

# HOPEFUL SPACES SESSIONS & WORKSHOPS – CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

NZGS-IAG CONFERENCE 2026, 8-10 DECEMBER



He Ara Kotahi at night by Alexander Robertson, for PNCC



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## 1. Indigenous Geographies of Arohatanga: Relational Practices of Care with Land, Water and More-than-Human Kin

**Session Convenor/s:** Dr Sandi Ringham, University of Waikato; Dr Meg Parsons & Dr Karen Fisher University of Auckland

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Indigenous scholars, artists, and activists offer vital pathways toward environmental and social justice. Despite centuries of colonisation and ongoing marginalisation, Indigenous peoples continue to transform ancestral knowledges and practices in ways that are oriented towards the future. This session invites contributions that engage Indigenous geographies of hope: scholarship grounded in relational practices of care with land, waterways, people, and more-than-human kin. We particularly welcome work that not only critiques the status quo but also explores how Indigenous people, their knowledges, practices, and relationships actively generate possibilities for future-making grounded in whakapapa (ancestry), reciprocity, and ethical relations to place. This session seeks to honour Indigenous sovereignty over knowledge, creativity, and storytelling, while positioning geography as a site of responsibility, possibility, and collective hope. We warmly invite Indigenous scholars, activists, practitioners, artists, and community-based researchers to share work that affirms Indigenous presence, endurance, and flourishing now and into the future.

**Key Words:** Indigenous knowledges and practices, more-than-human kin, Environmental justice, Indigenous creativity and storytelling

## 2. Countering Terrestrial Bias: Indigenous Marine Relations in Decolonial Research

**Session Convenor/s:** Georgia McLellan, (Whakatōhea & Ngāi Te Rangi); Melanie Mayall-Nahi, Milly Grant-Mackie, Professor Karen Fisher

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The centring of land rights, relations, and reclamation within Indigenous and decolonial spaces has led to a terrestrial bias in the kinds of research undertaken. This research has been important for demonstrating and asserting Indigenous people's rights and interests, but it can obscure the importance of kinship relations between Indigenous peoples and marine species and spaces, which are crucial for Indigenous lifeways (McCormack 2025; Hau'ofa 1994; Scobie, Poyser, and Hampton 2026; Estes 2019). While acknowledging the vital importance of land relations for Indigenous peoples, this session seeks to counter this terrestrial bias by showcasing emerging scholarship that highlights the importance of Indigenous marine relations (Lobo and Parsons 2023; Estes 2019; Scobie, Poyser, and Hampton 2026; Hau'ofa 1994). This session invites those engaged in interdisciplinary scholarship that addresses intersections between Indigenous peoples and marine species or spaces across Te moana nui a Kiwa (The Pacific Ocean), Te Whenua moemoeā (Australia) and other Indigenous territories.

**Key Words:** Indigenous marine relations, Terrestrial bias, Kin studies, Decolonisation

### 3. Unsettling the Academy: Decolonial Teaching in Turbulent Times

**Session Convenor/s:** Mel Wall and Karen Fisher, Waipapa Taumata Rau | University of Auckland, Amanda Thomas, Te Herenga Waka - Victoria University of Wellington; Ritodhi Chakraborty, Te Whare Wānaka o Aoraki Lincoln University

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The university classroom is a contested site that continues to be shaped by colonial legacies, institutional power, and neoliberal imperatives. Scholars of Indigenous and decolonial education argue that higher education spaces often reproduce "cognitive imperialism," marginalising Indigenous students through curricula, pedagogies, and everyday classroom interactions. Against this backdrop, decolonial pedagogy positions the classroom as a relational and dialogical space that unsettles dominant epistemologies and reorients authority over what counts as knowledge. This panel brings together Indigenous and non-Indigenous scholars to explore the classroom as a site of struggle and possibility in Aotearoa. We conceptualise the classroom as a nexus of relationships—between students, teachers, whenua, communities, and institutions—through which decolonial praxis is enacted. Drawing on Indigenous pedagogies grounded in relationality, reciprocity, scholar activism, and community engagement, such as dialogic practices that foreground listening and shared authority, we examine how teaching can foster transformative learning environments. Responding to questions posed by Indigenous students—why geography matters, how dominant ways of knowing can be challenged, and what decolonial teaching looks like in practice—we consider how curriculum redesign and pedagogical innovation can centre Indigenous knowledge systems and disrupt entrenched inequities. At the same time, we interrogate the constraints of the neoliberal academy, where performativity and standardisation often limit transformative change and consider the limits of the classroom as a site of struggle, particularly given contemporary challenges. Ultimately, this panel locates the classroom as a "hopeful space": a contested yet generative site where decolonial approaches can cultivate critical consciousness, institutional transformation, and futures grounded in Indigenous resurgence and epistemic justice.

**Key Words:** decolonisation, place, institution, Indigenous, settler-colonial

**Closed panel**

### 4. Colonial, Anti-colonial and Decolonial Geographies of Leisure and Recreation in 'Nature'

**Session Convenor/s:** Dr Anna Dunn, Dr Rafael Azeredo, University of Melbourne, Griffith University

**Specialty Group:** IAG Political Geography Study Group

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Nature-based recreation and leisure practices function as modes of place-making and belonging and are lauded for their wellbeing benefits, as well as providing a source of tourism income in regional areas. However, when practiced in settler colonies, these practices take place on First Nations land often without the permission of First Nations authorities. Geographic literature has engaged with the coloniality of leisure and recreational practices in

protected area places in settler colonies (Hobart, 2025; Lane & Waitt, 2007; Palmer, 2004). This session builds on this foundation by exploring anti-colonial and decolonial approaches to leisure and recreation practices in protected areas. Possible themes include:

- Investigating colonial or racialised histories of protected areas and/or recreational and leisure practices, infrastructures and places.
- Examining how colonial power structures operate in contemporary recreation and leisure practices, and how communities engage with anti-colonial or decolonial approaches.
- Understanding how political forces, legislative environments and governance shape Indigenous-settler relations in protected areas.
- Exploring how protected areas and associated leisure and recreational practices are, or can be, transformed in response to First Nations' knowledges, authority and sovereignty.
- Analysing how recreation and leisure practices intersect with broader colonial, anti-colonial and decolonial movements.

We invite papers from researchers at all levels.

**Key Words:** Recreation; Nature; Anti-colonial; Protected areas

## 5. Oceanic Political Geographies: Expanding the Discipline's Boundaries

**Session Convenor/s:** Dr Henrietta McNeill-Stowers, Australian National University

**Specialty Group:** IAG Political Geography Study Group

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Political geography sits at the convergence of geography, borders, anthropology, international relations, political science, political economy, political ecology, criminology, security studies, legal studies, and critical area studies to rethink how power, territory, and governance operate across fluid and often overlooked spaces. This led Jerrems (2026) to argue for an 'undisciplining' of the discipline, particularly as 'political geography in Australia is distinctively undisciplinatory'. In this panel, we embrace Jerrems' logic by centring the geographical region of the Pacific, where borders, sovereignties, and political practices are continually negotiated across vast oceanic spaces and disciplines. This panel highlights recent research by scholars from Australian universities on the Pacific Islands region, in particular on commodified border practices; territorial governance processes across vast maritime spaces; and the entanglements of corruption and political authority. Together, these contributions demonstrate how Pacific-focused scholarship is reshaping the conceptual and methodological boundaries of political geography, underscoring the value of an undisciplined political geography: one that is attentive to relationality, open to interdisciplinarity, and grounded in the lived political geographies of the region's diverse communities.

**Key Words:** Pacific Islands, political geography, borders

**Closed panel**

## 6. Mobilities in Geography

**Session Convenor/s:** M.Borovnik@massey.ac.nz, Massey University

**Specialty Group:** NZGS Mobilities in Geography Study Group, Mobilities Aotearoa Network

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This session continues the Mobilities Aotearoa Symposium with a more open theme on combining any papers related to Mobilities Research related to geography or interdisciplinary mobilities studies that can relate to geography. Submissions are invited that present work in progress or completed research. Contributors are encouraged to consider how their research builds on and contributes to the existing literature, including critical mobility studies, applied mobilities, Indigenous mobilities, mobility justice, among others. This session also invites sub-sessions that relate to mobilities in geography to join this overarching theme.

