivers and barriers to regional and cross-border adaptation of transformative approaches.

Assuming the border as a potential resource of transformation, this contribution finally seeks to shed light on adaptation strategies veering from standard production patterns in search for transformative and resilient approaches, highlighting potential pathways for future regional developments.

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Starting from zero? A snapshot into the urban experience of migrant platform delivery workers in Berlin and Barcelona.

Title of presentation Starting from zero? A snapshot into the urban experience of migrant platform delivery workers in Berlin and Barcelona.

Abstract In recent years platforms have been playing a key role in acting as an arrival infrastructure for migrants (Van Doorn and Vijay, 2021), with lower access barriers, platforms enable them to find a source of sustenance faster than in other sectors, not without at the same time creating challenges for them. However, their lives hardly start nor end at the gig.

This research studies the urban experience of migrant delivery workers (riders) in Berlin and Barcelona, through the lens of what Van Doorn and Shapiro (2023) called “platform adjacent” topics. This research relies on non-participant and participant observation in the rider community in the cities of Berlin and Barcelona from September 2023 to March 2024, together with 25 interviews with migrant riders in Berlin and 20 interviews in Barcelona. This approach allows us to get a glimpse into the wider implications of platform labour in workers' lives, engaging with the question of local and transnational spatialities of migrant workers. We aim to highlight the experiences of riders beyond the gig, how micropolitics are expressed in their search for housing in overheated markets, in their navigation of bureaucratic challenges, their communities and the narratives behind starting a new life “from zero”.

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All that is solid melts into steel

Title of presentation All that is solid melts into steel

Abstract The construction site of Hub26 expected to rise as exemplary net-zero office spaces in the relegated west side of Thessaloniki is vaunting its high environmentally friendly construction standards, hinged on the green steel and green concrete. I juxtapose their richly rewarded green discourse with the mass default of public and private land prices and the widening net of precarity in the value chain of construction materials that converge on the construction site (steel and concrete) but also the disorganization of labor in state echelons responsible for space production (urban planners, procurement, licensing). Tracing the steel billets holding concrete together at the construction sites mushrooming in the west side of the Greek metropolis, I am led back to the steel making furnace burning the remnants of dissolved space, leftovers of debt and then to the ordeal of the marginalized communities of scrap collectors chased by groups stigmatized by a securitarian rationale set in motion for the defence of property. My aim is to 'spatialise the conjuncture' of precarity, hegemony, spatiality congealing in new spatial configurations.

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The Refusal within Computational Urbanism Grassroots Practices in Berlin

Title of presentation The Refusal within Computational Urbanism Grassroots Practices in Berlin

Abstract The dominant forms of digital urbanism, the disciplinary and top-down digital mediation of smart cities by city governments and the monopolist and entrepreneurial digital platformisation by giant tech companies, are being contested by many urban groups, refusing to be excluded from the 'backend' of algorithmically foreclosed urban making.

Although discursively and performatively the refusal to pressing digital urbanism differs by each urban context and by each digitalization regimes, it is being unfolded within everyday urban daily living, and within grassroots urban experiments. Through case study approach, this paper explores how the refusal toward ubiquitous digital mediation of urban living and urban processes in Berlin are being unfolded across space, body, power and labor.

The interviews and participatory observations coming out of this research have been analysed through the lenses of both major (right to the city) and minor (glitch) theories. The right to the city-based analysis shows how grassroots practices are resisting the corporate-commodified and state-controlled production of urban space by building alternative spaces for more just urban life. Blocking and activating at the same time, the glitch here, becomes a communal refusal strategy for some of the collectives: they are small-scale creative disorientations in digital urban mediations that cause unexceptional openings onto speculation for everyday urban living.

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Sustainability transition governance of the Swedish and Finnish wild berry industries

Title of presentation Sustainability transition governance of the Swedish and Finnish wild berry industries

Abstract In sustainability transitions literature, it has been argued that the political nature of governance and in particular the role of the state is a largely overlooked field. What remains less explored are the political circumstances under which sustainability transitions occur, how its multiple inherent forms of governance relate to each other and are reconfigured in different places. This study delves into the governance of a sustainability transition towards a more sustainable wild berry industry, a global value chain facing social sustainability challenges due to precarious working conditions and exploitation of migrant workers. Through a comparative analysis involving Sweden, Finland, and Thailand, the study explores how sustainability transition governance is operationalized and examines the roles of various actors and regulatory practices. The research aims to contribute practical insights into how sustainability transition governance can lead to meaningful change in industry practices, particularly regarding the inclusion and rights of migrant workers. Furthermore, it underscores the importance of institutional dynamics and regulatory frameworks in shaping sustainability transitions across different geographical contexts.

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E-cargo bikes: how does a bike-car hybrid negotiate velomobility and automobility geographies and infrastructures in the UK?

Title of presentation E-cargo bikes: how does a bike-car hybrid negotiate velomobility and automobility geographies and infrastructures in the UK?

Abstract The Elevate project examines the role for electric micromobilities, and specifically e-cargo bikes, to contribute to substituting for car use, through trial loan case studies in specific geographies: peri-urban and suburban areas with high car ownership and use, around the three UK cities of Leeds, Brighton and Oxford. E-cargo bikes are viewed as having particular advantages in combining positive aspects of both cycles and cars – they should appeal to those who want to transport cargo and children or passengers as part of their everyday mobilities. However, such novel transport modes are being introduced into already existing and to some degree obdurate social and material infrastructures of velomobility and automobility. Where is their place – on cycle paths, pavements or roads? As a bike-car hybrid, how do they negotiate cycle and car storage, route and destination geographies? What role do pre-existing cycling and driving ‘road cultures’ and planning traditions play in allowing new and sustainable mobility practices to become established? We also reflect on the findings from the Elevate project to highlight how UK velomobility geographies and infrastructures, as well as cycling cultures, identities and social practices, are unfavourably compared to a European utility cycling ideal in our data.

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Key factors to enhance efficacy of 3D digital environments for transformative landscape and urban planning

Title of presentation Key factors to enhance efficacy of 3D digital environments for transformative landscape and urban planning

Abstract The unprecedented expansion of digital technologies has led to an increase in the development and application of 3D digital environments for landscape and urban planning in the past two decades. Considering the significant challenges in guiding human societies towards sustainability, these technologies must not only assist decision-makers in adapting to changes but promote fast, transformative shifts. We outline six key factors that can enhance efficacy of 3D digital environments to guide knowledge-informed landscape and urban planning. We call for (1) representing dynamic interplay between the social, ecological, and technical systems, (2) exploring the integration of design with simulation models to address cross-scale dynamics, (3) developing features to foster imagination, (4) employing multisensory stimuli to encourage profound changes in environmentally and socially sustainable behavior, (5) incorporating active sensing by and with non-experts into 3D digital environments to better acknowledge indigenous and local knowledge systems, and finally, (6) carrying out a usability evaluation to facilitate participation and collaboration in an efficient co-creation process. We conclude by recommending the establishment of a collaborative knowledge platform that unites researchers, developers, and stakeholders for stimulating social-ecological-technological system thinking in the development of 3D digital environments and harnessing the technological advancements to accelerate transformative change.

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Divided by Drought: Exploring the intersection of climate (in)justice and disrupted family ties in global labour migration

Title of presentation Divided by Drought: Exploring the intersection of climate (in)justice and disrupted family ties in global labour migration

Abstract The right to raise children in safe and sustainable conditions can be hindered by various factors, such as environmental racism, climate change, and the absence of secure family spaces. As the social and environmental impacts of the climate crisis, including droughts, food shortages, and forced migration, disproportionately affect marginalized families, it is increasingly important to consider climate justice in relation to reproductive justice. In the field of agricultural labour studies, the relationship between environmental degradation and reproductive injustice has primarily been examined in terms of reproductive health risks caused by environmental toxins. However, this study demonstrates that the climate crisis is also increasingly affecting family relationships. This paper presents a case study of Moroccan female agricultural workers who migrate annually to work in the berry industry in Spain. Based on multi-sited ethnographic research in Spain and Morocco, this study links drought-related unemployment in both countries to workers' decisions not to return home and their family member's intentions to migrate across the Mediterranean. The research demonstrates how water scarcity, combined with harsh migration policies, results in the long-term separation of seasonal agricultural workers and their families. Recognising these interconnections between droughts and family separation enhances our understanding of the everyday realities faced by migrant agricultural workers and is crucial for tracing accountability for reproductive and climate injustices.

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What about Left-Behind Places in the Global South? A Narrative Review.

Title of presentation What about Left-Behind Places in the Global South? A Narrative Review.

Abstract The emergence of the concept of "left-behind regions" is closely linked to the recent rise of populism, characterized by the ascent of far-right ideologies and violent and/or social movements (Yellow Vests in France, Brexit in the UK). These phenomena underscore a resurgence of the "spatial question," marking a notable shift from the era of globalization and metropolitan dominance. In this new landscape, marginalized populations in these neglected areas are rebelling against the dominance of metropolitan elites, fueling the rise of populist and nationalist political movements. While academic attention has predominantly focused on neglected territories in Europe and North America, similar dynamics of neoliberal restructuring and widening socio-spatial disparities are evident in the Global South.

The relative silence in international research regarding neglected regions in the Global South prompts inquiry into whether their rising territorial inequalities also give rise to populism and localized dissent against urban elites. Exploring this, we endeavor to evaluate the applicability of the "left-behindness" narrative to the Global South. Through a comprehensive review of existing literature, our study aims to discern whether neglected regions in the Global South precipitate political repercussions and if these repercussions manifest in more overtly violent forms compared to their Northern counterparts.

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Small towns, fast development: urbanization and access to ecosystem services in West Africa

Title of presentation Small towns, fast development: urbanization and access to ecosystem services in West Africa

Abstract There is an emerging literature documenting that expansion of small towns in Africa is occurring at a faster pace than the larger cities. The urbanization processes are often driven by the desires of rural populations to move closer to infrastructure, services and markets while at the same time often maintaining links to the rural areas in terms of access to land and ecosystem services. However, the mobility may also be affected by push factors, e.g., through various forms of dispossession caused by land acquisition, conflict or expropriation. In such cases, access to ecosystem services in the area of origin may be limited or lost and the reliance on urban ecosystems will increase. The way in which rural people, who move to urban areas, navigate these diverse situations have received limited attention. In this paper, we therefore present preliminary results of how local people perceive their changed access to ecosystem services when relocating fully or partially to fast growing small towns in northern Ghana and Burkina Faso. We also discuss how their needs and perceptions of ecosystem services may (or may not) have changed because of their move to the urban setting.

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Sustainability transitions in small-scale mining in Tanzania

Title of presentation Sustainability transitions in small-scale mining in Tanzania

Abstract Efforts toward global sustainable development are expanding, including in Africa, where many economies rely on mineral extraction for economic development. One of the most prominent mining sectors in Africa is artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM), which represents an economic lifeline to disadvantaged rural communities. The sector is also known for the extensive use of mercury (37.7% of global mercury emissions) to extract gold, which can cause significant harm to humans and ecosystems.

The case study for our research is Tanzania. Here, a novel technology to ASGM for gold extraction, cyanide leaching, has emerged from the private sector and has since taken the sector by storm. This technology has also been supported by the State and international organisations as an alternative to mercury use. Despite widespread optimism, our research reveals that the diffusion of cyanide leaching is not bringing a sustainable and just transition to ASGM and Tanzania. Firstly, cyanide leaching is not replacing mercury, rather complementing its use. This relates to the improper application of the technology, leading to more severe impacts on the environment. Secondly, this technology favours wealthier groups, with higher economic, social and political capital over others.

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Long-term mobility of international university students: flows and motivations

Title of presentation Long-term mobility of international university students: flows and motivations

Abstract • Long-term mobility of students is one of the essential components of migration. Migration for education is a long-term phenomenon, which has an increasing tendency especially in recent decades due to higher openness of universities. In particular, the long-term mobility of students who aim to obtain a full-fledged education abroad carries with it a number of characteristics that fulfill the definitions of long-term migration in many respects. The aim of the paper is to use publicly available data from the Ministry of Education of the Czech Republic to point out the overall development of the number and shares of foreign students at Czech universities, with an emphasis on the states that are most often represented in this sense. In this sense, the most frequently represented country of origin is Slovakia. Based on the questionnaire survey, the main reasons and motivations of Slovak university students who decided to study in the Czech Republic, specifically in the city of Brno, which is the most dominant in this sense within the entire Czech Republic, are further evaluated. The results show that the higher perceived quality of education and the popularity of Czech universities rank among the most common reasons.

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Governing from below: the role of market associations in the enforcement of the Covid-19 restrictions in markets in Lagos, Ni...

Title of presentation Governing from below: the role of market associations in the enforcement of the Covid-19 restrictions in markets in Lagos, Nigeria

Abstract The Covid-19 pandemic has underscored the vital role of local governments in rallying public action, while also highlighting the shortcomings in responding to a crisis of such magnitude. Local governments across the globe have different capacities, leading to an uneven geography in the response to the pandemic. The article addresses how local governments in Africa governed the Covid-19 pandemic under a state of crisis, limited autonomy and financial capacity and persistent economic informality. Marketplaces were subjected to strict regulations. Through a case study of Lagos, Nigeria, the article reports that local governments collaborated with market associations to enforce restrictions in marketplaces. The role of associations is underscored by the observation that enforcement was more effective in markets with centralized associations, compared to those with fragmented associational landscapes. Furthermore, the traditional system of market governance, rooted in Yoruba culture played a significant role in shaping the authority and influence of market associations, and their capacity to enforce the regulations. The article highlights the importance of local partnerships and traditional systems in responding to crises in a complex institutional context.

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Place, landscape and everyday law

Title of presentation Place, landscape and everyday law

Abstract Place and landscape are key concepts in geography, yet their possibilities have been acknowledged in varying degrees in legal geographical discussions. Whilst landscape has been widely debated in relation to law and justice, the same cannot be said about the concept of place. It is, therefore, easy to agree with scholars such as Nicole Graham who has suggested a paradigm change that would replace the absence of place with its centrality to law, Irus Braverman who has advocated addressing law as corporeal, emplaced and localized, or Robyn Bartel who has proposed recognizing the agency of place. My presentation asks: how and why does place matter in legal geographical scholarship, and how does it relate to the debates on legal landscapes? Based on the conceptualizations of place more widely, I discuss the possibilities of understanding “legal places” in the context of everyday law that is characterized by the diversity of legal knowledges and legal agents.