**Key Words:** mobilities studies, geography, mobility justice, applied mobilities, affective mobilities

## 7. Connecting Across the Seas: Fostering Regional Cooperation in Marine and Coastal Management

**Session Convenor/s:** Dinah Yunitawati and Natasha Pauli - University of Western Australia; Carmsen Elrick-Barr - University of the Sunshine Coast

**Specialty Group:** Nature Risk and Resilience Study Group and Political Geography Study Group

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Coastal and marine environments transcend political boundaries. Effective stewardship of shared ocean and coastal spaces requires cooperation across jurisdictions, biomes, cultures, and knowledge systems. Yet regional collaboration for coastal and marine management remains uneven, underfunded, and often inequitable in its distribution of costs and benefits. This session invites contributions that examine the governance, social, and ecological dimensions of regional and transboundary coastal and marine management. Example topics that could be considered within this session include:

- Transboundary marine spatial planning and governance
- Institutional arrangements and mechanisms for cooperation
- Regional fisheries management and blue economy transitions

- Ocean accounting and natural capital frameworks
- Capacity building and knowledge exchange across jurisdictions
- Equity, justice and power in regional marine governance
- Indigenous and local community participation in ocean management
- Stakeholder engagement and co-management approaches

We welcome contributions from researchers and practitioners working across diverse geographic and governance contexts, and particularly encourage work that centres equity and hopeful pathways for shared ocean futures

## 8. Hopeful Futures through Coastal Transformation

**Session Convenor/s:** Carmen Elrick-Barr; University of the Sunshine Coast Natasha Pauli University of Western Australia; Annah Piggot-McKellar Queensland University of Technology

**Specialty Group:** Nature, Risk and Resilience

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Coastlines are among the most dynamic, contested, and vulnerable environments on Earth, yet they are also sites of innovation and stewardship. As coastal communities face compounding pressures from sea-level rise, extreme weather, ecological degradation, and socioeconomic change, researchers and practitioners are increasingly asking not just how coasts can be protected, but how they can be transformed toward more just, resilient, and ecologically thriving futures. This session invites contributions that engage with coastal transformation from human, environmental, and interdisciplinary geographic perspectives. Example topics that could be considered within this session include:

- Coastal adaptation and managed relocation/retreat
- Coastal governance, planning and legal frameworks
- Coastal risk and vulnerability
- Community resilience and wellbeing
- Blue carbon, blue economy, coastal restoration and nature-based solutions

We welcome global case studies and invite contributions that centre community voices, diverse knowledges, and hopeful visions for coastal futures

**Key Words:** Climate adaptation; Community resilience; Innovation; Hopeful futures; Relocation

## 9. Geographies of Biosecurity

**Session Convenor/s:** Sarah Edwards & Susanna Finlay-Smiths Bioeconomy Science Institute Maiangi Taiao; Deidre McDonald, Massey University; Brendon Blue, Victoria University of Wellington

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This session invites critical perspectives on biosecurity in a range of contexts, including conservation, primary industries, tourism, and global trade. We welcome empirical, conceptual and methodological contributions that engage with diverse literatures (e.g. Decolonising, More-than-Human, Political Ecology, Science and Technology Studies, Mobilities). We hope to continue and expand on conversations generated through the session we convened at the NZGS 2024 conference and subsequent Special Issue (forthcoming in the New Zealand Geographer). Potential themes/topics include but are not limited to:

- The colonial legacies of contemporary biosecurity issues, and how we can hold space to reimagine biosecurity by and with Indigenous biosecurity scholars and practitioners
- Interdisciplinary research approaches that integrate critical perspectives to understand and intervene in biosecurity issues
- More-than-human agencies, mobilities, and embodied experiences in biosecurity contexts
- The spatial and material complexities of ‘the border’ and associated practices of ‘containment’ and ‘securitisation’
- Imagining and enacting a biosecurity system that has care, equity and respect for life at its core
- Understandings and management of ‘invasive’, ‘exotic’ and ‘alien’ species
- ‘Biosecure citizenship’ and associated environmental subjectivities/identities that are formed (or resisted) through biosecurity practices

**Key Words:** Biosecurity, Borders, Environment, Conservation, Agriculture

## 10. Hopeful Agri Food Futures

**Session Convenor/s:** Gareth Enticott, Sarah Edwards, Matt Henry

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Agri food systems are widely described as being “in transition,” marked by intensifying ecological crises, technological innovation, policy reform, and shifting cultural expectations. Across these transformations, hope is frequently invoked – sometimes implicitly, sometimes explicitly – as both a motivating force and an anticipated outcome. This session invites contributions that critically examine hope, and its political consequences, within the context of agri food transitions. Hoping for a hopeful world is not, in itself, a strategy. Hope must be actively produced, shaped, and sustained through practices, infrastructures, and modes of governance. Hope does not operate as a stable or uniformly positive affect. Rather, it circulates unevenly, intensifies or attenuates across sites, and becomes attached to particular objects, promises, and futures. New agri food initiatives often advance hopeful futures through distinct affective registers, including restraint, perseverance, and exuberant techno optimism. These promises generate momentum, enrol commitment, and stabilise infrastructures of transition, yet they may also demand endurance, deflect critique, or require ongoing affective labour to maintain belief in projects that deliver uneven or partial outcomes. Consequently, the session asks: How are particular intensities of hope produced, managed, and sustained in agri food systems? Contributions may address (but are not limited to): Practices of hope: How hope is enacted, sustained, or strained through modes of government and policy practices of co-design and co-governance (for example, to resolve problems such as pollution across river catchments); Hopeful knowledges: How Indigenous knowledges and decolonising methodologies can sustain differently imagined, hopeful agri-food futures (for example, to imagine resilient land-use transitions for whenua Māori); Techno optimism: The emotional force of innovation narratives and expert futures (for example, the creation and promotion of new agricultural technologies such as virtual fencing, methane vaccines or precision agriculture); Sites and mobilities of affect: How hope travels across places, networks, and scales (for example, through the creation and maintenance of formal and / or informal networks of innovation, advocacy and practice); Affective/cruel infrastructures: The material, organisational, financial, and digital arrangements that stabilise and embed hope in future orientated action. And, conversely, the conditions under which hopefulness dissipates, or becomes burdensome over time.

**Key Words:** Hope, agri-food, techno-optimism, affect, transition

## 11. Nurturing Change: Understanding Hopeful Spaces through Agrifood Lenses

**Session Convenor/s:** A/Prof Sean Connelly, Noemi Vidakovic, Nurussaadah Mokhtar, Yueke Li, University of Otago, School of Geography

**Specialty Group:** Agrifood Research Network

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Our global corporate food system is among the main drivers of planetary boundary transgression and social inequality. A systemic transformation is needed, but no real change can occur without a shift in the power asymmetries that lie at the roots of market concentration, hunger and malnutrition, and ecosystemic depletion. This session welcomes contributions from scholars and practitioners exploring how existing instances of alternative foodways represent hopeful spaces to start building more equitable, and less hungry, futurities. A variety of such initiatives are emerging across both Global North and South geographies, at the community and institutional levels, suggesting a shared need to find environmentally respectful and locally tailored solutions to conceive, produce, distribute, consume and dispose of our food. The session invites research works shedding light on the political

dimensions that determine the transformative potential of alternative agrifood experiences. We seek contributions that critically examine how these spaces promote democratic decision-making processes, renegotiate our land use strategies, nurture care-based relations and practices, and elevate diverse knowledges challenging the dominant neoliberal narrative. By bringing together different cases and perspectives, the session aims to read existing “hopeness” through food lenses and highlight that any food system transition is primarily and inherently a power transition

**Key Words:** Agrifood system transformation, power, land, care relationships, knowledges

## 12. Environmental and landscape governance in rural regions

**Session Convenor/s:** Zoe Wang and Rebecca Cross

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This panel focuses on environmental governance modes and mechanisms in rural regions, examining how policy, regulatory, and institutional approaches shape landscape-level environmental outcomes and regional futures. We invite papers that contextualise and critically assess governance arrangements operating across diverse rural landscapes, including agricultural, conservation, and mixed-use regions. Contributions may engage with questions of polycentric governance, multifunctionality, regional identity, collective action, institutional innovation, environmental incentivisation, multistakeholder collaboration, and integrated natural resource management. We are particularly interested in work that explores how governance is negotiated across scales, sectors, and actor groups, and how rural regions respond to competing environmental, economic, and social priorities. While the panel is not exclusively focused on agriculture, papers addressing agricultural landscapes, land use change, agri-environment governance, or sustainability transitions in farming regions are also welcome where relevant to broader questions of landscape governance.