Presenter name Päivi Kymäläinen

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Adolescents' geomeia skills in Finnish geography education

Title of presentation Adolescents' geomeia skills in Finnish geography education

Abstract Maps, diagrams, geo-tagged photos, spatial data are examples of geomeia – media that can be used to collect, process, store and transmit location-related information. Everyday adolescents meet a variety of geomeia in news, social media feeds, map applications etc. Like written media, geomeia can be used to mislead users in multiple ways by manipulating data or its' visualizations. That is why adolescents need sufficient geomeia skills such as critical map and graph reading skills, as part of their geographical multiliteracy skills.

In the Finnish national curricula, geomeia skills are mentioned as one of the essential objectives of geography teaching. However, the curricula do not precisely define what kind of skills are required from students. In our study, we reviewed earlier classifications of geomeia skills in scientific literature. Then, we interviewed geography teachers at various levels of education to find out their views on students' geomeia skills and challenges of teaching and learning them. Finally, we reviewed upper-secondary school students exam answers to the questions measuring geomeia competence on Finnish national matriculation exams in geography. The results show significant differences on adolescents' skill levels especially on critical analyzing skills suggesting the need of improving especially curricula and availability of teaching materials.

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Are energy transitions reproducing economic inequalities? Power, social stigma, and distributive (in)justice in Mexico

Title of presentation Are energy transitions reproducing economic inequalities? Power, social stigma, and distributive (in)justice in Mexico

Abstract Activists, scholars, and policymakers worldwide have increasingly recognised the intrinsic linkages between energy transitions and justice issues. However, little research exists on how the social dynamics of such transitions reproduce and exacerbate economic inequalities. To address this gap, this study examines the discourses adopted by people resisting wind energy developments in the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, Mexico. Building on the notion of 'framing' in social movement theory, we assess the significance of distributive justice for these activists. The study relies on 64 interviews and participant observation. The findings indicate that anti-wind activists used health and environmental concerns instrumentally: as a framing device to avoid social rejection and legitimise other, subtler distributive concerns about the uneven allocation of economic benefits such as tenancy payments. Although this framing was counterproductive and left their concerns unaddressed, activists adopted this strategy because of community norms and practises that stigmatise the explicit discussion of economic inequalities and their fear of challenging existing power structures. This paper highlights the social mechanisms through which energy transitions reproduce economic inequalities. As a policy recommendation, it is critical to consider how inequalities are framed and the underlying reasons for these interpretive schemes to advance socially just net-zero scenarios.

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Condescending ableism and time

Title of presentation Condescending ableism and time

Abstract The presentation examines the impact of condescending ableism on the experiences of people with disabilities, with a focus on temporality and the diversity of disabilities. Condescending ableism is characterized by expressions of pity towards disabled people and assuming control over their decision-making. One example we explore is the situation of a visually impaired boy who found himself in an uncomfortable situation on public transportation. The bus driver assisted the boy in boarding the vehicle, leading to the boy being blamed for causing delays in transportation. Condescending ableism unexpectedly leads to distrust and misunderstanding, thereby affecting the right to respected participation in public transportation. Another case presented is the story of a man with severely limited arm mobility who encounters unsolicited expressions of pity and limited expectations regarding his ability to lead a fulfilling life. People often lament his alleged inability to lead a chrononormative life without considering his own experiences and desires. Analyses of these and other cases highlight that the geography of temporality plays a crucial role in understanding condescending ableism. The temporal dimension is not only a matter of speed but also involves pressure to adapt to society's various temporal demands.

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The Geographies of Choirs: Mapping Swedish Secular and Sacral Choir Members in Urban and Rural Places

Title of presentation The Geographies of Choirs: Mapping Swedish Secular and Sacral Choir Members in Urban and Rural Places

Abstract Sweden, often referred to as one of the most secularised countries in the world, paradoxically have 6% (600.000) of its population regularly singing in a choir. Choral singing, originating from Christian traditions, encompasses a spectrum ranging from traditional and sacral organizations to modern and secular forms, all of which are represented across all of Sweden. However, previous research predominantly focuses on choirs in large cities (urban) or rural areas, leaving smaller and medium cities underexplored. This study addresses the need for mapping differences and/or similarities of choir members in urban and rural spaces in Sweden. Using secondary data and questionnaire responses, this study examines choir members and their socioeconomic backgrounds and their relationship to place, urban-rural dimensions and sacral-secular aspects. As part of this, the study discusses the perceived image of the rural as more traditional/religious and the city as more modern/secular. Based on the results, the perceived image of urban and rural places is nuanced as this univocal pattern was not found in the data. Choral activities are also interpreted as postsecular as they contain a mix of sacral and secular aspects. Thus, this study contributes insights into how sacred and secular coexist within choral organizations and broader society.

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The imaginative and real political ecology of large-scale urban sustainability projects

Title of presentation The imaginative and real political ecology of large-scale urban sustainability projects

Abstract Compact city strategies have become the mainstream planning approach in creating sustainable cities, increasingly resulting in large scale urban development and transformation projects. However, the social and ecological implications of these strategies, and the way they are played out within the current political economy, are increasingly scrutinized and criticized. In this paper I focus on the theoretical arguments and imaginative prospects of such development projects in Oslo, and how a variety of political-economic structures and practices hamper the realization of the envisioned sustainability of these projects. I will argue that the promotion, imagination and visualization of future urban districts and neighbourhoods create a representational and discursive reality that lacks the analytical approach needed to advance social and ecological justice in urban development projects. I will also discuss theoretical avenues for dealing with these contradictions.

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What is the price for a "water-smart society"? Social disruption in the wake of climate change

Title of presentation What is the price for a "water-smart society"? Social disruption in the wake of climate change

Abstract Major actors in the water sector in Europe have in recent years been focusing on governance towards a "water-smart society" (www.watereurope.eu, 2016). One of the cornerstones of the concept is to make the water system resilient against the impact of climate change events.

The investment needs in water infrastructure are acute in many EU countries, and whether this will be addressed with more circular solutions - or renewal and expansion of the current infrastructure - is little investigated. Either way, rising costs will affect the economy for many decades to come. What will be the social costs for upgrading infrastructure? A range of studies show that a rise in water prices will affect low-income households the most (Mansur and Olmstead 2022, EI-Khattabi et al 2021, Massarutto 2020).

Another guiding principle for a water-smart society is that "all relevant stakeholders are involved in the governance of our water system". The study explores from a socio-hydrology perspective the governance of water systems and alternative pricing models as a way to address social and environmental responses to anthropogenic climate change.

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Greenhouse agriculture and material constraints to circulation

Title of presentation Greenhouse agriculture and material constraints to circulation

Abstract Plasticultures (i.e. mulching, polytunnels or greenhouses) are expanding globally, and are drastically transforming agricultural labour processes. By increasing the degree of control over growing conditions they can facilitate a raise in productivity, ease the compliance with demanding quality-requirements, and decompose spatiotemporal gaps in capital's circulation. However, as Marx notes in Volume 2 of Capital, the degree of material perishability of commodities remains decisive for their mobility in time and space and hence for the geography of capital's circuits (Marx 1992, p. 206). Despite a few seminal exceptions (e.g., Mann & Dickinson 1978, FitzSimmons 1986 and Henderson 1998), little emphasis has been given to how agricultural labour processes morph with the efforts of overcoming material constraints to circulation. This paper investigates how working procedures in agricultural greenhouses (i.e. all practices related to growing and harvesting) revolve around a) optimising plant growth, b) compliance and compulsion (e.g. via certifications) and c) decelerating the decay of the harvested plant during its time in circulation. The paper puts forward a discussion of how to empirically grasp the temporal phases of valorisation (labour-time, production-time and circulation time) as well as the real subsumption of labour and nature in plasticultures and agricultural value chains.

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Restructuring at a distance: Healthcare platform companies and commodification and financialization of the Swedish public pri...

Title of presentation Restructuring at a distance: Healthcare platform companies and commodification and financialization of the Swedish public primary care

Abstract Platform companies operating in the public sector remain understudied. This paper addresses this gap by analyzing the emergence of healthcare platform companies (HPCs): new private for-profit actors in the restructuring geography of the Swedish public primary care that provide app-based consultations, matching healthcare professionals with patients. I employ the concept of (dis-)embeddedness to analyze HPCs' expansion strategies, foregrounding two distinct but interrelated aspects: First, how HPCs territorially (dis-)embed in/from Regions to maximize reimbursement from public finances, exploiting a parallel system of primary care financing by providing app-based consultations at the national scale. Second, how HPCs simultaneously embed in transnational networks of speculative capital, raising investments to offset losses and fund further expansion. Drawing on critical platform- and data studies, this paper advances the speculative value of data, extracted via app-based service provision and playing a performative role in valuation processes of platform companies, as an explanation for their rapid expansion despite sustained substantial losses. It argues that HPCs' data-extraction pushes the frontier of commodification in the public healthcare beyond the provision of services, while their increasing uptake also contributes to financialization of a key infrastructure of social reproduction.

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Who is on the move? Identifying mobility lifestyle profiles in Finnish cities

Title of presentation Who is on the move? Identifying mobility lifestyle profiles in Finnish cities

Abstract While car-dependent mobility is deeply embedded in societies worldwide, transformation to more sustainable urban mobility practices is crucial to enhance human and environmental well-being. Understanding diverse preferences regarding mobility and neighborhood characteristics presents an opportunity to identify potential for shifts into more sustainable mobility practices. Implementing planning and policy actions based on participatory data have the potential to increase the share of active mobility, including walking and cycling, and public transit.

In this study, we collected public participation GIS (PPGIS) data through a random sample of citizens in three Finnish cities. We conducted a map-based survey to capture respondents' everyday mobility patterns. Drawing on factor analysis, we used clustering methods to establish distinct lifestyle profiles based on mobility and housing preferences.

While some lifestyle profiles appear to be highly dependent on the use of private car, others favor sustainable transport modes in everyday mobility. Further, we detected differing preferences towards time- and money-usage, and neighborhood characteristics. The study results offer a novel approach for assessing mobility practices that aims to support planning and policy actions promoting sustainable mobility.

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Infrastructural violence, powerlessness and conspiracies

Title of presentation Infrastructural violence, powerlessness and conspiracies

Abstract Large scale infrastructural projects have become a standout feature of 21st century capitalist development on a global scale with mixed and uneven results for societies and the environment, often leading to contestation by various actors at different scales. This presentation focuses on the port of Piraeus owned by COSCO, a Chinese SOE, to explore the interaction of large-scale infrastructure projects with local and national actors amidst deepening post-democratic institutional configurations. In addition to labour struggles, this investment engendered resistance by citizen initiatives and local authorities against plans for the expansion of the port, which were accepted disregarding democratic processes.

Drawing on interviews with activists and local and state government officials, the presentation analyses powerlessness as a result of state capitalist action and authoritarianism, and sheds light on the development of conspiracy theories as a tool to make sense of opaque forces and complex relations to understand infrastructural violence.

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Exploring localized relationship of environmental attributes and trail-based activities in natural areas at multiple scales: ...

Title of presentation Exploring localized relationship of environmental attributes and trail-based activities in natural areas at multiple scales: A regional study leveraging user-generated big data and geographical random forest modelling

Abstract Sustainable urban planning calls for localized solutions. User-generated big data coupled with advanced computational methods has demonstrated as an efficient facilitator in such explorations. In this paper, we aim to examine the relationship between trail-based recreational activities and various environmental variables at multiple scales, by addressing the following questions:

1. What are the relationships between environmental attributes and activity volume of running and cycling, factoring in people's different perceiving scales of the environment in navigation?
2. At multiple scales, what are the local important variables across the study region, for running in comparison to cycling?
3. What are the implications for future planning and management practices?

By utilizing partial dependence plot (PDP) and geographical random forest (GRF), our paper demonstrates that there is a potential bias when handling different variables with the same scales in analyses, and the methods can be an explorative tool to inform scalable interventions. This regional study covers multiple jurisdictions in Copenhagen and beyond, providing an overview of the recreational usage of trails spanning from urban to rural contexts, and a nuanced picture of the relationship between environmental attributes and trail-based activity. This approach also sheds light on the different wayfinding methods within behavioural geography.

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Accounting for the linking and binding of social infrastructure in people-powered green neighbourhood initiatives

Title of presentation Accounting for the linking and binding of social infrastructure in people-powered green neighbourhood initiatives

Abstract There are subtly different ways to define social infrastructure. Eric Klinenberg (2018) refers to the physical places and community organisations that shape our capacity to interact with one another. Yaell Arbell (2021) advance safe and just spaces, while the notion of social infrastructure can be used to describe affective conduits of hospitality, reciprocity, conviviality, and care (Berlant 2016). Critical engagement with the historical evolution of socio-technical place-making, encompassing feminist participatory planning, asks how far investment in social infrastructure can help unite socially divided and disenfranchised people and places.

This paper explores the 'social architecture' of 'people-powered' neighbourhood initiatives to reveal 'secret' qualities that are overlooked in conventional notions of urban infrastructure. The 'secret' is ironic because the social 'glue' linking and binding people to collective enterprise is part of everyday life. Discussion draws on real people and places (accessible vignettes and 'story' postcards) to animate this negotiated human, relational scale. This largely theoretical paper represents one strand of a monograph in progress. While this paper is UK based, empirically, efforts to understand the linking and binding agents behind green neighbourhood initiatives in one setting will resonate with a focus on community-led place-making in the Nordic context.

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The (De)Bordering Struggles of Third Country Nationals under the EU's Temporary Protection Directive

Title of presentation The (De)Bordering Struggles of Third Country Nationals under the EU's Temporary Protection Directive

Abstract The Temporary Protection Directive (TPD) and its implementation within EU member and associate states offers a new lens with which to analyse bordering practices and processes in Europe. The TPD is a legal mechanism that was intended to deborder EU states to people fleeing Ukraine but did not afford the same rights to stay and settle in the EU to all those who have fled. The Directive was not singularly enacted, but rather initiated dispersed sets of negotiations and renegotiations within EU member and associate states as it was adopted into various national legislation and policies. This has created uneven geographies of debordering, especially for third country nationals, whose status was contingent on having a permanent residence permit in Ukraine. Whilst many EU countries conducted individual assessments of third country nationals with temporary permits to determine if they could safely return to their countries, the Dutch government instead granted status to all people from Ukraine. However, these rights have since been revoked by the Dutch government for third country nationals without permanent residence in Ukraine, who subsequently then launched a legal challenge to this decision that was ultimately unsuccessful. In this paper, we elucidate the ways in which the TPD has effectively created new legal spaces for border struggles relating to racialised migrants, which are connected to but also differentiated from processes and practices of asylum.

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Beyond the romantic gaze: Digital placemaking of farm-based volunteer tourism

Title of presentation Beyond the romantic gaze: Digital placemaking of farm-based volunteer tourism

Abstract This study explores how digital practices produce and reproduce imaginaries and narratives of rural life and places through farm-based volunteer tourism. Research suggests that digital platforms and social media play an increasingly important role in connecting tourists and rural places and natures, for sharing tourism practices and experiences, and in representing rural places and natures in particular ways. Grounded in the 'romantic gaze', tourists - often young, well-educated, urban people - expect an authentic life experience of a rural and rustic lifestyle and to experience a foreign culture. Yet, drawing on theoretical developments from digital geographies, we argue digital practices in platforms and social media are more than representation and representing particular 'ways of seeing', and are instead parcels of fluid placemaking processes. This is especially illustrated in volunteer tourism such as WWOOF where touristic leisure and volunteering for the benefits of the host people and places are both promoted. Based on visual content analysis of Instagram images of WWOOF farms in Sweden, this study examines farm tourism as digitally negotiated placemaking that is an interplay between symbolic and material practices by farmers, tourists and WWOOF organization alike. We call for more complex and geographical understandings of digitally mediated tourism.

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The social infrastructure of Danish green neighborhoods

Title of presentation The social infrastructure of Danish green neighborhoods

Abstract “Green neighborhoods” (grønne nabofællesskaber) are groups of neighbors who meet locally to engage in activities aiming at living more sustainably through reducing carbon footprints and enhancing local biodiversity. Collective activities include communal green meals, swap markets, organic vegetable boxes, chemical-free gardens, energy saving, car sharing, borrowing instead of buying new items, planting biodiverse forests, and so on. The green neighborhoods movement started in May 2020 and has spread rapidly to 230+ local groups and 16.000+ green neighbors in Denmark. Some green neighborhoods are found at the municipal level while others are much more local – a village, an urban quarter, or a housing block. The present paper describes the social infrastructure and organization of green communities. It shows that local green neighborhoods can be characterized as relying on a) grassroots “practivist” engagement aiming at changing one’s practices rather than changing those of others (as in classic activism) and b) anarchic local political structure and unbureaucratic “do-ocracy”. Although Danish municipalities show a strong interest in the movement because of its success in engaging local citizens for the green transition, its grassroots anarchism is seen a challenge by municipalities which are used to collaborate with well-structured and bureaucratic associations.

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Lost winters: understanding climate heritage in a seasoned place

Title of presentation Lost winters: understanding climate heritage in a seasoned place

Abstract This project concerns climate heritage in the Anthropocene from an environmental humanities perspective. It focuses on the idea of lost winters, recently popularised through Iain Cameron's (2021) attention to Scotland's vanishing snow patches. In doing so, this work extends Naylor et al.'s (2020) conceptualisation of a 'weathered place', a place known through its weather, to consider the notion of a seasoned place. Applying the concept of a seasoned place to the Cairngorm region in Scotland, the project seeks to understand what happens to a region known for winter when winter begins to warm. It does so by attending to the outdoor leisure practices used to define the winter region. This presentation outlines the preliminary results of a project pilot focused upon the outdoor leisure practice of curling. In doing so it seeks to explore a series of questions about how climate is nested in place, how regional identity is linked to seasonality, and how heritage value and loss are understood with respect to climate change.

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High school students use digital geodata to develop cycling infrastructure

Title of presentation High school students use digital geodata to develop cycling infrastructure

Abstract Despite all the discussions, motorized individual transport dominates in most German cities with its high land consumption, CO₂ emissions, traffic accidents, etc. This severely limits the quality of life of the residents and leads to various conflicts over the use of space. The city of Essen in the west of the country has repeatedly found itself in last place in the ADFC (= national bicycle association) ranking.

As part of a research and development project funded by the German Federal Environmental Foundation, students from five different Essen high schools are working with researchers from the departments of geography education and geoinformatics at the University of Münster to develop alternative concepts for cycling in their school environment. The basis for this is digital geodata, which the young people themselves collect, clean, map and analyze. With the help of the self-developed sensbox:bike (<https://sensebox.de/en/products-bike>), which is mounted on bicycles, data will be collected on, among other things, the condition of the cycle path, the distance between the bicycle and other road users and the speed of the cyclist .

In the spirit of citizenship education, the project aims to encourage and enable young people as a silenced group in transport planning to actively participate in negotiation processes in society.

The accompanying research uses established scales (including the Political Efficacy Short Scale (Beierlein et al. 2021), youth participation and sustainability in the community (Haubner & Meyer 2021) and supplementary interviews to examine possible changes in the participants' self-efficacy expectations.

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22@Barcelona Innovation District: Subsuming the city to platform capitalism

Title of presentation 22@Barcelona Innovation District: Subsuming the city to platform capitalism

Abstract we will explore the case of the 22@ innovation district, the so-called first publicly-lead innovation district project in the world. Built upon the post-industrial, working-class neighbourhood of Poblenou, the 22@ innovation district has been simultaneously the material laboratory, expression and realisation of the digitalization of the city and, lately, the basis for boosting platform capitalism in town. The presentation evaluates what the innovation district has become in this context, focusing on the intractable contradictions it now internalises and expresses: a growing but largely lower-skill, lower-wage labour market; a fecund space for commercial real estate development but catered increasingly to itinerant entrepreneurs, footloose businesses, and consumption-oriented leisure sectors (mainly flexi- and coworking spaces); an ecosystem perfect for providing residents and tourists access to quick commerce-fuelled consumption but with ecologically damaging effects associated with excessive tourism and so-called platform capitalism.

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Governing libraries – governing social infrastructures

Title of presentation Governing libraries – governing social infrastructures

Abstract Public libraries are increasingly acknowledged as important social infrastructures that not only support literacy and knowledge transmission, but also stimulate a sense of community, social cohesion, and mental wellbeing. In our research project “Infrastructuring Libraries in Transformation” (ILIT), we investigate how libraries in the Netherlands and Sweden are constantly in flux, dynamic, and contested. Therefore, we utilize the concept of infrastructuring instead of infrastructure. This means that we not only look at object-centric notions of what a library is, but also how it comes into being through daily practices of library staff, management, policymakers, users, and other stakeholders. In this paper, we answer the following research question: How do national, regional, and local policies envision and fund libraries as social infrastructures? The paper aims to explore the governance of public libraries, including the influence of policies and politics on the role of the library in urban societies, funding landscapes, and different (self-)branding contexts. Drawing on stakeholder and critical policy analysis, over 20 qualitative interviews with policymakers and library management, and two collaborative zine-making workshops, we will visualise the multi-level policy landscapes concerning public libraries in the Netherlands and Sweden. We aim at grasping the extent that policies on different levels, from international to local, influence public libraries in these two countries.

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Sketching and making sketches: ethical and perceptive fieldwork on the margins of the city

Title of presentation Sketching and making sketches: ethical and perceptive fieldwork on the margins of the city

Abstract This presentation explores creative practice-led research through sketching in urban geographical fieldwork. Sketching is a form of drawing, distinguished by immediacy and speed, in which the researcher makes and records visual observations without looking too hard or long. This mode of attention has limitations but also strengths. Sketching can be ethical, avoiding the use cameras that can be intrusive, and preserving the anonymity and privacy of people who may be observed. We explore the potentialities of sketching as a vehicle for ethical urban observation. We pay particular attention to marginalized and minoritized individuals and communities, who may be difficult to reach through conventional research methods, and may therefore be avoided by researchers. We share some sketches, made during ethnographic fieldwork involving homeless people in Rome. As a fieldwork method, informed by arts-led practice, fieldwork is not only ethically driven; it can also be perceptive, helping to guide the observations of the researcher, cultivating their ability to notice, whilst collecting data about the experiences of marginalised urban lives.

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Place attachment, storms, and climate change in the Faroe Islands

Title of presentation Place attachment, storms, and climate change in the Faroe Islands

Abstract Globally, people have always had to deal with climate-related hazards, and in the majority of places, they have adapted gradually. However, these gradual adaptations may not be enough to withstand the expected intensity of climate-related hazards in the future. In this paper, our focus is on the effect of storms in the Faroe Islands. The islands are highly exposed to storms, which are projected to increase in intensity and potentially also in frequency in this region. The islands are characterized by being small, remote, and with a rough terrain, which makes it difficult for external actors to provide assistance. As a result, the civilian population—especially in the outer regions—often have to deal with storms and their consequences themselves. The geographical focus in this paper is the Northern Islands, and in particular the communities of Viðareiði and Hvannasund. The approach applied is qualitative, and the central question this paper tries to answer is how aspects of place attachment (social, physical, functional) affect the way in which the local population handle storms. The findings show communities that are impacted by storms, but also that their previous experiences with storms have led to an improved adaptation level, which today enables them to cope with more severe storms. The attachment they have to where they live will assist them in coping with future storms, although it can also be a hindrance to the implementation of the necessary adaptation and preparedness measures, since they presume that they are already safe.

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Effects of an outdoor adventure on adolescents' nature connection and well-being

Title of presentation Effects of an outdoor adventure on adolescents' nature connection and well-being

Abstract There has been concern over young people's disconnection from nature in urbanized societies. Research has shown that positive nature experiences enhance young people's health and well-being and promote their nature connection and pro-environmental behaviors. Structured outdoor and adventure programs are a proactive means of enhancing young people's personal and social development and nature connection. This mixed-methods study examines how participation in a three-day hike in a national park affects 15- to 16-year-old participants' (n=16) nature connection and perceived well-being compared to participation in a three-day drama workshop indoors (n=17). The study is based on survey and interview data collected in the city of Lahti, Finland.

Hiking experiences supported participants' nature-related curiosity and their motivation to engage with nature, which may ultimately enhance their nature connection. Although the demanding hike caused also negative feelings, its' characteristics – engaging with a natural environment without modern amenities, breaking with daily routines, and participating in challenging and even risky outdoor activities – supported adolescents' well-being. During the hike, adolescents were able to calm down and escape everyday worries, achieve a feeling of mastery, and to be themselves. The results indicate the benefits of incorporating outdoor adventures as well as arts-based activities into young people's everyday lives.

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Challenges and Opportunities of Planning Public Spaces in a Low-Density District with a Historic Community: The Case of Nõmme

Title of presentation Challenges and Opportunities of Planning Public Spaces in a Low-Density District with a Historic Community: The Case of Nõmme

Abstract Abstract

Challenges and Opportunities of Planning Public Spaces in a Low-Density District with a Historic Community: The Case of Nõmme

Riste Lehari
Tallinn University

Public space serves as opportunities for everyday engagement including cultural activities and social interactions. The co-presence of diverse groups and activities is seen as an important building block of social cohesion (Qi, Mazumdar, & Vasconcelos, 2024)

This study focuses on the challenges of public space planning in Nõmme, Tallinn, highlighting the area's rich history and community characteristics. Nõmme, a historic district characterized primarily by single-family homes and old pine forests, faces demographic changes reflected in declining population and low density. On the other side, Nõmme has a strong sense of community identity which requires new and appropriate urban planning decisions.

Through qualitative research methods, including interviews with urban planners and community members, as well as on-site observation, this study analyses the challenges of public space utilization and planning in the Nõmme area. Key findings include identifying public meeting places and determining planning constraints, which help to better understand community dynamics and develop appropriate urban planning strategies in suburban areas like Nõmme.

Citation

Qi, J., Mazumdar, S. & Vasconcelos, A.C. Understanding the Relationship between Urban Public Space and Social Cohesion: A Systematic Review. Int. Journal of Com. WB (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s42413-024-00204-5>

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Participatory Planning Practice Centred on Children and Youth: themes, tools, and challenges

Title of presentation Participatory Planning Practice Centred on Children and Youth: themes, tools, and challenges

Abstract In this paper I report on a systematic review of published literature which was undertaken with the objective to assess and evaluate the status of the academic debate on participatory spatial planning with children and young people. We used the method of systematic mapping of literature and sought to gather insight into methods, tools, approaches, and theoretical aspects involved in scholarly research into participatory spatial planning with children and young people. In the realm of planning and urban governance, researchers and practitioners are exploring various engagement and participatory methods tailored for children and young people. Some methods prioritize playfulness, creativity, and loosely articulated youth voice, assuming that such approaches better capture the perspectives of younger demographic groups. Others emphasize methods that integrate closely with daily planning practices and yield readily transferable outcomes. Despite a growing literature on youth involvement in planning and governance, our understanding of how these diverse methods capture child voice, translate into practice and which ones are most effective remains still rather limited. As of now there is insufficient understanding of the extent to which different methods facilitate meaningful engagement and how well are these aligned to current planning. While several reviews of participatory planning literature exist, they lack a concise analysis of methods, their reception by youth and planners, and their performance. This review aims to address these gaps by identifying, mapping, and reviewing studies on participatory processes involving youth in urban governance and spatial planning. Specifically, it uncovers themes, emerging trends, and gaps in participatory planning with youth, while also mapping the current academic discourse on meaningful engagement in urban governance. Through this review, we aim to provide insights to help planners better select methods that suit their needs and circumstances, ultimately enhancing youth participation in shaping urban environments.

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Be water: emerging dependences out of season. Pilot study case in Catalonia (Spain)

Title of presentation Be water: emerging dependences out of season. Pilot study case in Catalonia (Spain)

Abstract Last summer we were told that it was the coldest we will ever experience. In Catalonia we are in an emergency phase due to drought in a large part of the territory already in winter. Faced with this reality and the discursive nature of the collapse, geography still analyses the particularities of the place in a very segmented way and with little connection to the social reality of the place. With these premises, the pilot project LaViral tests a methodology rooted in the place and the community to deal with problems derived, in part, from climate change and capitalist extractive practices. It does so by putting artists and scientists to work together to respond to local demands around water, a cycle that has been profoundly transformed from its cyclical seasonality. It also does so in situ, in three different realities: Axial Pyrenees, Mediterranean agricultural area and the Llobregat river axis. This communication will present the first results of this experience that is being carried out.

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Challenges in operationalising conceptual models of human-nature interactions

Title of presentation Challenges in operationalising conceptual models of human-nature interactions

Abstract Studies of recreation have been transformed since the turn of the century from relatively data poor endeavours to data rich. A wealth of passively and actively generated data capture not only trajectories, but multi-modal information containing images, sounds and words giving access to a rich sample of data reflecting people's interactions with and in nature. Along with these new data forms have come new methods for their analysis, perhaps best represented by the rapid emergence of large language, and latterly foundational, models. A further area of development are the conceptual models used to characterise these interactions, for example in the form of cultural ecosystem services or relational values related to nature's contributions to people. These increasingly rich data, methods and conceptual frameworks make it easy to generate literature classifying interactions across a range of scales and geographic locations. But they mask a problem – operationalisation – that is to say the ways in which we, for instance, classify individual texts or pictures to classes in a particular conceptual model. Approaches to this classification are almost always on an ad-hoc basis, and there is little evidence of transferability or reproducibility. In my paper I will discuss these issues and their implications.