**Key Words:** Environmental governance, multifunctionality, polycentric, agri-food, rurality

## 13. More than Just Access: Changing, Challenging, and Navigating Landscapes of Food Access and Food Justice

**Session Convenor/s:** Joanna Horton, University of Queensland; Rachel Mazac, Stockholm Resilience Centre

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Although global food production is booming, hunger and food insecurity remain ‘wicked problems’ in both the global North and global South, where unequal access to healthy, locally-produced food represents a major contradiction to narratives of economic growth and ‘food security’. Regional food systems have repeatedly been exposed as vulnerable to crises (e.g. pandemics, natural disasters, and climate change impacts), illustrating the precariousness of the status quo. Furthermore, globally widening disparities among the wealthy and the poorest exacerbate food system inequality. Current production systems incentivise “cheap” over quality food while further degrading resources and environments; a situation perpetuated by increasing market control and political activities of transnational food corporations, fragmented governance, and short-term political goal-setting, all

hindering meaningful action on food insecurity. This session will explore landscapes of contradiction and instability – as well as envision hopeful alternatives – through a focus on structures and (in)justices of food distribution and consumption. We invite papers examining and critiquing hunger, vulnerability, and resilience; value chains and distribution models; and food access at the global and/or local level.

**Key Words:** food justice, food systems, value chains, hunger, production

#### 14. Labour Regimes in Agriculture

**Session Convenor/s:** Neil Coe, The University of Sydney and Rafael Azeredo, Griffith University

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This session invites papers that examine labour practices, governance arrangements, and lived experiences within the agricultural sector. Agriculture is one of the most labour-intensive sectors of the global economy, encompassing production systems that range from small-scale subsistence farming to large-scale industrial agribusiness. Across these varied settings, agricultural work is often characterised by seasonal production cycles, geographically remote and rural worksites, and a persistent reliance on low-cost and flexible labour. These structural features contribute to ongoing workforce challenges, and in many contexts have led states to actively develop policies to secure a constant and reliable supply of workers. We welcome contributions that explore these diverse labour arrangements, including household and family labour, migrant labour and guest work programs, and other seasonal labour schemes, with particular attention to questions of regulation, mobility, and working conditions. The session is open to papers engaging across different areas of geography — including economic, cultural, legal, rural, and political geography — as well as related and adjacent fields.

**Key Words:** Agriculture; labour regimes; labour governance; migrant and seasonal work

#### 15. Rural Regions and Agri-Food Production Networks

**Session Convenor/s:** Jeff Neilson and Neil Coe, University of Sydney

**Specialty Group:** Economic geography study group

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This session will be exploring the multiple ways that agricultural regions are embedded within global and extra-regional networks. We are particularly interested in networks of finance, labour, product markets and the role of supermarkets, intellectual property regimes, and environmental governance. How does network engagement shape economic, environmental and social outcomes within agricultural landscapes? How do local territorial conditions facilitate or discourage different types of network structures?

**Key Words:** Global production networks, rural regions, agri-food, territories, environmental governance

## 16. Grounded Hope: Negotiating Futures with Plants and Soil in Uncertain Times

**Session Convenor/s:** Bethaney Turner, University of Canberra

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This session foregrounds everyday practices of cultivating, tending, and learning with plants and soils as actively shaping how people live with climate variability, environmental change, and place based uncertainty. It explores practices such as food growing, seed saving and exchange, composting, foraging, plant cultivation, and bush regeneration, situating these activities within cultural and migration histories, intergenerational learning, and conceptions of belonging to people and place. The session engages with work spanning rural, urban, and peri urban contexts across diverse geographical and scalar settings. It pays particular attention to how hope takes shape alongside risk, constraint, and uneven environmental impacts. Examination of how plant and soil practices are recognised, regulated, or contested within policy, land use planning, public discourse, and cultural production will also be explored. Research grounded in empirically rich research that takes seriously the political, ethical, and practical implications of more than human relations, including work drawing on arts based approaches and creative outputs is welcome.

**Key Words:** more-than-human, plants, soil, belonging, uncertainty

## 17. Hopeful Cities, More-than-Human Worlds

**Session Convenor/s:** Catherine Phillips, University of Canterbury; Jennifer Atchison, University of Wollongong; Elizabeth Straughan, University of Melbourne

**Specialty Group:** Cultural Geography Study Group and Urban Geography Study Group

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This session invites contributions that examine how cities and regions are co-produced by humans and other living and nonliving elements -- plants, animals, microbes, materials -- and how these entanglements open possibilities for more just relations, inhabitable places, and imaginative urban futures. Framed by the conference theme of Hopeful Spaces, the session seeks to advance conversations among more-than-human and socio-spatial scholarship. We are particularly interested in work that treats hope not as abstraction or passive, but as a situated, relational, fierce, collective practice, and that interrogates how such practices reshape ecologies, infrastructures, and forms of belonging. We welcome theoretical, empirical, and practice-based contributions from across disciplines, and especially encourage work that connects socio-spatial and ecological dynamics or bridges research and intervention. Possible topics include (but are not limited to): multispecies ethics and justice; urban biodiversity and conservation practices; everyday sites and practices of coexistence and regeneration; Indigenous and decolonial approaches to urban ecology; climate adaptation and repair; blue-green

infrastructures as lively assemblages; more-than-human mobilities and urban connectivity; speculative and creative methods; and, policy or design interventions that foreground more-than-human relations. Submissions should clearly articulate their contribution, methods, and relevance to the session theme.

**Key Words:** more-than-human; multispecies; urban; cities; hope

## 18. (Re)generative Freshwater Geographies

**Session Convenor/s:** Kiely McFarlane, Cawthron Institute; Brendon Blue, Te Herenga Waka Victoria University of Wellington

**Specialty Group:** Critical physical geography

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The health of freshwaters and their more-than-human communities continues to be a matter of urgent concern across Australia and Aotearoa. Yet as each new damning report, court case, weather event, fish kill and public health warning articulates the scale of freshwater crises, the intensification of land and water use continues. Geographers have been investigating these issues – and efforts toward more just and sustainable freshwater management – for decades, connecting concerns for particular waters and communities to large-scale changes in freshwater policy, politics and economies. The theme, ‘hopeful spaces,’ invites us to consider what types of scholarship are needed and might be effectual as freshwater issues grow in number and scale, but so too do initiatives to protect and restore freshwater. How can our work respond to these contradictory and contested directives? Where do we find hope in the people, policies and places we work with, as well as geographic praxis? How might our research be generative of imaginaries, relations and practices that create the conditions for more equitable and sustainable freshwater geographies? In this session we invite geographers researching human relationships with freshwater (in all forms, e.g. wetlands, groundwater, stormwater) to consider with us the present and future of freshwater geographies.

**Key Words:** human-environment relations, critical physical geography, environmental science, political ecology, science and technology studies

## 19. Returning to a Redesigned Home: from Geography RIP to Resourcefulness, Intellectuality and Pragmatism

**Session Convenor/s:** Nicolas Lewis, University of Auckland

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What is it about Geography that drives its academics into paroxysms of anxiety and self-loathing, quixotic quests for panacean remedies, and giddy turns of focus and direction? Why is it that this panel is even on the programme? Thankfully, this session will pose neither of these questions; rather, it will use them to kick-start a consideration of what a return to the core preoccupations of an earlier Geography might look like given the lessons of 50 years of turning our discipline inside out. The failures of singular gazes, fixed categories, inflexible methodologies, and untenable searches for truth are

well learned, but their aspirations are lost. We will begin with the assertion that the distinctive business of Geography involves an intellectualised unpacking and releasing of the possibilities of the resourcefulness of places at multiple scales, an ontological and political pragmatics, and a solid emancipatory purpose. We will see where the panel takes us from there. As we struggle anew with the future security of our discipline, perhaps we need to revisit our core in new ways and extract from it a new vitality made possible by what we have learned from giddy turns, moral panics and righteous corrections, and wearying introspection. Time to extract vitality and purpose.

**Key Words:** Geography; disciplinarity; future; pragmatism

**Closed Panel**

## 20. Toward a Hopeful Politics of Hybridity

**Session Convenor/s:** Aisling Rayne, Cawthron Institute; Christine Biermann & David Havlick, University of Colorado Colorado Springs; Marc Tadaki, Lincoln University

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Things are sometimes categorised one way, sometimes another. When things sit between categories, this can raise all sorts of issues. Hybrids are a blend of two or more types of thing, rather than distinctly one or the other. Geographers have long used the concept of hybridity to interrogate categories and boundary-making. What other possibilities might hybrids offer, beyond the important work of deconstructive critique? We invite presentations that engage with hybrids or hybridity, including but not limited to:

- Nature/culture thinking;
- Environmental entities, e.g. species;
- Disciplines and research practices;
- Identities, e.g. place, culture.