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How place-based actions can facilitate institutional change

Title of presentation How place-based actions can facilitate institutional change

Abstract In recent years, place-based strategies have become established as an instrument of territorial cohesion policy for promoting quality of life and living conditions in disadvantaged urban or rural areas. Local development actions and strategies in this vein aim at integrating local resources more closely in regional development policies, and see the bundling of existing resources, a more concerted effort of relevant stakeholders and the potential of civil society resources in these areas as a solution to gradually counter local disadvantage. The role of institutions is critical here, as place-based development is dependent upon institutional and social capital as place-specific resources, which nurture or limit capabilities and responses to (supra-)local crises and challenges.

The paper is based on empirical evidence from local development actions with bottom-up participative elements. It is argued that place-based actions and strategies need to be aware of factors which limit or enable transformative change (transformative social innovation) in established local institutions. Local institutions are meant here in a broader sense as local governance, government quality, routines, belief systems and rules. Potentially, and if designed well, place-based strategies may challenge local or regional institutions, routines and practices and may shift (power) relations towards more inclusive processes and fairer outcomes.

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Soft planning for climate neutral cities

Title of presentation Soft planning for climate neutral cities

Abstract The effects of climate change, such as more frequent and intense droughts, heat waves, rising sea levels, storms and warming oceans , call for sustainable transformation; change towards a future that is fundamentally different from the present. More and more cities, large and small, are announcing their goal to become climate neutral in the foreseeable future. Now more than ever, innovative and often unexplored ways are needed to achieve this ambitious goal. In this paper we explore how planners navigate through legal and administrative frameworks, while at the same time pushing for new and innovative processes that might challenge current planning practices and legal planning frameworks. We focus on three European cities: Malmö, Oslo and Vienna, which aim to achieve climate neutrality in 2030 and 2040 respectively, using interviews and document analysis as methods. The findings suggest that soft planning is an important complement to hard planning if aiming for climate-neutrality. While some question the effectiveness of soft planning, most interviewees state that ambitious goals require a common understanding between a large group of stakeholders which is often created in informal arenas. Ambitious goals also require new ideas and processes which are tested through trial and error in informal processes.

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Sensory Inequalities and Access to Blue Space

Title of presentation Sensory Inequalities and Access to Blue Space

Abstract There has been growing interest in research committed to recognising blue space exposure as a transformative experience for health and wellbeing. This research will sit within the critical paradigm of blue space engagement allowing for a reflexive exploration on the lived experiences of people with visual impairments (VI). Using a sequential multi-phase mixed method research design, this study will co-create to collect data on outdoor VI swimming engagers and non-engagers. A scoping exercise will estimate the number of VI outdoor swimmers nationally. A qualitative South Coast, UK case study will also allow for richer, deeper data capture to enhance real understanding of VI experiences. Findings will be presented using traditional and multi-sensory methods. They will aim to effectively inform cross-sectoral practice and policy interventions at different spatial scales. Output will share new knowledge, raise awareness and engage with policy makers, governmental bodies and stakeholders, on key safety concerns, inequalities of access and experience, risk management and proposed mitigation strategies associated with VI recreational blue space usage. Addressing these issues offers scope to extend and diversify the health and wellbeing benefits of blue space immersion by increasing accessibility and inclusion for everyone.

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Local knowledge in addressing environmental crisis: a map-based survey and future workshop in rural community in Northern Fin...

Title of presentation Local knowledge in addressing environmental crisis: a map-based survey and future workshop in rural community in Northern Finland

Abstract Subarctic Nordic communities face fast environmental changes while often they lay in a periphery of strategic decision-making. Finnish Municipal Act and Land use Act emphasize citizen participation but grant municipalities considerable freedom in implementation of participatory democracy. In 2021, we studied local knowledge on environmental change and future preferences in a rural community in Northern Finland. In the process, local concerns over climate change and multiple environmental pressures opened a door to collaborate on a municipal strategy to address the challenges. We used a participatory map-based survey to better understand the changes affecting local life and livelihoods. In addition to observed changes the survey revealed three contradictory future visions for the municipality among the community. These visions were partly integrated in the recently published municipal strategy 2022-2025. Together with the municipality we tailored a workshop for municipal leaders and residents to discuss actions, blind spots and responsibilities in implementing the strategy. We trace the role and content of citizen participation in the researcher-led knowledge gathering and the municipal-led strategy formulation. We also reflect on the value of shared objectives between researchers and local knowledge holders in planning for sustainability transition. Research was part of EU Horizon 2020 funded project www.charter-arctic.org.

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Enhancing Sustainability in Agri-Food Production: A Case Study of Iceland's National Policies and Rural Plans

Title of presentation Enhancing Sustainability in Agri-Food Production: A Case Study of Iceland's National Policies and Rural Plans

Abstract The necessity for food-system reform has become increasingly evident due to the adverse impacts of the current agricultural paradigm. Despite the emergence of innovative technologies in food production, agricultural land remains indispensable. Over the years, policies and plans governing agri-food production have emphasized sustainable land use and climate-friendly practices. This research scrutinizes Iceland's case, focusing on national policies, rural municipal plans and agricultural subsidy contracts enacted between 2012 and 2022 concerning sustainability's three pillars and agri-food production. Utilizing Grounded Theory, we analyze the content and effectiveness of these policies in addressing land use, sustainability, climate change, and agriculture. Our findings reveal that while national policies frequently integrate sustainability and climate change considerations within land use frameworks, they exhibit less emphasis on rural development and agri-food production. Although all municipal plans prioritize sustainability, fewer than half adequately address climate change in the context of land management. Moreover, sustainability and climate change objectives are prevalent in policy and planning goals but less so in strategies and provisions. These results underscore the potential for more efficient utilization of policies and plans and agricultural subsidy contracts to foster sustainable agri-food production and rural development.

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Political landscapes of environmental monitoring in the High North

Title of presentation Political landscapes of environmental monitoring in the High North

Abstract An increased interest in Arctic regions as places of data generation to inform climate models, reports, and policies has created a distinct kind of landscape, transformed by the impact of environmental monitoring and other scientific activities. Though positioned as neutral sites of data generation, we argue that such landscapes are highly political sites of world-making, co-creating the global environment as an object of governance in conjunction with national and international policy on climate- and environmental change. Drawing from fieldwork in four key areas for environmental monitoring in the High North of Norway, Sweden, and Greenland, this paper argues that while these landscapes envelop the accumulation of human impact, waste, and degradation most prominently associated with Anthropocene landscapes, they are also material manifestations of hope and action to understand and act upon global planetary crisis. Thinking with these distinctive monitoring landscapes are useful in developing new understandings of the tension between political and scientific aims to respond to rapid environmental change and a concurrent lack of efficient policy frameworks and strategies to control and mend the consequences of anthropogenic impact on local as well as global levels.

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Enabling adaptive collaborative management practices in rapidly transforming, multi-functional peri-urban landscapes.

Title of presentation Enabling adaptive collaborative management practices in rapidly transforming, multi-functional peri-urban landscapes.

Abstract Urban landscapes constitute the main habitat for the human species and are at the same time very rich in biodiversity. As a consequence of urbanisation, the unbuilt spaces are required to become multi-functional, where an increasing amount of functions are to be provided to an increasing and diversifying amount of beneficiaries. Urban green spaces are for example expected to support climate change mitigation, biodiversity conservation, and various forms of nature-based outdoor recreation. In peri-urban landscapes, these needs also meet other land uses such as larger infrastructural establishments, forestry, and agriculture. Within the Mistra Sport & Outdoors research and collaboration program, a learning team of nine different regional and local actors in the Stockholm region has, through a series of knowledge co-creation workshops developed a method for promoting collaborative landscape stewardship. A stewardship built on local knowledge and sense of place, and where the overarching goal is to find ways to co-exist at the same time as ecological structures and processes are safeguarded. The method developed has been tested in two different geographical contexts, in southern and northern Sweden. The study applied a challenge-driven, mixed-methods approach where participatory workshops were the main source of data, in combination with interviews with a selection of the participants. The paper elaborates on both strategical and practical insights from these pilots and the potential and challenges of such participatory methods. These insights are discussed in relation to theories of knowledge co-creation processes and stewardship of landscapes under transformation.

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Home, Neighbourhood and Generational Dynamics: Spatial Perceptions and Divisions in a Small-Town Context

Title of presentation Home, Neighbourhood and Generational Dynamics: Spatial Perceptions and Divisions in a Small-Town Context

Abstract Spatial differentiation between areas of residence, often referred to as housing segregation, has primarily been studied in metropolitan areas. This paper shifts focus to a small-town context in mid-Sweden and examines where and how people come together or live separated lives. The study draws on interviews with individuals between 20 and 80 years old, including drawings of lifelines and mental maps, as well as walks in the area of residence. The analysis unveils how life course events and generational change in residential areas are interwoven in individuals changing perceptions and sentiments of home, as well as imaginaries of the small town. Moreover, the study draws attention to various 'classed' practices and spatial divisions at different life stages, for example, between young adults spending time in the city centre or moving around in cars or between middle-aged individuals based on where they do their grocery shopping. The study brings new insights into the intricate processes of age, life course, and segregation, which are relevant beyond the study context.

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Towards climate adaptation citizenship: How citizens in small remote communities in Nordics deal with climate change-related ...

Title of presentation Towards climate adaptation citizenship: How citizens in small remote communities in Nordics deal with climate change-related hazards

Abstract Climate change shows already tangible effects on our societies and scenarios indicate that the risk of climate-related hazards will increase significantly. In the Nordic countries, the future will get 'wilder, wetter and warmer' and Nordic societies must intensify their efforts to adapt to a changing climate. This paper argues that the magnitude and severity of the challenges that climate change impacts pose on our societies must be met with transformative adaptation efforts across all societal sectors, including citizens. Based on a multiple case study of how citizens in remote communities in four Nordic countries engage with climate adaptation, this paper aims to contribute to the conceptual development of climate (adaptation) citizenship, which has not received much attention compared to neighboring concepts, such as environmental or energy citizenship. The paper argues that citizenship in the form of awareness of climate change and the need for adaptative action, everyday adaptative practices as well as participation in political processes concerning adaptation, is an important aspect of societies' efforts to address climate change impacts. Thus, the question of how to foster climate adaptation citizenship deserves more attention both within adaptation research and among policymakers and practitioners who aim to engage citizens in adaptation action.

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Staying and working with conflicts, differences and inequality

Title of presentation Staying and working with conflicts, differences and inequality

Abstract For a green transition to be sustainable there is a need to address justice intertwined with stopping the ecological degradation. However, often these aspects are treated separately. There is a risk that justice issues get sidelined in the green transition, hence further segmenting or deepening inequalities. Indeed, research has shown that initial ambitious aims of equality and social sustainability has been displaced in the implementation process in Gothenburg. Through processes of knowledge integration, mechanisms to push away responsibility or watering down of content; justice aspects get displaced. I argue that for the green transition to be intertwined and addressed together with justice, there is a need for a counterforce to its constant displacement. I hypothesize that one strategy for this is to see, stay and work with conflicts, differences and inequalities. This paper investigates the written communication between civil servants and politicians, specifically looking for how equality, differences and conflicts are highlighted or displaced in the working for a green transition. Doing this, the aim is to see when, where and if windows for transformative change in relation to justice opens, are kept open or closes in the landscape of written communication between politicians and civil servants.

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Changing the narrative on coastal vegetated ecosystems in Germany

Title of presentation Changing the narrative on coastal vegetated ecosystems in Germany

Abstract In times of climate and biodiversity crises, the oceans are increasingly seen - and advocated for - as part of the solution, due to their ability of taking up vast amounts of CO₂ and being home to ¼ of all living species. Coastal vegetated ecosystems (CVEs), namely mangroves, saltmarshes, seagrasses and macroalgae receive a particular role in these sketched solutions. These CVEs are responsible for approx. 50% of all CO₂ uptake in the ocean, thus also called blue carbon ecosystems (BCEs), and play an important role for the livelihoods of coastal communities. Amongst other numerous ecosystem services, they can also be part of the economic development of the coastal regions, with great innovation potential for sustainable value chains. Nevertheless, our study in Northern Germany (workshops, interviews and surveys) showed, that the native CVEs are so far only seen as pretty necessities, worthy of protection, but rather neglected in their potential for climate change mitigation or economic endeavors. We show reasons for this narrative and how it could be nudged to change. Furthermore, we point out which dangers could lie in such a change of narrative, from solely conserving to actively managing and using ecosystems that are already under pressure.

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Secondary school students as necessary citizens in the neighbourhood: using a participatory STEAM education and art-infused a...

Title of presentation Secondary school students as necessary citizens in the neighbourhood: using a participatory STEAM education and art-infused approach for involving youth in Bergen, Norway and beyond

Abstract The EU has made large investments into STEAM education, encouraging inquiry-based and art-based approaches to develop scientific skillsets and competencies for democratic participation. However, efforts to teach from abstract models without incorporating learner-centred pedagogies have often alienated students. A transdisciplinary approach aims to address this, valuing epistemic diversity and linking formal curricula with and through the local curriculum of community, culture and place.

In the EU Horizon project “SENSE. – a new European roadmap to STEAM education”, we are in a co-creation process with educators, learners, artists, scientists and more across 12 European countries to propose centring the sensing body and co-constitutive experiences as an extended modality of knowing. As a geographer working in transdisciplinary cooperation, my focus has also been centring the involvement, contribution and awareness of environments and spaces in the neighbourhood.

This paper presents preliminary findings and reflections from working in 2023 and 2024 with students, teachers, teacher-students and artists in Bergen, Norway and other partner countries in community mapping activities and ‘SENSE. activities’ to introduce a paradigm shift in STEAM education, by stimulating learners’ self-directed and co-operative learning. And by promoting attitudes of future-making in the neighbourhood, bringing together people in co-creation of knowledge and making common, desirable futures.

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Where do older people work? The geographies of old-age employment in Sweden

Title of presentation Where do older people work? The geographies of old-age employment in Sweden

Abstract This article provides a comprehensive examination of employment trends among individuals aged 60 and above in Sweden, utilizing a spatially nuanced approach. The key contribution is the systematic mapping of older workers across diverse regions, highlighting regional disparities in labor force participation before and after retirement. Drawing on Swedish register data from 1990 to 2021, the study explores older workers' labor force participation and tracks regional changes in old-age employment over time.