We encourage authors to name what is socially, politically and/or economically at stake with the hybrids in question, to explore whether hybrids can offer hope for a better world, and to consider how geographers might engage with hybrids and hybridity to realise such worlds. The session will close with a brief panel discussion that draws together reflections and insights from across the presentations.

**Key Words:** hybrids, boundary-making, categories, nature cultures

## 21. New Research in Urban Geography: Hopeful Spaces

**Session Convenor/s:** Imogen Carr, Alistair Sisson, and Ash Alam

**Specialty Group:** Urban Geography Study Group, IAG

**Corresponding email for session convenors:** [ash.alam@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:ash.alam@unimelb.edu.au)

In this session, we invite papers exploring diverse dimensions of urban geography and their intersections with the conference theme of hopeful spaces. The Urban Geography Study Group is particularly interested in interdisciplinary thinking and approaches to urban geographical challenges and struggles, especially those engaging with critical urban interventions and the production of geographical knowledge within and beyond the discipline. We encourage contributions that engage critically with the idea of hope in urban contexts, not as a given, but as something unevenly produced, contested, and situated across different places, populations, and scales. How is hope made, sustained, or foreclosed in cities shaped by inequality, climate change, conflicts, migration, and rapid transformation? What kinds of spaces, practices, and imaginaries enable more just and liveable urban futures? We welcome theoretical, conceptual, empirical and methodological papers, as well as “state of the field” contributions and non-traditional research outputs. Contributions may address urban geographies in Australia, Aotearoa New Zealand, and internationally, including but not limited to:

- Land, home and place: understanding urban land systems, housing, and the geographies of inclusion, exclusion, and belonging
- Governance, policy and power: emerging configurations of urban governance, policing, and control, including spaces of abandonment and confinement
- Mutual aid, care and redistribution: networks and infrastructures that sustain urban life across unequal and climate-altered futures
- Hybrid urban spaces: intersecting physical and digital environments, disinformation, populism and power shaping presence, absence, and participation

This session aims to foster a generative conversation on how urban geography can both critically interrogate contemporary urban conditions and contribute to imagining more hopeful urban futures.

**Key Words:** Home, Place, Urban, Infrastructure, Digital

## 22. Geographies of Skill: Rethinking Expertise for Hopeful Futures

**Session Convenor/s:** Chantel Carr, University of Wollongong; Elisabetta Crovara & David Bissell; University of Melbourne

**Specialty Group:** Cultural Geography Study Group

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Skill is a lightning-rod topic at the very heart of policy and academic debates about global futures. Much has been said, for instance, about how Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand are experiencing a workforce skills crisis that will only intensify given a mismatch between the current skills of workers and the skill demands of climate and energy transitions, AI and digital transformation, and an ageing population. And yet, troublingly, so much of global and national policy discourse on skill continues to reflect a view from nowhere, ignoring so much of the place-based specificity that shapes how skills are manifested, and whose expertise is recognised or overlooked. In this session, we invite contributions that push our geographical understandings of skill in new directions, and through any subdisciplinary perspective, inspired by any avenue of social theory, and in relation to any domain of socio-spatial life. Papers might consider how new skills are learned, applied and transmitted within and beyond the formal workplace; the mobility of skills, geographically but also in terms of portability between sectors; lifecourse perspectives on skill development or devaluation; the temporality of reskilling; or the institutional codifications of skill, for instance through migration or training policy. Papers could also consider skills beyond those involved in paid employment, including the often-invisible skills that might be required for feeling and thinking differently in our current moment.

**Key Words:** work, labour, embodiment, mobility, place

### 23. Radical geography and the Third Sector: Reckoning with Reform

**Session Convenor/s:** Alistair Sisson, Macquarie University; Priya Kunjan, RMIT University

**Specialty Group:** Urban Geography Study Group, Political Geography Study Group

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Third sector organisations are seen as vital elements of democratic societies, advocating for interests beyond markets and states and supporting those who are excluded, marginalized or oppressed. Yet the sector has also been subject to growing criticism as it has become increasingly professionalised, reliant on state or philanthropic funding, less accountable to members or clients, and less willing or able to engage in adversarial forms advocacy. More radical critiques describe the emergence of what Ruth Wilson Gilmore calls the Non-Profit Industrial Complex (NPIC). The NPIC refers to the proliferation of organisations that are dependent upon and constrained by the institutions that fund them, and that prioritise organisational stability and growth over addressing the structural conditions of social and environmental harms. In contrast to the reformist tendencies of the NPIC, Gilmore and others draw our focus upon ‘nonreformist reforms’ that contribute to building social movements that can drive more fundamental and transformative change. For this session we invite papers that critically examine the third sector from across geography’s subdisciplines. We encourage submissions that analyse its changing composition, funding and governance regimes, political strategies and relationships to wider civil society. We also encourage papers that reflect on forms of strategic collaboration and possibilities for nonreformist reforms.

**Key Words:** Third sector; reform; Non-Profit Industrial Complex; radical geography

## 24. Radical Geographies in the Antipodes

**Session Convenor/s:** IAG Geographers for Palestine and Aotearoa Geographers for Palestine

**Corresponding email for session convenors:** [Amanda.Thomas@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Amanda.Thomas@vuw.ac.nz)

Radical geography demands that we grasp conditions of injustice by both their terrestrial and imaginative roots, connecting theory and practice to pursue collective liberation. Scholars, organisers and communities practising radical geography analyse and resist enclosure and bordering across spatial and temporal registers, and recognise connections between systems of oppression as well as practices of freedom. In this session we are interested in exploring scholar-(and) activist traditions in Aotearoa and so-called Australia to build a collective understanding of radical geography in the antipodes. We are also interested in understanding the direction of contemporary radical geographies; what are the praxes of liberation that emerge from these places? How can we understand violent settler-colonial capitalist logics and act toward the resistance of these forms? And how are futures based on abolition, relational justice and care being sustained, imagined and created? We invite contributions that examine:

- radical geography traditions in the antipodes, especially those that highlight the intimate connections of radical geographies to and from place;
- ways radical geographical community could be built;
- radical scholar activist traditions, particularly those that address methodologies for these times (eg that resist techno-fascism; that build solidarity with Palestine);
- future trajectories for antipodean radical geography

**Key Words:** radical geography, scholar-activism, praxis, antipodes

## 25. Fuck Hope and/or “Esperança” - Hope as a Verb of Action

**Session Convenor/s:** The Alliance for Praxis Research

**Corresponding email for session convenors:** [theallianceforpraxisresearch@gmail.com](mailto:theallianceforpraxisresearch@gmail.com)

Let's start fucking doing something. This session begins from a refusal of passive hope. Drawing on Chelsea Watego's critique of hope as a mechanism that sustains Black life within ongoing structures of colonial violence, and N'arwee't Carolyn Briggs' provocations on futurity and erasure, we ask: what does it mean to act without relying on hope as comfort? In contrast, Latin American traditions influenced by Paulo Freire frame “Esperança” as hope enacted - hope as a verb and a commitment to transformative practice. Yet hope is ambivalent: it can propel us to move forward, or keep us waiting for change and complicit to the systems that so soon and fast are moving to destroy us - namely fascism, neoliberalism, the climate crisis. Here, we also interrogate how concepts like prefiguration, praxis, and regeneration are mobilised, diluted, and co-opted. What counts as action? What is meaningful action, and who decides? We turn the critique inward, questioning academic labour itself: can writing, publishing, and conferencing be considered

action if disconnected from material struggles? Ultimately, we ask: who gets to be hopeful, and who cannot afford to be? And perhaps more urgently - who needs to stop hoping, and start getting angry? If you're interested in these questions, have engaged with similar themes and are as confused as we are, come to our session!

**Key Words:** Prefiguration, Praxis, Action, Activism

## 26. Hopeful Geographies of (Geo)Political Futures

**Session Convenor/s:** Sallie Yea, Charles Sturt University; Rafael Azeredo & Bronte Alexander, Griffith University

**Specialty Group:** Political Geography

**Corresponding email for session convenors:** [syea@csu.edu.au](mailto:syea@csu.edu.au)

Across contemporary global politics, geographical scholarship increasingly confronts overlapping crises: intensifying geopolitical conflict, authoritarian and neoliberal resurgence, climate emergency, widening inequality, displacement, and ongoing colonial, racial and gendered violence. Political geography and critical geopolitics have been central in analysing the machinations of power, territorial exclusions and containment through bordering, security, and spatial governance under these conditions. Yet critical scholarship often remains framed through diagnosis — exposing domination, violence, and exclusion — rather than exploring how alternative political futures are imagined, practiced, and sustained. This session invites contributions that engage with hopeful geographies: spatial practices, political imaginaries, and geopolitical interventions that foreground possibility, solidarity, repair, and transformation. Rather than treating hope as naïve optimism, we approach hope as a critical political practice emerging through struggle, resistance, care, ethics and collective action. Hopeful geographies ask: how do people and communities produce liveable futures amid political crises? What forms of (geo)political agency emerge outside dominant state-centric frameworks? How might political geography move beyond critique toward emancipatory praxis? We particularly welcome contributions grounded in political geography, critical geopolitics, feminist geopolitics, postcolonial and decolonial geography, and related fields to consider these questions.

**Key Words:** crisis, hope, care, transformation, agency

## 27. Recognizing the Contribution of Mike Shepherd to Geography at Massey University

**Session Convenor/s:** Prof Martin Brook, University of Auckland

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Mike Shepherd completed his PhD at the University of Sydney and was appointed to the Geography Department in 1973 teaching in physical geography, the Australia course and Resource Conservation until his retirement. A stalwart of the Massey University staff football team and a long serving Treasurer of the Manawatu Branch of the New Zealand Geographical Society, he was made a Life Fellow of the Society in 2007. Mike made

significant contributions to geomorphology in several countries in the southwest Pacific, including being one of the first Europeans to cross the Star Mountains in Papua New Guinea in 1965. The 3-month expedition gleaned important information on the geology, geomorphology, climate and hydrology, alongside interactions with the indigenous people. Mike's work in Fiji included important field surveys on the south coast of Viti Levu, including the Holocene evolution of the Navua River delta. In New Zealand, Mike published important research on North Island dune systems and evaluated evidence for former glaciation on Mt Ruapehu and the Tararua Range. Perhaps most importantly, Mike enthusiastically imparted his broad-ranging knowledge of all aspects of geomorphology on generations of Massey University students, colleagues and visiting academics. Contributions from any of these areas are welcome.

**Key Words:** Geomorphology, fieldwork, coasts, dunes, glaciation

## 28. Australasian Local Government Spaces

**Session Convenor/s:** Dr Jeff McNeill

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New Zealand's local government system is facing the prospect of its most significant reform since the 1989 restructuring. A proposal released in November suggests abolishing regional councils, with their functions temporarily assumed by each region's mayors sitting on 'combined territories board'. These mayors would also be tasked with developing new governance arrangements to replace the current regional tier for their region. One potential model is the Auckland Council, which consolidated the region's city, district, and regional authorities into a single institution. Amalgamation proposals are not new in New Zealand, though relatively few have been implemented. Similar debates have occurred in Australia, including reforms in New South Wales in 2016 that merged 42 councils into 19, and earlier reforms in Queensland that reduced 157 councils to 73. Local government is fundamentally a spatial expression of power, determining who governs, where, and on whose behalf. Reorganisation therefore involves both redrawing boundaries and redefining representation. This session, sponsored by the International Geographic Union Commission on the Geography of Governance, invites papers examining Australasian subnational governance, evaluating past reforms, and exploring future possibilities for local government

**Key Words:** local government, reorganisation, representation, power, amalgamation

## 29. Hopeful Development Geographies: Justice, Wellbeing and Regeneration

**Session Convenor/s:** Regina Scheyvens and Emma Mawdsley, Massey University and Cambridge University

**Corresponding email for session convenors:** [r.a.scheyvens@massey.ac.nz](mailto:r.a.scheyvens@massey.ac.nz)

This session invites papers exploring hopeful approaches to development geography in a time of intersecting social, economic and environmental crises. Rather than focusing only on problems, the session seeks examples of creative, justice-oriented and future-focused responses that support more dignified and sustainable lives. Possible topics could include regenerative tourism, wellbeing economies, Indigenous and community-led development, alternative models of economic organisation, inclusive urban and rural development, climate justice, food sovereignty, care economies, and initiatives that empower groups who have historically been marginalised. The session is particularly interested in work that highlights hope not as naïve optimism, but as something grounded in practical action, collective agency, and more equitable futures. Papers relating to a wide range of geographical scales and contexts are welcome.

**Key Words:** development, hope, wellbeing, justice, alternative

### 30. Think Global, Act Local: How Collective Action Changes our World

**Session Convenor/s:** Carolynne Hultquist, University of Canterbury

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International policies such as the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, are intended to mobilize action by governments, institutions, and public and private actors. The role of communities in supporting efforts on global challenges is evident, as collectives are in a unique position to not merely provide data, but to make progress on local priorities. Citizen engagement promotes democratization of science that gives voice and supports action for community concerns. We will highlight recent developments of international policy promoting citizen engagement for science in action as well as opportunities for sharing best practices across regions. Significant scientific work illustrates that citizens can contribute high-quality data. Data generated by communities are starting to be included in the official framework to monitor the SDGs. The United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) set policy with the Copenhagen Framework for citizen data to meaningfully engage communities. National Statistical Offices are developing approaches to complement traditional sources with citizen-generated data, especially for underserved populations. Local efforts will be showcased including as part of the Citizen Science Association of Aotearoa NZ (#CitSciNZ) for the promotion of inclusion of citizen data in policymaking. Through work with the Committee on Data (CODATA) task group for Citizen Generated Data for the SDGs, we've seen that communities engage around the world on topics that are important for them locally. There are opportunities for communicating across regions to share valuable insights on topics of common interest and to advocate for community-led science that increases the resilience of communities and leads to a more equitable future. What are we prepared to share to collectively make a difference? There will be an introductory presentation that leads into a practice-based knowledge discussion in the format of a World Cafe style in which we rotate topics to provide inputs on key themes. These topics will involve what we as a community want to share across regions to others engaged in citizen data.

**Key Words:** collaboration, action, environment, policy, interdisciplinary

**Practice based discussion. No abstract required.**

### 31. Hoping Geographies: Infrastructures and the Politics of Uncertain Futures

**Session Convenor/s:** Frances Brill & Emma Mawdsley, University of Zurich & University of Cambridge

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As the planet faces compounding ecological, social, and political crises, hope emerges not as naive optimism but as a critical geographic question: How to sustain commitment to other possible worlds when outcomes remain so uncertain, and the forces against so bleak? This session examines hope as active practice; as the material, embodied, and infrastructural work of maintaining orientation toward better futures that are not guaranteed. Futures require more than ideas to endure; they need affective infrastructures: the spaces, rhythms, networks, and rituals that scaffold collective orientations toward uncertain futures. These are culturally and spatially specific, organizing communities through distinct repertoires of gathering, performance, and practice. Infrastructures are also sites of power: some hoped-for futures receive support; others remain perpetually speculative or are actively suppressed. Moreover, within movements and epistemological communities, conflicts over the future and what can be worked towards arise. We invite papers that ask: How is hope performed, organized, and sustained across different spatial contexts? What affective infrastructures enable hopeful commitment to endure, and whose labour maintains them? How do geographies of power shape which hopes materialize, and which fade? And critically, when do attachments to hoped-for futures foreclose rather than open political possibility?

**Key Words:** Hope, futurity, infrastructure

### 32. Infrastructures of Empire

**Session Convenor/s:** Riki Scanlan, Kurt Iveson, Marilu Melo Zurita, Annie Burrett; University of Sydney, UNSW

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This session explores how the “infrastructures of empire” (Cowen 2019) have manifested in and across the Antipodes and the South Pacific, both historically and in the present. We seek to gather together theoretical insights into infrastructural imperialism as well as empirical studies of specific infrastructures that work to underpin, reproduce, or extend systems of colonial or imperial domination. In particular, we are interested in understanding how different spaces, experiences, and practices are tied together through the production and contestation of these imperial infrastructures. Welcome, too, are discussions on the theoretical and methodological tools needed to follow these connections. In this vein, we are interested in topics such as (but not limited to):

- spatial histories of specific infrastructures such as transport, telecommunications;
- the ‘infrastructural labour’ of settler-colonial infrastructure production;

- the socio-ecologies and contested natures of colonial infrastructure networks;
- transformations of infrastructure associated with shifts in imperial regimes

**Key Words:** settler-colonialism, imperialism, infrastructure, socio-ecology

### 33. In(toxicating) Geographies: Researching Brewing, Alcohol(s), and Drunkenness

**Session Convenor/s:** Nikolai Siimes, Peter Howland, Nick Lewis, University of Auckland (NS & NL), Massey University (PH)