The findings reveal significant variation in old-age employment across different settlements and labour market classifications. These patterns seem to stem from distinctive age-related trends within different sectors. Preliminary results also propose that post-retirement employment is primarily driven by smaller businesses and self-employment, whereas larger organizations, exhibit a lower prevalence of workers past the retirement age. Notably, gender differences in post-retirement employment persist more consistently across various spatial contexts. The observed variations highlight the importance of a spatial nuanced study on old-age employment, stressing the need to incorporate subnational differences into research. Acknowledging these nuances is vital for a thorough understanding of factors influencing employment among older adults and the urban contexts shaping their opportunities and challenges.

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Understanding the role of everyday mobility for the residents of left behind places in Germany

Title of presentation Understanding the role of everyday mobility for the residents of left behind places in Germany

Abstract „Left-behind places“ became one of the new buzzwords that appears in speeches of politicians, policy documents titles and scientific articles over the last decades. This term is usually used for the places that went through the structural change and now are characterized by above-average degrees of poverty, lack of jobs, high unemployment, high outmigration etc. Additionally, the key component of the definition of the left-behind place is the feeling of left-behindness that locals share which results in bitterness towards the centers and swing to the practices of radical voting. However, is it possible to say that the population of left-behind places universally feels left behind? And if not, what helps people from these regions to maintain a good quality of life? This presentation is based on the results of 60 biographical interviews with inhabitants of 2 left behind places in Germany focusing on interviewees' immobility decisions and everyday routines which were carried within “Beyond “Left Behind Places” ORA project. The results of the interview show that the expansion of people's everyday living space through commuting to the closest economic centers helps people to stay in left-behind places despite all the social and economic problems these regions are facing.

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Watt sense of community? A human geography agenda on energy communities

Title of presentation Watt sense of community? A human geography agenda on energy communities

Abstract Energy communities can potentially advance just transitions towards low-carbon systems by devolving energy production and consumption to local scales. Despite vibrant debates on energy geographies for more than a decade, human geographers have shown limited engagement with conceptualisation and emergent models of energy communities. We argue for a research agenda where understandings of space, place and scale will enhance energy communities research. There are three points of particular importance and relevance for this agenda: (1) Pluralising understandings of energy communities, (2) Spatialising perspectives on the potential of energy communities to advance just transitions, and (3) Contextually situating technological-energy innovation strategies.

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Towards a Socio-Ecological Transition: Non-Extractive Architecture and Regional Management of Construction and Demolition Waste

Title of presentation Towards a Socio-Ecological Transition: Non-Extractive Architecture and Regional Management of Construction and Demolition Waste

Abstract Construction and demolition (C&D) waste is of central concern for sustainability transitions and the Circular Economy (CE) due to its high volume and insufficient management, accounting for 40% of global waste production. Current CE policies and strategies adopted by governments are contributing to better practices, however they are often generalizing and excluding socioeconomic implications while focusing on ecological and technical aspects. This paper offers a critical perspective on CE approaches, aimed at minimizing C&D Waste through a Non-Extractive Architecture (N-EA) perspective. N-EA is an emerging term in literature and a discourse in the architectural practice which realizes that resources on the planet are limited. It challenges material extraction, labor markets, and the externalities of material practices and supply chains in the built environment. This paper uses the N-EA lens to uncover the socio-economic dimensions of C&D waste management, exploring the factors and forces that prevent the practice from changing; it does so by studying its governance, its labor dynamics, and the generation of value, whether monetary or socio-ecological. This theoretical and conceptual work is positioned in context by sharing preliminary findings from ongoing research in Luxembourg and the neighboring regions.

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At the intersection of social class and space: Forced migrants' mobility decision-making in Turkey and Lebanon

Title of presentation At the intersection of social class and space: Forced migrants' mobility decision-making in Turkey and Lebanon

Abstract This article aims first to understand how and why forced migrants decide to leave or stay in their first country of asylum, and second to contribute to the theory of agentic analyses of forced displacement. Our contribution adds to the growing body of research examining the impact of social class and associated capitals on the trajectories of forced migrants. Our analysis of the protracted displacement of Syrians in Turkey and Lebanon demonstrates that social class is a critical factor in shaping the experiences and mobility aspirations and it has significant impact on their future mobility and immobility decisions. By using a Bourdieusian conceptualisation of social class and relying on in-depth interviews, we analyse the types of capital that forced migrants possess, their convertibility, and their chances of re-establishing their class status. We show that convertibility depends on the type of capital and its interaction with social space. Our findings demonstrate that voluntary immobility may occur among those who have achieved similar livelihoods to their pre-displacement status and are content with their lives. Lower-income households that struggle to restore their livelihoods are more likely to engage in irregular migration or become trapped in involuntary immobility.

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Rightless rurality: The illegalization of Burmese migrant laborers in Thailand's agro-industry

Title of presentation Rightless rurality: The illegalization of Burmese migrant laborers in Thailand's agro-industry

Abstract This paper explores relations of production in contemporary agrarian capitalism through the case of rural-rural migration from Myanmar to Thailand. It focuses on the often-overlooked rural proletariat, in this case, illegalized migrant laborers. It shows how migrants live and work in precarity, shaped by their intersect subject positions including class, gender, citizenship and race. In particular, the paper argues that their social position is a result of practices of illegalization deployed by state authorities, local police, and Thai farmers, which control and immobilize migrants socio-economically, spatially and politically. The paper adds to debates on the agrarian question of labor, stressing capital and (il)licit law enforcement as co-constitutive in shaping exploitation in the agro-industry.

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Energy justice in Sweden and assemblages of rural space

Title of presentation Energy justice in Sweden and assemblages of rural space

Abstract Despite numerous arguments for the development of the renewable energy sector, local effects of wind power installations turn renewable energy transitions into a controversial societal issue concerning its power to reorganize space and economic activity. Sweden aims to transitions to renewable energy sources, but resistance to its infrastructure jeopardizes this goal. The municipalities with most onshore wind turbines are in the north, where there are vast areas of sparsely populated land. There, wind power is expanding to provide green and affordable energy to new industries in line with emission reduction standards. As sustainability transitions transform rural areas into geopolitical space for future energy production and challenges rural development, there is an urgent need to identify pathways to energy justice. The project “Energy justice for rural communities” seeks to do that. To understand how energy injustices are perceived, reproduced, and embedded in rural areas, the project will use "assemblage thinking." The presentation focuses on how this approach can help understand the material, symbolic, and affective aspects behind sustainable energy transitions in rural areas. Rural space is viewed as multiple coexisting assemblage of materiality, people, and narratives to understand how it is affected by external forces and reproduced in sustainable energy transition.

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Displacing communities to fit the law: transnational sources of apartheid and landscape injustice in South Africa

Title of presentation Displacing communities to fit the law: transnational sources of apartheid and landscape injustice in South Africa

Abstract Legal interventions in Africa aiming to safeguard landscape, that is the interrelationship between communities and place, typically require that collective applicants be legible as a “community” – a term largely undefined yet that carries enormous normative weight for determining locus standi. Focussing on South Africa, this paper considers how apartheid shaped – and still shapes – the legal standards of legibility regarding who is a community. While acknowledging the role of international activism in achieving democracy in South Africa, this paper locates apartheid – both in its ideology and practice – as inextricably imbedded in transnational networks of coloniality. In addition to Eurocentric concepts of property and statehood, apartheid was originally articulated through the prism of cultural conservation, with culture conceived as hermetically distinctive units that resulted organically in the creation of “nations” (Dubow, 2006). As such, apartheid provided white South Africa with a ‘moral language’ to implement large-scale displacement under the guise of protecting the cultural integrity of communities (Giliomee, 2003). This paper concludes by reflecting on the continued importance of cultural distinctiveness as a prerequisite for being recognised as an indigenous community in Africa. It also provides a critical intervention against misappropriations of “landscape” that streamline plurality, thereby reinscribing apartheid ontologies of community.

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Intergenerational justice and interspecies relations in the sixth mass extinction of species during childhood

Title of presentation Intergenerational justice and interspecies relations in the sixth mass extinction of species during childhood

Abstract Highlighting the intergenerational injustices of the accelerating climate crisis and resulting sixth mass extinction of species, children and young people internationally have called for urgent responses to be enacted. However, while some knowledge and research on young people's climate activism and eco-anxiety exists, more is needed to understand the impacts on middle childhood of age-based political exclusion from these responses and lack of childhood access to education on biodiversity loss and climate change. Less is known about children's rapidly changing lived experiences and received impacts from climate change and related biodiversity loss and eco-anxiety. Few studies explore child participation in intergenerational response-making and rights-based mitigation to species extinction. This study seeks to explore children's place-based experiences and knowledge for, within, and about interspecies biodiversity loss and thus impactful, cooperative and intergenerational responses to climate crisis challenges. The focus is on children's lived expertise on biodiversity loss knowledge in their local community through an interspecies, intergenerational justice framing and exploration of their eco-social wellbeing in the present. The methodology is rights-based, participatory, co-created and more-than-human to investigate both age-based and species-based injustice under climate crisis and resulting biodiversity loss. Creative methods are co-created with children to build their capacity as rights-bearers and explore their interspecies relationships in intergenerational knowledge exchanges. Findings will support co-created, relevant and intergenerational equity-based insights into curriculum and pedagogy for educational response-making to biodiversity loss that are child-rights based and promote living with care alongside other species eco-social well-being and education response-making.

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Placing well-being in the context of climate change: towards a typology of urban citizens

Title of presentation Placing well-being in the context of climate change: towards a typology of urban citizens

Abstract This paper develops a human geographic perspective on climate-related well-being in European cities. Setting the stage for the session, it, first, presents a state-of-the-art overview on geographic work on the nexus of climate change and physical and mental health. Second – as a response to the lack of subjective evaluations of well-beings of individuals – the presents and discusses the results of a survey on the impacts of climate change on well-being conducted in the university city of Marburg, Germany. Building on these two sources, literature review and empirical results, it develops a typology of intersecting vulnerabilities linked to a) individual determinants such as existing morbidities and weather-related practices, b) social determinants such as age, education, income and living conditions and c) spatial determinants such as area of living and amenities in the neighbourhood. The paper concludes with a discussion of recommendations for local policy and planning.

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URBAN AGING: A MIXED-METHOD ANALYSIS TO EXPLORE “AGING IN PLACE” IN THE CITY AS A CHANCE TO EMPOWER INDIVIDUAL’S HEALTHY LONG...

Title of presentation URBAN AGING: A MIXED-METHOD ANALYSIS TO EXPLORE “AGING IN PLACE” IN THE CITY AS A CHANCE TO EMPOWER INDIVIDUAL’S HEALTHY LONGEVITY

Abstract The increasingly pressing emergencies in terms of aging and urbanization force us to reflect on the relationship between health and urban environment. The project aims to investigate Aging in Place (AIP) in Bergamo city, focussing on the interplay between the city environment and individuals according to the new challenges posed by a need of a paradigm shift towards the perspective of empowered aging, far from an ageist stereotypical view.

The research starts from a biopsychosocial perspective and adopts the Bronfenbrenner’s ecological model of development. A over 75-year group of individuals living in Bergamo city is analysed as case study. Taking in mind two main focuses - individuals and places - quantitative and qualitative measurements are introduced. Through the introduction of this multiple approach, we would like to understand the aging individual’s life history, the motivation of a living choice inside the city, and the interaction with the urban environment. In this way we’ll be able to determine different grades of healthy longevity, and we’ll contribute to provide a fundamental perspective shift in the studies of aging and urbanization. Moreover, the work can contribute to better understand how to support AIP policies by better defining the urban spaces of the city.

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An Inclusive Sense of place? Creative practice on north London housing estates

Title of presentation An Inclusive Sense of place? Creative practice on north London housing estates

Abstract On 7 January 2023, Dana Olarescu launched her artwork, The Most Inclusive Place, on a housing estate in north London. The artwork consisted of 20 hand-painted banners, carrying short messages that began with the words “What if...”. Around the estate, 1,500 bunting flags had been hung, each with the words “what if” upon them. This was not her original idea for the artwork. In the workshops, Dana had asked residents to imagine what the estate could be. And so, the “what if” idea emerged, but specifically as a set of speculations about what the estate might be like if it were to be more inclusive. The “what if” idea had emerged from a set of speculations about what the estate might be if it were to be more inclusive. What if does not force an ideal upon the audience, but asks them to engage, to speculate, to imagine a place transformed. Or does it? Mostly, the artwork was extremely well-received. But it also raised difficult questions for the Open City project that had initiated and funded it. The doing of creative practice is often idealised, especially politically. Yet, in practice, it can be messy, awkward and uncertain.

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Investigating Sustained Processes of Social Innovation – the Multi-level Arrangements Facilitating Rural Development Initiati...

Title of presentation Investigating Sustained Processes of Social Innovation – the Multi-level Arrangements Facilitating Rural Development Initiatives through the Propagation of Regional “Communities of Values”

Abstract The presented paper explores the link between the 'local level' as the scale for state intervention and how new development actions are propagated locally. With the current reframing of rural development processes within the terms of 'social innovation' and 'neo-endogenous development', the paper attempts to outline the dynamics of these as both multi-level processes and cumulative social and institutional developments. Building on fieldwork conducted in the rural Austrian region of Mühlviertel, it is shown how social innovations aiming at instigating positive territorial developments are linked to intertwined processes of a 're-figuration of social bonds' and a 're-figuration of space'. Furthermore, that these developments are emerging from the propagation of a regional 'community of values', which is founded on promoting ideas about changing values and social sustainability. Furthermore, it highlights the consequences of institutional and local developments for neighbouring communities, as local knowledge is diffused through regional networks. By focusing on the implementation of different policies and tools locally, as well as the 'fit' of these with local ideas and capacities for taking action, the paper aims to initiate a discussion of the adequacy of current policy tools for promoting and sustaining positive local development in rural areas.

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Digitalization of Social Infrastructure in Left-Behind-Places – Example of Schools in Thuringia (Germany)

Title of presentation Digitalization of Social Infrastructure in Left-Behind-Places – Example of Schools in Thuringia (Germany)

Abstract The debate on 'left-behind places' (LBPs) has sparked renewed interest in studying geographical inequalities. Recent studies have focused on the role of social infrastructure, which includes structures and systems supporting society and well-being. Schools, as vital components of social infrastructure, serve as hubs for education, work, and community-building.

Digital literacy is vital for economic development, making it important to integrate digital technologies into schools. This not only prepares students for the changing job market but also makes schools more appealing to employers for young, well-qualified teachers. Therefore, we examine the question of how digitalization in schools relates to other quantifiable indicators of LBPs.