**Corresponding email for session convenors:** [nik@aucklandwine.co.nz](mailto:nik@aucklandwine.co.nz)

The production and consumption of alcohol has always been too important to ignore, but their politics seem to be particularly contentious today. Booze is both materially and discursively constructed, and itself both constructive and destructive. From spawning agricultural systems and civilization to shaping landscapes and communities, our social histories are inseparable from these yeasty excretions (Myles, 2020; Slingerland, 2021). Despite being well placed to tackle these many lives of drink, geographic engagements remain limited (Unwin, 2022). Responding to contemporary critiques of the race to moralise in the geographies of alcohol, drinking, and drunkenness (Jayne & Valentine, 2024), this session invites geographers of brewing, alcohol(s), and/or drunkenness (BADs) to ask deeper questions about human–yeast–ethanol relations. Given the conference theme, we welcome engagements with the hopeful spaces that intoxication inspires and ask what intoxicated geographies might be good for (e.g. postcapitalist, anti-dualist, or hedonic futures). Geographers have often studied production, including agricultural cultivation, fermentation, or brewing practices. They have been less disposed to study the moral and cultural economies of drink, drinking, and drinking spaces (wine bars, pubs, liquor stores, or spaces made dangerous by alcohol), or intoxicating geographical imaginaries. Neither have they kept up with new geographies of abstinence, addiction, prohibition, or neo-puritanism. We also encourage authors that engage with what it means to be an intoxicated geographer; on the institutional, axiological, or methodological/ethical sobriety that conditions brewing, alcohol, and drunkenness research and epistemologies. We further welcome authors inspired by different disciplinary positions and from across disciplinary boundaries. Finally, we invite a debate about the affordances of intoxicating practices as foundations for spaces of hope.

**Key Words:** Constructive alcohol, geographies of alcohol drinking and drunkenness, fermentation, non-moralising approaches, intoxication.

### 34. Creative Geographies: Craft, Tensions, and Possibilities

**Session Convenor/s:** Dr Maja Zonjić and Dr Billy van Uitregt, Te Herenga Waka - Victoria University of Wellington

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Creative geographies have expanded in recent years, enabling new and innovative ways of understanding how places are made and experienced, and fostering more inclusive, relational, and meaningful research programmes. However, critical engagement with the historical context of the creative

disciplines from which such methodologies originate is lacking. In particular, discussions centering technical and representational elements of creative production remain underdeveloped and artistic practitioners are rarely acknowledged in scholarship which draws on the visual language their foundational work established. Notwithstanding these tensions, creative geographies offer exciting possibilities for re-imagining the best of what geographic scholarship could be: non-hierarchical, co-created, and accessible to all. In this session, we are interested in examining how creative production – both as method and research output – can challenge hegemonic narratives; reconfigure spatial power relations, and foster more inclusive and engaging ways of working with/in place and alongside community collaborators. We particularly welcome discussions about the craft of creative production, and contributions from artists, designers, and filmmakers whose work is Indigenous-led and co-produced within communities to enable more meaningful and just outcomes locally.

**Key Words:** geographies, practice-led research, film, photography, community Kaupapa

### 35. Art as a Catalyst of Connection to Place and Nature

**Session Convenor/s:** Nick Kirk, Bioeconomy Science Institute

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Art is powerful for shifting perspectives and mindsets, enabling people to feel more connected with place and nature. In systems theory, changing mindsets or highlighting the dominant worldviews, values, and paradigms that underpin the current system constitutes one of the deepest leverage points for change. Given this, art has an important but underappreciated role in catalysing positive change. In this session, we invite submissions that highlight the role art can play in sustainability transitions, with a focus on art that builds human-nature connectedness and place attachment. We seek expressions of interest from researchers, practitioners, curators, and artists who have worked on or researched artworks such as visual art, moving image and digital projection, sonic art and soundscapes, sensory experiences, ceramics, woodcarving, as well as written and spoken word.

**Key Words:** art; place attachment; human-nature connectedness; sustainability.

### 36. Touching Visions: Touch, Embodiment and the Sensory for More Just and Caring Cities

**Session Convenor/s:** Eva Neely & Mirjam Schindler, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand; Maria Lindmäe, Tallinn University, Estonia

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Cities are encountered through bodies that sense, feel, and are touched by their environments, yet much of this everyday felt sensing is excluded from urban knowledge. In this session we explore how the body “becomes a site of possibility” in the caring city. Drawing in the sensory encountering of the city we explore the often neglected senses of urban everyday life through the lens of care. This session explores how touching visions might reframe understandings of urban health and care; particularly how gendered, racialised, disabled, and caregiving bodies experience urban environments; how

care infrastructures shape access to health; and how more-than-human relations participate in chains of touch that sustain or undermine health. Part 1: Touching provocations (10 minutes each). We invite scholars to prepare short, conceptually focused provocations that critically engage with how urban life is sensed, touched, and cared for (or not) through bodies, environments, and infrastructures. Part 2: Arts-based, sensory mapping workshopping. The second half of the session will be an interactive, arts-based workshop in which participants collaboratively map the speakers' provocations through drawing, collage, or diagramming; exploring how different in/equalities touch one another across bodies, spaces, and infrastructures, tracing resonances, tensions, and unexpected connections across speakers' and session participants' lived experiences.

**Key Words:** sensory, care, urban, touch, bodies

### 37. Gendered and Queered Geographies of Hope-In-Praxis

**Session Convenor/s:** Lynda Johnston, Ben Lilly, Jingyi Guo, Firdhan Wijaya (University of Waikato), Emma Sharp (University of Auckland), Bahamin Badihi (University of Otago)

**Specialty Group:** Gender And Geography Aotearoa (GAGA)

**Corresponding email for session convenors:** [lynda.johnston@waikato.ac.nz](mailto:lynda.johnston@waikato.ac.nz)

Feminist and queer geographers are well placed to transform geographical research and education from describing crises to collaborative, action-oriented practice that seeks to foster resilience, sustainability and social justice. Gendered and queered geographies of hope-in-praxis focuses on connecting theories with 'ground-up' initiatives in order to collaboratively create just and fair futures. This paper session calls for papers that explore the particularities and intersections between hope-in-praxis with gender, sex, sexuality, Indigeneity, race, ethnicity, class, age, disability, culture, space, and place. In other words, presenters are encouraged to explore the many axes of feminist and / or queer research, methodologies, education and collaborations. We welcome papers that are theoretical, methodological (eg Participatory Action Research), educational (pedagogy of hope), historical, that elevate Indigenous and marginalised voices (decolonising and Indigenising knowledge), and that recognise that emotions, personal experiences and community stories are crucial for fair futures.

**Key Words:** genders, sexualities, bodies, hope, praxis

### 38. Creating Hopeful Spaces via Forest Bathing: Queering Nature and Compassion

**Session Convenor/s:** Yi Li

**Specialty Group:** NZ Early Career Research Network & GAGA

**Corresponding email for session convenors:** [amber.lee21112@gmail.com](mailto:amber.lee21112@gmail.com)

This workshop explores forest bathing (shinrin-yoku) as a relational practice for creating hopeful, inclusive spaces through queering nature and compassion. Moving beyond heteronormative and human–nature binaries, it examines how embodied, sensory encounters with more-than-human worlds can unsettle fixed identities and open alternative modes of belonging. Drawing on queer theory, eco-psychology, and sensory ethnography, the session invites participants to engage in guided practices that attune to breath, touch, and interspecies presence. Through these exercises, we connect with the ecological surroundings, considering how compassion emerges not as an individual trait but as a relational process co-produced with environments. The workshop foregrounds migrant and marginalised experiences, asking how forest bathing can support healing, resilience, and community-making across difference. Participants will co-create micro “hopeful spaces” and reflect on their political and ethical implications for geography, wellbeing, and environmental care in times of ecological and social precarity.

**Workshop, walking Abstract not required**

### 39. Hopeful Spaces in Times of Crisis: Nature, Affect and the Politics of Repair

**Session Convenor/s:** Angela Smith University of New South Wales (UNSW)

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In *Civilization and Its Discontents*, Freud recounts a letter from a friend who gently chastises him for dismissing religion while overlooking what the friend calls the “oceanic feeling”: a sense of boundlessness and unity with the world, often associated with encounters with nature. Freud himself remained sceptical of this feeling, unable to recognise it in his own experience, yet acknowledged its enduring psychic force.

In the present conjuncture—marked by genocide, war, ecological crisis, inflation and the resurgence of right-wing politics—such feelings appear to be re-emerging with renewed intensity. This session asks how such an “oceanic feeling” might be understood as a psychoanalytic geography of hope. Across Australia, Aotearoa and beyond, there has been a marked post-COVID uptake in practices such as ocean swimming, hiking and tramping, bikepacking, forest bathing and other nature-based therapies. These individual and collective practices are at times framed as forms of “detox” or healing, but they may also signal a deeper reorientation – i.e. a turning away from the fantasies of endless accumulation and productivity and towards practices of care and relationality. We invite contributions that engage the affective and political dimensions of these practices. Do such experiences open genuinely hopeful spaces, or are they reabsorbed into existing neoliberal logics? What forms of collectivity or exclusion do they entail? And how might psychoanalytic, cultural or political geographies help us make sense of this turn toward nature as a site of hope and repair?"