Our case study focuses on Thuringia, Germany. We surveyed all public schools using a standardized questionnaire, answered by the school principals, to assess digitalization, location, and personnel qualifications. This case study examines the relationship between LBPs and social infrastructure in state institutions. Based on the returned answers we created an additive index from the collected data to facilitate comparison between different regions.

The assessment of social infrastructure through the focus on digitalization in schools contributes to the debate on LBPs and can be seen as a further identifying factor of 'left-behindness', potentially addressing economic and social challenges.

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Embodied intersectionality at work in hotel housekeeping

Title of presentation Embodied intersectionality at work in hotel housekeeping

Abstract In this paper we want to place the body at the centre of geographical research and as a nexus for analysis of embodied intersectionality. By using working participant observation as a method (McMorran 2012) for studying the work of housekeepers at hotels in Sweden, we analyse the work and embodied labour that we are both studying and at the same time taking part in. By scrutinising different dimensions of mobility and everyday practice in hotel housekeeping, we explore how intersectionality is situated and contextually produced as lived experience in workplaces and how this may be studied through closeness between the researcher and the research subjects. The opportunities that the working participant observation method opened for us meant that through our own work and presence in these spaces, we could better understand the physical nature of the work, (some of) the affective elements and power (in)balances within the workplaces. It allowed us to traverse the boundaries of inside/outside in ways that enabled a depth of reflection not possible through more 'traditional' methods. It is clear to us from our analysis that the way in which hotel housekeepers work is performed is shaped by how bodies are perceived, felt and (dis)empowered.

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Seismograph of coexistence: On the importance of greeting in heterogeneous neighborhoods

Title of presentation Seismograph of coexistence: On the importance of greeting in heterogeneous neighborhoods

Abstract As urban populations are diversifying, numerous studies investigate the social mechanisms which enable very different individuals and social groups to live together in heterogeneous neighborhoods, characterized by plural and often contradictory norms and values.

When residents of such neighborhoods are asked to assess the quality of coexistence in shared public and semi-public spaces, one topic is raised strikingly often: greeting among neighbors (who remain otherwise unknown). Satisfaction with living together is regularly measured by the existence of greeting contacts. Conversely, absent greeting contacts often serve as a reason for frustration or even bitterness with regard to neighborhood relations.

While the topic of greeting has been touched upon in a large number of neighborhood studies, it has hardly been brought to the forefront of attention. This is what I am striving for in my presentation: I would like to understand why precisely the small, at first glance so inconspicuous everyday gesture of greeting unfolds such high social and symbolic significance for the perception and interpretation of neighborhood relations, particularly in very diverse urban quarters. To this end, I discuss my own empirical findings in the light of general sociological theories and urban community studies.

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Thinking with care: moments of intensity in children's everyday mobility in compact neighbourhoods

Title of presentation Thinking with care: moments of intensity in children's everyday mobility in compact neighbourhoods

Abstract The compact city approach is considered the main planning strategy for sustainable urban development worldwide. Densification is hence suggested to increase interaction between people (promoting sociability), and hence the possibility to attach to the living environment, but also (incr)ease connectivity and mobility within and beyond neighbourhoods. The problematic aspects of the densification of the urban fabric have also been put forward: cohesion, crowding, congestion as well as a decrease in green areas. In general, there is a lack of empirically driven, ethnographic, research that consider children's mobility practices, and children's and parents narrated experiences of moving, in more or less compact neighbourhoods. Urban planning, and hence processes of densification, are processes that must be explored through the everyday lives of families, children and young people. In this paper, we therefore analyse experiences of densification for children and families living in three neighbourhoods with different degrees of density in Uppsala, Sweden. We focus on children's mobile practices, and children's and parents' narratives of their everyday mobility. Ethnographic material (field notes from go-alongs) from two school journeys, and additional interview material with 36 children and 36 parents in 36 families from a larger project on vertical living, is analysed. We focus not only on the ways children and families are implicated actors in compact neighbourhoods, but also how they enact and practice infrastructures of care through their mobile practices. By analysing moments of intensity, the ongoing (embodied) work carried out by children and families not only to mend and repair frailties or even out imbalances, but also to explore, bind together and maintain their neighbourhoods, can be illuminated. Moments of intensity in the sociotechnical assemblages refer to the sociomaterial intensities, where e.g. "imbalances" or frailties of social/material infrastructures are revealed, or where children's experiences/practices are affirmatively "heightened"/"amplified". We argue that the framework focusing on infrastructures of care and moments of intensity enables more-than-morphological analyses of densification, thus contributing to the growing literature on densification as a lived and enacted everyday life experience.

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Anticipated energy futures beyond an island's terrain

Title of presentation Anticipated energy futures beyond an island's terrain

Abstract Global crisis can be characterised through lost land forcing people to move and establishing of protective borders. Also the sense of terrain shifts, and space has become part of agitated geohistory (Latour). Matter of energy plays important role in maintaining freedoms of humans and simultaneously accelerating earth related transformations. This paper focuses on more-than-wet entanglements and temporalities embedded in negotiating off-shore wind energy matter in context of Saaremaa island, Estonia. I analyse the processes and narratives through which anticipated futures become part of lived spaces, recognised hybrid ecologies and diverse accelerations. The time dimensions linked to thematic discourse can problematise 'extended presentism' (Novotny) in framing of energy transition. The research is based on interviews and group discussions carried out in the context of the island.

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Copenhagen blogging as vernacular city-branding of liveable urbanism

Title of presentation Copenhagen blogging as vernacular city-branding of liveable urbanism

Abstract Over the past decade liveable urbanism has along with green urbanism come to stand at the core of the Copenhagen's regional identity promoted to foreign tourists, highly skilled migrants and capital through the city's branding practices. At the same time, the official municipal actors are increasingly not alone in the selling of the city as a paragon of liveable urbanism. Unlike much of the scholarship on city branding that focuses on city-led strategies and politics of branding, this paper examines two of the most successful migrant bloggers of Copenhagen as engaging in what I call vernacular city branding. Drawing on the sociological theory of translation as a productive practice that constructs new meanings through selective interpretations, I conceptualize these bloggers as popular "translators" of the city to newcomers and outsiders alike. Relying on the analysis of their blogs and Instagram posts, and on interviews, the paper considers the extent to which their personal translations dispersed through the digital world draw on but also diverge from the official promotional representations of the city. I argue that the success of their vernacular city branding is dependent on its distanced and ambivalent complementarity with the official branding.

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How place-sensitive are the European resilience and recovery plans? A cross-country comparative analysis

Title of presentation How place-sensitive are the European resilience and recovery plans? A cross-country comparative analysis

Abstract The geographical unevenness of the COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically demonstrated how European spatial inequalities - within and across countries - have become a crucial challenge that the National Resilience and Recovery Plans (NRRPs) aim to address. The capacity of NRRPs to reduce territorial disparities is strictly dependent on the context-specific features of each country such as internal inequalities, institutional arrangements, governance processes etc., as well as on the place-sensitiveness of policies both in the design and the implementation stages.

As a result, this work aims to assess to what extent “places matter” in post-Covid plans by scrutinizing if and how place-sensitiveness is embedded and operationally implemented in NRRPs adopted in a sample of four European countries, selected on three analytical criteria (internal spatial inequalities; geographical cleavages; traditional institutional arrangements).

By adopting a multi-method approach combining secondary data exploration, policy analysis and interviews with key informants, the research aims at providing a novel insight into the differences and similarities through which place-sensitiveness is mobilized in national recovery plans and how the place-based approach is embedded into national policy interventions. Inserted in a wider transdisciplinary project called "PULP Place-based unfolding, localities and participation in PNRRs", the work is especially focused on the comparative analysis of three PNRRs policy areas crucial to reduce territorial unevenness, namely depopulation, innovation and research, and green transition.

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Islands, archipelagi, landscape, and the commons: a view on Greece

Title of presentation Islands, archipelagi, landscape, and the commons: a view on Greece

Abstract Often wrought with narratives and challenges of isolation, vulnerability, and peripherality, islands and archipelagi represent geographical hotspots of connectivity and a sense of commons, implied and imprinted in their landscape. If islands and archipelagi face contemporary challenges with a limited coping capacity, it is because of the historically state-driven (post)-industrial predominance of continental supremacy over an island-centered view of the world, with important consequences on the sense of community, identity and landscape as commons. This article seeks to invert this discourse, arguing for the crucial role of islandness in developing an alternative sense of commons, not grounded to landed and landscape points of reference, but a more open-horizon, cosmopolitan relatedness to the world at large. Applying these notions to the case of Greece and the Cycladic archipelago, the article proposes an island-centered/ archipelagic understanding of the pronounced lack of a sense of commons, even a sense of landscape as commons, among contemporary Greeks. Such long-standing, deeply-ingrained and sea-oriented ways of thinking and associating among Greeks lie at the bottom of the inability of developing a sense of landed/ place-based collective identity and landscape conscience, rather representing a sense of being-in-the-center-of-the-world and a 'taken-for-granted' notion of belonging, outwardly-oriented and cosmopolitan.

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Creating a sense of place through art: the case of young artists in Tamale, Ghana

Title of presentation Creating a sense of place through art: the case of young artists in Tamale, Ghana

Abstract In this paper, we examine how young upcoming artists in Tamale, Ghana, use art to create a sense of place and maintain harmonious intergenerational relations in a context of rapid socio-economic, cultural and environmental change. We draw on data from a 5-day artistic workshop with 18 upcoming artists. These artists used their preferred mode of expression—whether music, film, fashion, or visual art—to capture their experiences of being artists and reflect on their perceptions of the past, the present, and the future of Tamale. Our data show that these artists experience that they have different visions of the past and future than their parents. While their sense of place and belonging to Tamale is complex, fragmented and under continual redefinition, they do not seek autonomy but rather try to forge- through their artistic work - connections across generations. We will also show how the workshop itself created a space of reflection and connectivity, and this allowed us to see how the artists carve out meaningful paths and spaces within their intergenerational communities.

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A Cut in Time: Seasonless futures

Title of presentation A Cut in Time: Seasonless futures

Abstract This paper considers the relationship between ‘seasons’ and the production of ‘future time’. I begin with the sense that seasons support a dominant relation to time as the chronological unfolding of past, present, and future. Against the dominance of chronological time, I seek to affirm alternative theories of time and temporality no longer suffused with the necessity of thinking time as linear and unfolding – specifically through the notion of ‘seasonless futures’. What might speculating with seasonless futures do to the way that we apprehend alternative notions of the future of the earth? How might seasonlessness, as a temporal disposition, open a space for contemplating what Debaise & Stengers (2017) refer to the “insistence of the possibles”, and thus act as a counterweight to the growing “inability to think that we care about might have a future”? Linking to speculative geographies, and drawing partly on an ongoing project that aims to communicate the existence of a Swedish nuclear waste repository site 100,000 years into the future, I develop the sense that seasonless futures might be worth affirming to promote a cut in chronological time, and thus break with a capitalist realist sense that the future might not be worth living in.

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Exploring the position of farmers within the European green transition: Transformation for whom?

Title of presentation Exploring the position of farmers within the European green transition: Transformation for whom?

Abstract Food systems have been framed as a "wicked problem" due to the complex socio-ecological impacts they foster, ranging from contributing nearly a quarter of anthropocentric greenhouse gas emissions to the myriad of social impacts (e.g., health, food safety, food security). In the context of the green transition in Europe, multiple actors are involved, but farmers play a unique and critical role as managers of agricultural land and navigators of social, political, and environmental factors. Using cover cropping and intercropping as examples, we illustrate the complexities arising when decision-making and governance at multiple levels lead to tradeoffs and unexpected consequences at the farm scale. By connecting applied agronomic field-scale dynamics and farmer surveys with theoretical approaches and frameworks supporting the green transition in Europe (e.g., Theory of Planned Behavior, Agricultural Knowledge Innovation Systems), we explore how changes are incremental, transformative or both depending on the scale. Incoherence in agronomic recommendations across academic disciplines and policy agendas create farm scale challenges that trickle up and can thwart sustainable agricultural land use. Acknowledging the present role food system governance plays and developing farm scale coherence across multiple agroecological objectives can chart a course for more sustainable farm systems with farmers at the helm.

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The Fire Season

Title of presentation The Fire Season

Abstract Seasons - as we have come to know, encounter and experience them - are changing. Indeed, the climate crisis has created temporal mismatches, in which our senses and scales of the conventional seasons are increasingly muddled. Concurrently, climate change has altered the fire regime, with seasons becoming marked by the distinct presence of wildfire-risk, or even wildfire themselves. In this paper, I utilise extensive fieldwork data from Sonoma County – which experienced a series of highly destructive wildfires between 2017 and 2020 – to present an emerging seasonal temporality of the ‘fire season’ and ‘not-fire season’, ‘off-season’ or ‘preparedness season’. Here, I share research encounters to critically examine how this seasonal temporality has altered people’s everyday affective responses to wildfire risk, and formed distinct caring relations between people, practice and phenomena. I additionally explore how feelings of the ‘fire season’ are intensified through its formal declaration, while simultaneously are dissolved through wildfire risk increasingly being present year-round. Ultimately, I argue the dominance of fire – by which seasons revolve around or are reduced to fire or not-fire – provides an interesting conceptual lens to recognise the absence and presence of climate crisis in people’s everyday lives and their care(ing) and care-full responses.

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Rural shrinking, peripheralization and feelings of left-behindness in Germany: A rural case study

Title of presentation Rural shrinking, peripheralization and feelings of left-behindness in Germany: A rural case study

Abstract Building on research on 'left behind' regions in Germany, we conceptualize complex rural shrinking as a process of peripheralization. We argue that due to an overemphasis on demographic decline, the concept of shrinkage shows some important limitations in acknowledging more diverse patterns of economic and regional integration as well as infrastructural, economic and political dependencies transcending the scope of local governance. Hence, despite a large share of rural municipalities in Germany with demographic shrinkage, some of those can build on a solid economic base whilst others are hit by multi-dimensional and multi-scalar processes of peripheralization, inducing feelings of left-behindness amongst local populations. Stressing the interdependence of centralization and peripheralization, this relational approach acknowledges the relevance of dynamic polarization processes, e.g. in terms of changing patterns of work as well as rising housing prices in the cities, hinting towards a potential revival of rural areas. Empirically, we apply our approach to a quantitative analysis of shrinkage and peripheralization in Germany complemented by qualitative fieldwork in a peripheralized rural district in West Germany. We conclude with a call for more tailored policies including a critique of the place-based approach, which is tentative in terms of self-responsibilization (rural) areas for their potential misfortune.