**Key Words:** Crisis, nature, repair, outdoors, affect

### 40. Around the Clock: Exploring the Changing Geographies of Work and Family Life in a Flexibilised Economy

**Session Convenor/s:** Aisling Gallagher, Massey University

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It is currently estimated that almost a third of employed adults in Aotearoa New Zealand regularly work outside 7am-7pm, Monday to Friday (Statistics NZ, 2018), with nonstandard work increasing faster than standard employment in the last twenty years. A Productivity Commission report in 2021 found that New Zealanders were working longer than the OECD average, with one of the outcomes being less time spent with families, whānau and communities. This session invites papers to examine how the expansion of flexibilised and non-standard work arrangements are reshaping the spatial and temporal boundaries between paid employment and family life. As digital technologies, platform economies, and shifting labour market norms purport to enable work to occur “anytime” and “anywhere,” everyday life is increasingly organised around fragmented, asynchronous schedules rather than standardised working hours. While the notion of flexibility in work-from-home entitlements has been linked to heightened notions of employee autonomy around life scheduling post-Covid, for others without such entitlements flexibilised labour schedules have instead undermined work-life regularity with cascading impacts on health and wellbeing. These labour transformations raise critical questions about how households differentially negotiate their social reproduction in response to the demands of a 24-7 economy.

**Key Words:** nonstandard work, family life, social reproduction

#### 41. Collaboration lab: Thinking with the ocean & each other: Experimenting with visual & verbal ocean vocabularies & inclusive creative practice

**Session Convenor/s:** Gabby O'Connor & Karen Fisher, University of Auckland

**Specialty Group:** GAGA

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Embodied creative workshop that creates space for unexpected collaboration and connectivity between researchers and ideas. We will co-create temporary collages in collaboration, allowing researchers to connect across and around ocean thinking. No experience necessary. No glue, no scissors, no mess. Only possibilities. In this participatory workshop, we will create temporary collaborative collages using lightboxes and translucent components and provide space to think through and experiment with visual and verbal ocean languages by creating opportunities between people, ideas, oceans and more. Collectively, we will work to transform ideas, materials and visual language while exploring the co-creation of visual boundary objects that negotiates meaning between knowledge systems, expertise, personal and collective experiences. Come and play with us.

**Key Words:** Workshop, Practice-based knowledge discussion

**Workshop Abstracts not required**

## 42. Social-Ecological Systems Research for Hopeful Futures

**Session Convenor/s:** Natasha Pauli, University of Western Australia; Lisa de Kleyn, La Trobe University; Rachael Walshe, University of Canberra

**Specialty Group:** Nature, Risk and Resilience Study Group

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Social-ecological systems (SES) research recognises the links between human societies and natural environments. Understanding the complexity of these coupled systems (including feedbacks, thresholds, adaptive capacities and emergent properties) is fundamental to addressing challenges such as adapting to climate change, environmental degradation, agricultural and fisheries productivity, water constraints, and more. Geography, with its tradition of studying human-environment interactions across scales and contexts, is uniquely positioned to advance SES research and to translate research into improved management and policy outcomes. This session invites contributions that advance conceptual, empirical or applied dimensions of social-ecological systems research. Example topics that could be considered within this session include:

- Resilience, vulnerability and adaptive capacity in coupled systems
- Regime shifts, tipping points and thresholds in social-ecological systems
- Governance and institutional arrangements for commons management
- Biodiversity, ecosystem services and human wellbeing linkages
- Communities and knowledge systems in SES management
- Participatory and transdisciplinary approaches to SES research
- Social-ecological feedbacks and cross-scale dynamics

We welcome case studies from across Aotearoa New Zealand, Australia, and Asia-Pacific, as well as other world regions.

**Key Words:** social-ecological systems; environmental geography; resilience; adaptation

## 43. Place-Based Values in an Era of Change

**Session Convenor/s:** Lisa de Kleyn, La Trobe University Rachael Walshe University of Canberra, Natasha Pauli University of Western Australia

**Specialty Group:** Nature, Risk and Resilience Study Group

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Place shapes people and communities. Places can be transformed by climate change, social upheaval, economic process, ecological degradation and more, raising questions about belonging, identity, and the future for many communities. Research on place-based values is often collaborative and applied, working alongside government agencies, First Nations, community groups, and organisations to bring diverse values into policy and practice. Yet such research is never politically neutral; participatory and procedural approaches are always embedded in power relations that shape whose values are heard, how they are constructed, and how they are ultimately applied. This session invites contributions that explore place-based values in the context of environmental and social change, including research that champions inclusive, hopeful visions for people and place. Example research topics for this session include but are not limited to:

- Place attachment, identity and belonging under environmental change
- Solastalgia, ecological grief and emotional geographies of loss
- First Nations and Indigenous place-based values and country
- Participatory and collaborative approaches to understanding values
- Environmental justice, equity and the uneven distribution of place-based loss
- Power, politics and contested values in environmental decision-making.

We welcome contributions from diverse disciplinary perspectives and geographic contexts

**Key Words:** Place-based values; environmental governance; attachment; human-environment relationships; identity

#### 44. Hopeful Spaces of Energy Transition

**Session Convenor/s:** Chris Gibson, The University of Sydney

**Specialty Group:** Nature, Risk and Resilience Study Group

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Geographers have scrutinised how energy transitions unfold unevenly in place. The challenges of just transition, renewable rollout and industrial decarbonisation are manifold and warrant continued research attention. All too often people and places are assumed to be the passive recipients policy decisions emanating from distant stakeholders in government and the corporate sphere. Yet research reveals more complex, multifaceted relations and dynamics. In this session we invite papers that engage with the complexity of energy transitions while foregrounding forward-looking and progressive possibilities. Themes include (but are not limited to):

- Māori and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sovereignty, ownership, co-design and stewardship of energy transition initiatives
- Participatory, reciprocal and partnership approaches and frameworks, and their politics and possibilities
- Equitable outcomes for communities, workers and households
- Prospects for greater public ownership of energy resources and opportunities
- Initiatives attuned to human welfare and development rather than assetisation and profit
- Diverse forms of preparedness and adaptive capacities that are frequently overlooked or undervalued amidst uneven vulnerabilities
- Contestations and interventions amidst state- and capital-led transitions
- Experimental methods and approaches
- Sharing lessons and insights across the Tasman
- The role of universities and higher education in skilling future generations to facilitate generative change

**Key Words:** energy transitions, justice, community agency, decarbonisation

#### 45. Energy Frontiers and Justice: Rethinking Transitions in the Pacific

**Session Convenor/s:** MING-JEN WU, Institute of Ethnology, Academia Sinica

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While global carbon mitigation regimes position energy transition as a cornerstone of net-zero strategies, this shift is far from a mere technological substitution or on “inevitability” path toward a sustainable future (Curley 2023). Instead, energy transition is a deeply historical and contested process unfolding across diverse scales of lived experience. In the Pacific, Indigenous peoples have frequently faced the loss of land and sovereignty, navigating the risks and ambivalences brought by expansive renewable energy frontiers. However, loss is often entangled with the emergence of alternatives. Aligning with the theme of “Hopeful Spaces,” this panel employs “hope as method” (Miyazaki 2004) to examine how energy landscapes are negotiated through imagination, legal frameworks, and material practices. We invite empirical contributions that explore how justice is reframed on the ground through the lived experiences of renewable energy development or fossil fuel phase-outs in the Pacific. Potential topics may include (without being limited to): Decolonial methodologies and energy research; Indigenous epistemologies and energy practices; The entanglement of loss, hope, and justice in transition; Legal frameworks and the semiotics of energy negotiation.