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Articulation of eldercare discourse(s) in growth-oriented comprehensive plans: is spatial justice at stake?

Title of presentation Articulation of eldercare discourse(s) in growth-oriented comprehensive plans: is spatial justice at stake?

Abstract Amidst climate change, globalization, and economic disparities, population aging continues to become a significant planning issue in Sweden. As municipalities' eldercare services are prone to disparate political circumstances and economic resources, aligning spatial planning to public interest by balancing growth and welfare is becoming critical. Simultaneously, debate dominates demand to better address older people's needs and rights. Spatial justice by Edward Soja (2009) is adapted in this study to analyze dialectic relations between older people's geography, social relations, and agency. Critical analysis of eldercare discourses in Municipal Comprehensive Plans (ÖP) here aims to find out how articulated eldercare discourse in the municipal ÖP makes sense of older people's needs and rights. For this, a critical analysis of the ÖP of Älvkarleby municipality in Sweden is done. The findings revealed that the desire for economic growth characterizes the ÖP. Ageing population is regarded as a welfare challenge and barrier to economic growth. Homecare and institutional care dominate logics of eldercare. Implicitly, active agency of older people is overlooked, and care dependency is signified. Spatial justice of older people is found to be at stake as ÖP is silent to recognize diversity, democracy, and equity of older people despite abundance of care services.

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Rethinking urban street experiments through Lefebvre's rhythmanalysis: From vehicles and vibrancy to virtuosos

Title of presentation Rethinking urban street experiments through Lefebvre's rhythmanalysis: From vehicles and vibrancy to virtuosos

Abstract Streets, vital for both vehicular and pedestrian transport, are increasingly recognised for the non-traffic functions in fostering sustainable urban environments. This paper explores alternative street design through intentional and spontaneous experiments, drawing on Henri Lefebvre's rhythmanalysis. Streets are viewed as hosts to intersecting rhythms influenced by daily routines and traffic patterns. Street users are seen as performers engaging in rhythmic street pieces, while experiments, though initially disruptive, aim to integrate innovative elements for cohesive and harmonious urban compositions. Through a musical metaphoric inquiry, the article encourages a humanistic perspective on identifying various rhythms influenced and introduced by street experiments. The analysis examines how these rhythms interact, manifesting either as harmoniously synchronised street poetics, disruptive discordance, or coexistence in dissonant pieces. Findings from Hong Kong reveal two approaches to street experiments: conductor-led pieces align existing rhythms with envisioned ones, while spontaneous performances reveal hidden rhythms from dynamic human-environment interactions. This paper cautions against abstract agendas that select, oversimplify and exclude possibilities, advocating instead for open dialogue to capture the embodied experiences of mobility in the transition from vehicle-dominated to people-centric streets. Rhythmanalysis is proposed as an initial step for urban planners to envision streetscapes as symphonies, fostering sensitivity to time-space dynamics.

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Understanding the linkages between changing living space and changing social capital: The moderator effect of frequency of ne...

Title of presentation Understanding the linkages between changing living space and changing social capital: The moderator effect of frequency of neighbouring

Abstract From a macro perspective, the process of urban renewal leads to the succession of the living space form, which will inevitably change the frequency of interaction and interaction between residents. This kind of phenomenon will affect residents' changing social capital. This study examines how urban renewal projects impact on the changing distribution of housing properties, and if the original housing property and current housing properties shape the residents' changing social capital. This paper examined to what extent and in what ways changing living space affected residents' changing social capital in Chongqing, China, using questionnaire survey data and multilevel linear regressions. The house you live in before is social housing and authority public housing has a positive relationship with residents' changing social capital. The house you live in now is a commodity house that has a negative relationship with residents' changing social capital. More particularly, it explored the pathways through the frequency of neighbouring at individual levels that influenced residents' changing social capital. Results from the multilevel analysis showed that changing living space forms were positively associated with residents' changing social capital. Results from mediation analysis indicated that the frequency of neighbouring was an important pathway through changing living space form positively affected residents' changing social capital.

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The politics of Sitka spruce landscapes

Title of presentation The politics of Sitka spruce landscapes

Abstract This contribution will address questions of how politics, practices and plants are shaping and reshaping landscapes by drawing upon examples from research on invasive species management. In particular, findings from a document analysis of the public consultation process for the revised regulation on the use of foreign trees in Norwegian forestry, will be discussed. The findings demonstrate that policies regulating the use of invasive trees are embedded in narratives about human practices with trees, and not the trees, or species, themselves. Implementation of policies to control invasive trees and initiatives to remove unwanted plants from specific landscapes, can therefore be understood as attempts to renegotiate the practices, politics and ideologies that shape landscapes.

Taking the perspective that conflicts over invasive species are always bound up with valuations of how people act with invasive species, and how these practices manifest spatially, the contribution asks: (i) in what ways does the claim that 'landscape is often reduced to a backdrop' apply to research on invasive species? And (ii) what are the potential intersections of landscape research and research on invasive species to investigate landscapes as sites and manifestations of politics?

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The political virology of capitalist planning in the Pandemic Era

Title of presentation The political virology of capitalist planning in the Pandemic Era

Abstract This paper outlines an approach for using political virology to examine the ways in which viruses are carried by capital flows in industrial agriculture, as exemplified by the poultry industry. After the announcement made by the IPBES (2020) that we now live in the Pandemic Era, in which zoonoses will be ever more prevalent in the future, it is important to look at the minutiae of how viruses find pathways of dissemination through capital. The macro-level analyses of Mike Davis (2022) and Rob Wallace (2016) are important contributions in this regard, and serve to establish the political-virological insight that viruses find evolutionary gold-mines in the extractive nature of capitalist agriculture. If nature moves through capital and vice versa (Moore 2015), so do viruses. However, the macro-level analytic is not capable of grasping the complexity involved in this process. Through a look at supply chain management as capitalist planning, this paper seeks to disaggregate political virology and uncover how capital enables viral dissemination by seeking to control material flows in an efficient manner.

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Using big data to understand long term changes in visits to nature: what are the needs and what's the potential?

Title of presentation Using big data to understand long term changes in visits to nature: what are the needs and what's the potential?

Abstract People-nature interactions, and people's visits to nature, have always been in gradual change. These changes are expected to be exacerbated in the coming years by the environmental and social consequences of the Global Change. Collecting relevant longitudinal data to study these changes, or to prepare proactively to the future changes remains challenging. Our Mobile Big Data for Understanding People in Nature (MOBICON) -project explores the potential digital footprints of people to respond to the information needs of researchers as well as managers of protected and recreational green areas. In this presentation, we describe the outcomes of two workshops where managers of protected and recreational areas were asked to describe the anticipated changes and their drivers, as well as the information needs related to these changes. The workshops were organized in Helsinki, Finland in September 2023 and in Las Palmas, Canary Islands in March 2024.

In our presentation, we would like to invite the session participants to discuss when, and when not, mobile user generated data may answer to these knowledge needs.

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Transitions in tension: Understanding sustainability engagements across socio-economic backgrounds

Title of presentation Transitions in tension: Understanding sustainability engagements across socio-economic backgrounds

Abstract How to change unsustainable lifestyles and consumption patterns in affluent societies remain at the heart of global environmental challenges. Many consumption domains have become increasingly contested, but little progress is made in tackling overconsumption. Moreover, while there is a pressing need for rapid sustainability transformations, it is also increasingly acknowledged that transformative change need to be fair and inclusive. In this paper, we seek to understand the complex relations and dynamics between sustainability transitions, social organisation and inequalities by examining how households across socio-economic backgrounds in Norway perform 'sustainability' in everyday life. We employ a practice theoretical lens to address the factors that co-shape different households' agency, ability, and forms of engagement in transition processes, and thus how inequality becomes expressed in sustainability transitions at the household level. In the analysis, we demonstrate how particular forms of (visible) sustainability engagements (electrification, technological upgrading, circularity) which are often associated with higher-income households are considered more socially desirable, publicly valued and politically supported, while others are made invisible in the popular public and political discourse (e.g. austerity measures associated with low-income households). We argue that in order to avoid reinforcing social inequalities and tensions, there is a need to develop policy measures that also meet the needs of invisible sustainability performers and value a broader diversity of sustainability engagements. The analysis is based on extensive qualitative interview data (n120) from four different research projects studying consumption and sustainability within low-, middle- and high-income groups in Norway.

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The Image of Geography as Seen by Czech Students: an ambivalent relationship

Title of presentation The Image of Geography as Seen by Czech Students: an ambivalent relationship

Abstract The paper provides insight into the image of geography (as a school subject) among students in Czechia. A questionnaire was conducted in randomly selected schools with 1,041 students aged 14–15. Using descriptive statistics and structural equation modeling, this research aimed to validate the theoretical model for the image of geography. The background of the research stands on the theory of the social construction of reality by Berger and Luckmann and besides that is framed by the feminist theories, because the focus of the research is on students (and their point of view) and their unequal position in the education process. The findings emphasize the role of the subjects' usefulness and teachers by highlighting their presence and expertise in shaping students. Besides that, it recommends actively including students in the decision-making about their education. In addition, the research offers several recommendations for improving the image of geography education in Czechia, because targeted improvements can be made to foster more engaging and useful learning experiences in geography.

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Negotiating crip temporalities in public transport as a shared space of employees and public

Title of presentation Negotiating crip temporalities in public transport as a shared space of employees and public

Abstract Public transport research commonly emphasises technical and economic facets, often neglecting its social dimensions. When attention is given to social aspects of mobility, it tends to concentrate on passenger experiences, leaving the perspectives of employees frequently overlooked. Our research aims to address this gap by adopting a comprehensive approach to mobility that examines public transport as a dual space: a public sphere for passengers and a workspace for employees. To investigate this, we conducted interviews and focus groups with two distinct groups: public transport users with visual and hearing disabilities and employees of the Brno City Transport Company (the Czech Republic). To compare the position between employees and users, we did not look at forms of spatial constraint but instead focused on forms of temporal constraint. We looked at how users with sensory disabilities are confronted with public transport time (speed of boarding, timeliness of information, delay in transferring up-to-date information to applications, etc.) on the one hand, and public transport employees themselves (shift planning, breaks, toilet planning, timetable adherence, etc.) on the other hand. Based on the crip temporalities perspective, we investigate what are the possible interactions of the times of these two groups in the dual public transport space.

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Fluctuating territories at bus stops through words and visuals

Title of presentation Fluctuating territories at bus stops through words and visuals

Abstract Places for waiting in public transport have received little attention in mobility research, and their contribution to social life in the city, is not thoroughly understood. This paper seeks to develop understanding of the interplay between waiting space at bus stops and surrounding urban space. The paper raises the question of what spatial constellations support (or hinder) waiting practice at bus stops, drawing on literature on public space from a perspective of territoriality (Kärrholm 2004, 2007). The empirical material consists of observations of people's interaction with space, spatial elements and material artefacts at four bus stops in Malmö - one large bus station and three medium-sized bus stops. Methods include direct observation of use and users, interviews with travelers, and exploratory drawing (Pink 2015), enabling a reading of waiting space as a fluctuating territory that expands and shrinks. The study shows that open space with territorial complexity is better at accommodating diversity of use (including waiting practice), than spaces with clearly defined boundary, which tend to be occupied by certain user groups and tend to become excluding. Visualization adds a site-specific spatial understanding of waiting practice, offering entry points to accessing people's experiences of the waiting places.

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Spatial solidarity among older adults in age-related housing

Title of presentation Spatial solidarity among older adults in age-related housing

Abstract The World Health Organization (WHO) policies concerning age-friendly cities and communities focus on for example providing proper healthcare and housing, which are essential for the growing trend of aging-in-place. However, such policies can be challenging for formal care systems (f.ex. Vasara 2023). In most cases, informal care or help is needed.

Spatial solidarity is a term used to describe the help-related relationships that older individuals have in age-related housing. The study shows that solidarity is connected to spatiality in many ways. Sharing the same spaces may increase solidarity, but solidarity also creates spatial patterns in everyday life. Moreover, solidarity changes spaces both physically and through social relations.

Spatial solidarity amongst older individuals bridges the gap between the inadequacy of formal home care and the needs of the residents. In age-related housing, people understand the challenges that may occur because of aging, which is essential for solidarity. However, reciprocal help might not be possible for all, because of the illnesses people suffer from. Thus, helping may be exhausting for those who provide the help, and these informal help-related relationships may cause clashes between helpers and authorities.

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Just Transition? Exploring the Resilience of Environmental Policies for Land Subsidence in Yunlin, Taiwan, from a Local Persp...

Title of presentation Just Transition? Exploring the Resilience of Environmental Policies for Land Subsidence in Yunlin, Taiwan, from a Local Perspective

Abstract The agricultural lands in Yunlin, Taiwan, have long faced land subsidence caused by the over-extraction of groundwater. With the development of the high-speed rail station in Huwei, Yunlin, the subsidence has become a direct threat to the safety of the station and the trains running along the line. Consequently, the local government has been promoting the transformation of agricultural practices in areas along the high-speed rail, hoping to shift to dry farming to reduce the use of groundwater. However, despite the long-standing problem of land subsidence, the high-speed rail development did not consider avoiding this area. Moreover, few studies have explored the effects of land subsidence on local life. Therefore, this study investigated the local residents' opinions on land subsidence and local policies through empirical surveys and interviews.

The research findings revealed numerous concerns, namely the rights of the socioeconomically disadvantaged, unfair distribution of resources, lack of information and communication, and disparities in policies and perceptions. Moreover, the findings also indicated that the planning of agricultural waterways and water resource management need to be reevaluated to achieve the goal of sustainable environmental development.

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Between décor and decorum in Termini station: managing migrants at the urban borderland.

Title of presentation Between décor and decorum in Termini station: managing migrants at the urban borderland.

Abstract This paper explores the entanglement between law and the everyday experiences of homeless migrants in cities. Specifically, it focuses on one specific urban 'borderland', Termini station in Rome, the Italian capital's busiest and largest public transport site. As well as a crucial public space and commercial centre, Termini has a long-standing association as a site of alterity, associated with migration in the city (Brioni, 2017). Influenced by the work on bordering, border cities and urban borderlands (De Genova, 2015; Pallister-Wilkins, 2022; Iossifova & Kostenwein, 2024), I approach Termini as a key urban 'border', both as a symbolic node in transit for African migrants, but also as a site of embodied discipline and bordering processes. At Termini, I identify and explore the category of *il decoro urbano*, an emergent urban-legal discourse in the city that affects migrants in several ways. *Il decoro urbano* conflates expectations of behaviour in public space (decorum) with designs on desired urban aesthetics related to gentrification and exclusion (décor). It constructs an urban imaginary that legitimizes legal powers of the police and private security to identify and remove the presence of homeless migrants from the station (Nitrato-Izzo, 2022). This intersects with racial profiling and historically rooted marginalization of Othered people in complex yet normatively framed, White public space (Anderson, 2015). As a legal discourse that delineates acceptable social behaviours and practices, I explore how *decoro* complicates the role of public space as a crucial site of (im)mobility and marginality for migrants in Rome.

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Lefebvre in Havana: Searching for Right to the City's lost history in Revolutionary Cuba

Title of presentation Lefebvre in Havana: Searching for Right to the City's lost history in Revolutionary Cuba

Abstract Contributing to a spatial turn in the history of ideas, this presentation discusses the travels of Henri Lefebvre's *Right to the City* in the wake of May '68 in France. That year, under the direction of Mario González, a small team including the Italian architect Vittorio Garatti, French urban planner Jean-Pierre Garnier and Cuban architect Eusebio Azcue at the Instituto de Planificación Física in Havana proposed a project to introduce an entirely novel approach to the design of the capital, directly inspired by Lefebvre's book. Although much of the plan was officially rejected or discontinued, many of its fundamental principles structure the first post-revolutionary Master Plan for the city. Told through the voice of one of the last living members of the group, Jean- Pierre Garnier, the talk explains how the Right to the City imprinted itself on the lives of this internationally renown group of architects and planners in Havana, and the overlooked legacy of their ideas on the urban fabric of the city today.

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Breaking Path Dependence in Megacities: Community Attachment and Innovative Urban Management During Crises

Title of presentation Breaking Path Dependence in Megacities: Community Attachment and Innovative Urban Management During Crises

Abstract Megacities face path-dependent constraints such as centralised decision-making, rigid bureaucratic systems, and limited healthcare access, rooted in historical development choices. The COVID-19 pandemic further highlighted the urgent need to adopt adaptable urban management strategies. This study investigates enhancing community and city attachment as strategies to counteract these constraints and boost urban resilience during global crises. Our methodology combined demographic analysis, policy review, and structured surveys with 553 residents in two megacities, Guangzhou and Shanghai. We integrated partial least squares structural equation modelling (PLS-SEM) with fuzzy-set qualitative comparative analysis (fsQCA) to examine factors influencing changes in city and community attachment during the pandemic. Findings reveal that mental health support significantly impacts community and city attachment more than material support. Furthermore, residents' comparative knowledge via social media about pandemic management in smaller cities has weakened their attachment to megacities. The results challenge traditional centralised decision-making and risk management that prioritise material support, advocating for a holistic urban management strategy incorporating mental health support and effective information management. This study contributes to the discourse on urban path-dependent constraints by highlighting innovative pathways for urban resilience, providing valuable insights for policymakers to enhance urban sustainability by managing psychological well-being and positive city perceptions.

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Embodied Geographies of the Hui's Muslim Bridal Fashion in Northwestern China

Title of presentation Embodied Geographies of the Hui's Muslim Bridal Fashion in Northwestern China

Abstract In this study, I explore the gendered Muslim identities in northwestern China, particularly among the Hui minority. The Hui's inclusion in China's Muslim diplomacy aims to strengthen cultural ties with Middle Eastern and Southeast Asian countries. I scrutinize the gendered geopolitics of Muslim identities through Hui Muslim women's adoption of Malaysian and Pakistani bridal styles for pre-wedding photoshoots. Their sartorial practices challenge the Chinese state's geopolitical narrative and align with the Hui's Muslim role models abroad. Fashion serves as a contesting space to challenge the state's visions by making room for the Hui's reinterpretation of these visions. Bridal salons are instrumental in realizing the Hui's desire for a global Muslim identity, evident in the bridal makeover and staged photoshoots. This analysis of spatial practices reveals the intersection of aesthetics and the body, highlighting the importance of feminist perspectives in geopolitics.

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The Emergence of Artificial Intelligence in Anticipatory Urban Governance: Multi-scalar Evidence of China's Transition to Cit...

Title of presentation The Emergence of Artificial Intelligence in Anticipatory Urban Governance: Multi-scalar Evidence of China's Transition to City Brains

Abstract While smart city initiatives have characterized global urbanization from the 1990s to 2020s, nowadays a novel artificial intelligence (AI) enabled approach to urban governance is rapidly emerging, thereby shaping the governance and planning of present and future cities. This urban phenomenon can be understood theoretically through the notion of anticipatory governance, and empirically through so-called City Brain systems. This is particularly evident in China where a wide range of urban AI solutions are being experimented at different scales which this paper seeks to illustrate. First, by building a database of AI-urban policy texts associated with Chinese cities, we capture and discuss the national network of discourses surrounding urban AI. Second, we draw on empirical research conducted in Beijing to examine an existing city brain project and explain its impact on urban governance. Our study reveals the multi-scalar policy landscape of urban AI transitions in China and sheds light on the extent to which emerging AI technologies such as city brains can proactively address urban problems, thus developing an understanding of anticipatory governance in the age of urban AI. We conclude by reflecting on the complex corporate-state relations embedded in co-production of city brains, their diffusion and impact beyond China.

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Electric Imperialism: State Monopoly Capital in the Energy Transition

Title of presentation Electric Imperialism: State Monopoly Capital in the Energy Transition

Abstract Power sector reform has profoundly transformed the global ownership structure of electricity production. In Europe, the European Commission's (EC) Electricity Directives at the turn of the millennium paved the way for a belligerent 'merger battle' between electric utilities. European governments used liberalization as a leverage to transform their national incumbent monopolists into large electricity multinationals through aggressive mergers and acquisitions, and by 2007 the EC conceded that the Directives had resulted in serious market concentration and vertical foreclosure. This presentation mobilizes insights from the recent revival of interest in the concept of 'state capitalism' to analyze how, in the wake of the first European Electricity Directives, some of today's largest power multinationals emerged as beneficiaries of aggressive privatization and structural adjustments elsewhere. More specifically, I explore the concept's roots in early Marxist theories of imperialism, notably the theorization of states' support for the international expansion of its nation's monopoly capitals, and the structural asymmetries it may create between core and periphery. Focusing particularly on the state-corporate relations that have undergirded the international expansion of Europe's largest producer of renewable energy – the fully state-owned Norwegian Statkraft – I theorize the uneven and combined development of state capitalism in the energy transition.

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Climate change, migration, and livelihood fragility: Insights from Nepal and Afghanistan

Title of presentation Climate change, migration, and livelihood fragility: Insights from Nepal and Afghanistan

Abstract A growing body of literature suggests that climate change will aggravate large-scale migration from regions vulnerable to climate impacts worldwide, profoundly affecting human well-being in the future. In this presentation, I use the cases from Nepal and Afghanistan to advance the understanding of how climate and environmental changes interact with existing social, economic, and political precarity to drive migration and thereby the migrants' livelihoods and well-being. Our data produced by historically grounded interviews, group discussions, and household surveys reveals that while climate change plays a role in migration patterns, it is not the primary factor in either Nepal or Afghanistan. We find structural poverty in Nepal and conflict and insecurity in Afghanistan have historically been the main drivers of migration. However, there is a noticeable shift in recent migration trends, with the impacts of climate variability and change increasingly influencing people's decision to migrate. Although the aggregate household welfare impacts of migration are positive, desperate migration in the context of climate change is a low-return sector for the poor and therefore is not likely to aid climate adaptation. Rather, the negative costs associated with migration are disproportionately borne by women and children. By situating the findings within the broader scope of contemporary adaptation scholarship, I will discuss the possible implications for climate change and migration scholarship.

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Rethink human-nature relations to foster multi-species urban transitions

Title of presentation Rethink human-nature relations to foster multi-species urban transitions

Abstract Nature is rapidly deteriorating worldwide and one of the main reasons behind is the problematic lens of seeing and valuing nature as a narrow set of instrumental values (e.g., nature as a resource). This promotes a divide between 'us', humans and 'them', the other species. To counteract this, the project Enabling multispecies transitions of cities and regions (MUST) aims to push forwards a paradigm shift in nature-based solutions (NBS) planning and governance by developing new theory, methods and practical tools that enable multispecies transitions of cities and regions. Specially, MUST project seeks to understand the types of relationships between humans and other species that could produce and sustain ecological and socially just outcomes. Applying the IPBES Values Typology, we present an approach to elicit urban residents' values on nature in the context of Finnish cities. The focus group discussions qualitatively explore the richness of the relationship between people and nature following the IPBES life frames. The results will inform a map-based survey (public participation GIS, PPGIS), which enables the citizens to map how they interact with nature in their everyday life. The results rethink NBS planning to further foster multi-species urban transitions.

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Governing with ambiguities: minor politics in AI-driven platform urbanism

Title of presentation Governing with ambiguities: minor politics in AI-driven platform urbanism

Abstract This paper engages with the recent call for AI urbanism by various scholars (Cugurullo et al., 2023; Luusua et al., 2023). While acknowledging the transformative—and indeed, transitional—effects that various AI technologies might have on urban governance and everyday life, it seeks to explore AI urbanism from a less prescriptive and speculative perspective, using 'minor theory' (Deleuze and Guattari, 1986) as both a starting point and an analytic lens. This 'minor' approach grounds AI urbanism in the minor politics that govern algorithmic everyday practices with ambiguities that blur the binaries between resistance and control powers, between minor and major subjects, and between the everyday and the political economy. The paper addresses minor politics by juxtaposing different everyday governance practices that incorporate ambiguities of power and subjectivity through tweaking, negotiating, enveloping, subverting, or morphing the apparently controlling powers in AI urbanism. It focuses on two different on-demand platforms (e.g., food delivery and Uber) in two different cities (e.g., Helsinki and Taipei). In doing so, it constantly probes the boundary defining what is possible for urban politics and futures of AI. The paper concludes by demonstrating what minor politics might mean for the transitional geographies of AI urbanism.

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Ageing on the move: how ageing and migration interweave in contemporary China

Title of presentation Ageing on the move: how ageing and migration interweave in contemporary China

Abstract People in China now approaching formal retirement age have experienced, and continue to live in, major political, economic, and cultural change that is reconfiguring daily life, providing great mobility opportunities within China, and contributing to the first generation of internal rural-urban migrants. This paper explores ageing by examining the intersection of ageing and migration in China. Based on ethnographic research of an urban village in central Guangzhou, China, it explores the various mobility practices of older migrants through their life course, to draw attention to their multiple roles through the division of responsibility and support, and the tenacity and vulnerability. I hope to offer an alternative perspective on ageing, through the way how older migrants situate their agency by 'ageing on the move', in the face of structural disadvantages related to work, education, and healthcare. Combining ageing with migration provides a glimpse of how individuals respond to the differences between the urban and rural areas, and their liminal roles between mobility and immobility. I frame the evolving family in contemporary China in terms of structure, relationship, and function. Ultimately, I contribute to migration studies and intergenerational geographies by displaying the mobility trajectories and life courses of individuals and households.

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Paving the way for urban transitions by design: how design entrepreneurship instigated a co-evolution of institutional and sp...

Title of presentation Paving the way for urban transitions by design: how design entrepreneurship instigated a co-evolution of institutional and spatial changes in Rotterdam.

Abstract This study investigates the mechanisms behind the co-evolution of institutional rearrangement and spatial redevelopment, focusing on niche-level dynamics and the emergence of design decisions in place-making experiments. To gain a dynamic understanding of the change trajectory, we employ a threefold analytical approach: (1) the Multi-level Perspective framework for an overarching view; (2) niche-level analysis of the initiative's interaction with institutional and spatial structures; and (3) the role of design entrepreneurship as agents for change. To deepen our understanding of what and how the mechanism drives change, we develop a model to outline design actions within the niche-innovation process, pinpointing the actors, their actions, and the strategies they applied. By merging process-oriented and agency-based interpretations, we identify structural conditions and agency patterns as external and internal enablers of urban transition. The Luchtsingel project in Rotterdam, recognized as a pioneering place-making initiative, serves as our case study for exemplifying how design agents leverage the external and internal enablers to reshape the urban landscape and policy-making. Document research and in-depth interview methods are combined in this study.

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What happens after displacement? Exploring the contested reterritorialization of resettled residents in urban China

Title of presentation What happens after displacement? Exploring the contested reterritorialization of resettled residents in urban China

Abstract Development-induced displacement has become an ubiquitous phenomenon across the globe. For instance, in urban China, tens of millions of residents have been resettled over the past three decades in the country's efforts of urbanisation. In the process, residents are resettled to state-developed relocation settlements which now form a significant part of Chinese urban peripheries. Although there is common agreement that more studies are needed to illuminate the 'post-displacement' lives of residents, there are many aspects in need of research ranging from the material livelihood of residents to regaining their sense of belonging. In this sense, more elaborations are needed to make sense of what 'post-displacement' actually entails and what aspects of the post-resettlement life one should pay attention to. This study examines the lives of resettled residents in China's relocation settlements and specifically focuses on illuminating the processes and practices involved in the reterritorialization of resettled residents. Counter to existing interpretations of reterritorialization as a state-led and top-down process, this study conceptualises reterritorialization as a contested process which involves both state-led practices that try to render resettled residents and spaces more governable as well as resident-led reterritorialization practices in order to regain a sense of belonging and exert influence over the new space they inhabit. In particular, I will draw on two examples of reterritorialization practices led by residents and a collaboration between state and residents. Through the two examples, I aim to add to the conceptualisation of reterritorialization and its applicability to researching the post-displacement life of residents.

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Mapping the everyday: Collage workshops as a creative research method with newly arrived asylum seekers

Title of presentation Mapping the everyday: Collage workshops as a creative research method with newly arrived asylum seekers

Abstract Exploring creative methods in an attempt to work with and around language barriers during a research project on the role of folkbildning (Swedish tradition of popular education) for newly arrived asylum seekers in rural and small towns in Sweden, this research explored the use of “collage workshops” as a research method. Departing from open-ended questions aimed at capturing people’s everyday activities, places, and experiences of living in rural and small villages, collage workshops gave respondents the creative freedom to represent their everyday spaces, beyond words and geographically correct cartographies, by combining images, drawings, colours, words, etc. As such, collages become a relevant method when conducting research with newly arrived asylum seekers, refugees, forced migrants and people on the move as they allow to explore creative and (counter)mappings representing people’s (temporary) processes of place-making, belonging, and inclusion. The presentation will introduce collage workshops as both a research method and outcome and discuss some of the researcher’s experiences of having conducted and experimented with collages as a collaborative research method with asylum seekers.

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