**Key Words:** energy transition, justice, future, hope, energy frontier

#### 46. Making and Unmaking Extraction: Practices, Discourses, and Hope in Aotearoa, Australia, and the Pacific

**Session Convenor/s:** Glenn Banks, Massey University

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This session invites papers examining mining and extractive industries in contemporary Aotearoa New Zealand, Australia, and the southwest Pacific. Across the region, mining, oil and gas are being reconfigured by geopolitical competition, energy transition agendas, and evolving regulatory frameworks, alongside the active production of narratives and imaginaries through which extraction is rendered necessary or inevitable. From debates over deep sea mining in the Pacific to intensified interest in “critical minerals” linked to strategic geopolitics, extractive industries are increasingly entangled with questions of security, sovereignty, and development, and resources discursively re-constituted through policy, expertise, and speculative futures. At the same time, extraction remains grounded in place based conflict and community negotiation, involving Indigenous authority, environmental governance, labour, and consent. Recent regulatory reforms in Aotearoa, alongside shifting policy landscapes in Australia and Pacific Island states, raise questions of whose interests are prioritised, how risks are distributed, and how extractive futures are imagined, authorised, or contested. The session also explores how hope can be mobilised, foreclosed, or re-worked through extractive projects—whether via development and energy transition promises, more than human relationalities, community resistance, or alternative post extractive imaginaries. The session welcomes empirical and theoretical contributions that critically engage mining, oil and gas, the discursive and material practices of extraction, and the contested geographies of power, community, policy, and conflict across the region.

**Key Words:** Mining, Oil & Gas, Community, Policy, Geopolitics

#### 47. Visceralities of Waste: Embodied Knowledge, Affects, Practice Memory, and Culture

**Session Convenor/s:** Dr Nooshin Torabi, Dr Bhavna Middha, Dr Kajsa Lundberg, Professor Ralph Horne, Centre for Urban Research, School of Global, Urban and Social Studies, RMIT University

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This interactive session explores urban waste not simply as a matter of individual choice or rational decision-making, but as a practice shaped by embodied knowledge, affect, sensory cues, habit, and culture. Combining a short spark activity, panel discussion, and participant exchange, the session invites attendees to reflect on their own recent experiences of waste disposal and consider how they knew something had become “waste.” In doing so, it surfaces the often-tacit forms of knowing that underpin everyday waste practices. The session then brings together complementary perspectives: embodied and sensory knowing, practice memory and routine, and the cultural norms that shape ideas of freshness, risk, value, and a “good life.” Rather than formal paper presentations, speakers will offer focused provocations grounded in research and practice, followed by discussion with participants. This is an open invitation to researchers and practitioners in the field. A collaborative group discussion will examine the methodological challenges of researching waste, including privacy, shame, and other affective dimensions, and consider creative approaches for capturing tacit

knowledge, routines, and cultural assumptions. The session closes by asking what waste research and governance might look like if embodied knowledge, affect, and practice memory were taken seriously

**Key Words:** knowledge, practice memory, affect, waste practices, cultural norms

#### 48. Transforming Waste, Regaining Agency: Moving up the Waste Hierarchy

**Session Convenor/s:** Lila Laird, Massey University; Gradon Diprose, New Zealand Institute for Bioeconomy Science Limited; Stephen Healy, Western Sydney University; Abby Mellick, Lopes University of Technology Sydney; CERN

**Corresponding email for session convenors:** [L.Laird@massey.ac.nz](mailto:L.Laird@massey.ac.nz)

This session invites presenters to explore the possibilities found in individuals and collectives working to shift up the waste hierarchy. As waste production continues to increase and product quality declines, there is a pressing need to confront waste. Conventional forms of waste management, such as recycling and disposal, often take precedence over acts to reduce, reuse and repair. But what happens when people actively work towards circular economies? What hope can we see in the everyday efforts to reduce, reuse and repair by individuals, collectives, businesses, councils and iwi? We invite papers that turn our attention to the everyday practices of reusing, repairing and sharing that have the potential to meet people's material needs, redistribute resources and reduce waste. This paper session calls for presenters to consider examples of creativity, initiative, agency, and possibility that we can draw on for a waste-less, more circular future. At the same time, we aim to open space to explore constraints to these possibilities such as the undervaluing of circular labour and limits to accessing space and funding, and to discuss and strategize around this together.

**Key Words:** Circular economies, waste, agency

#### 49. The Manawatū Swaparoo: Working to Close the Loop

**Session Convenor/s:** Lila Laird, Massey University; Gradon Diprose, New Zealand Institute for Bioeconomy Science Limited; Stephen Healy, Western Sydney University; Abby Mellick, Lopes University of Technology Sydney

**Specialty Group:**

**Corresponding email for session convenors:** [L.Laird@massey.ac.nz](mailto:L.Laird@massey.ac.nz)

Interactive session: We invite conference attendees to join us in a clothing swap to help to close the loop on textile waste. We invite attendees to bring items of clothing they no longer use or need, say goodbye to their item through writing on a swing tag, and choose a new-to-them item to take home. In this session we use swing tags to capture reflections about the past and future of the lives of the clothing items brought to the swap. Those who are giving an item away are asked to reflect on the origins of the item in their lives, express their attachment to the item (practical, emotional) and their hopes in giving the item away (gratitude, responsible consumption, meeting someone else's needs). When taking an item from the swap, attendees are

asked to write on the other side of the swing tag attached to that item to reflect on why they have chosen to take that item. This interactive session allows conference attendees to engage in a practice of reuse that moves away from discarding textiles to landfill and can aid in meeting their own and others' material needs through the circulation of clothing. Items that are not taken during the swap will be donated responsibly.

**Key Words:** Circular economies, reuse, agency

**Clothing Swap Abstracts not required**

## 50. Exploring Lived Experience Of Climate Change

**Session Convenor/s:** Sophie Adams, Lauren Rickards, Lisa de Kleyn, La Trobe University

**Specialty Group:** Nature Risk Resilience

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The idea of 'lived experience' is increasingly ubiquitous in policy and activism, promising political representation and epistemic justice for those whose experience is foregrounded, and offering insights and legitimacy for those working with them. In academia too, interest in lived experience has exploded recently, including in research on climate change. Yet, neither lived experience nor climate change are simple and their relationship demands careful attention. In this session we explore what the concept of lived experience affords our research on climate change from various angles:

- Empirical: What does it illuminate about the differential ways that people experience climate change as both immediate and latent? What does it reveal about the dynamic, subjective, and shared character of climate change, or our responses to it?
- Conceptual: What does 'lived experience' mean in the context of climate change, and what does climate change mean in the context of 'lived experience'? How might the concept – and its Western Enlightenment assumption of a conscious, individual subject – be challenged by more-than-human, Indigenous and other ontologies?
- Methodological: How can we research lived experience of climate change, including where people do not accept or perceive it? How can we respond to the ethical and epistemological challenges of accessing and representing the lived experience of others? How can or should we incorporate our own lived experience of climate change?

**Key Words:** climate change, lived experience

## 51. Centering Agency, Transformation and Collective Action in Critical Geographies of the Climate Crisis

**Session Convenor/s:** Anna Sturman & Natasha Heenan, The University of Sydney; Madeleine Moore, University of New South Wales; Matthew Ryan University of Technology Sydney

**Specialty Group:** Economic geography

**Corresponding email for session convenors:** [anna.sturman@sydney.edu.au](mailto:anna.sturman@sydney.edu.au)

The climate crisis has arrived, and we are set to plunge deeper into “overshoot”. Within political economic geography research, there is a developing sense of “what is to be done” – yet analysis often remains vague about who the actual actors and agencies are that have the power to shape the content and carriage of climate policies. Oriented toward this gap, this panel session is dedicated to drawing out the different agencies and labours mobilised through the climate crisis, and the spaces of contestation emerging around climate change, work and social reproduction. We welcome papers with a unifying focus on climate, labour and crisis, which attend to the agents and agencies mobilised through socio-ecological crisis. Provocations include: how do we understand the nature and forms of crisis and response in this conjuncture? Who are the agents capable of acting to transform the conditions of the climate crisis? Where and how are these agencies emerging, connecting, diverging and mutating? Are there lessons from past struggles that are useful as we navigate this conjuncture? How are such agencies navigating and contesting the capitalist state today? How do these emerging dynamics appear at different scales across the Pacific regional context, and integrate into shifting global processes?

**Key Words:** climate, labour, crisis, conjuncture, transformation

## 52. The Heat Is On: A Climate Adaptation Tabletop Role-playing Game

**Session Convenor/s:** Chloe Lucas, University of Tasmania School of Geography, Planning, and Spatial Sciences

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“The Heat Is On” is an immersive, research-informed role-playing game that invites participants to step into a plausible 2050 climate future and explore what it means to create hopeful, resilient places under pressure. Co-designed with climate scientists and young people, the game positions players as local decision-makers responding to escalating extreme weather, uncertain futures, and competing community priorities. This interactive session invites conference participants to play The Heat Is On themselves. Working in small groups as town councils on the fictional island of Adaptania, participants will navigate unfolding climate scenarios, negotiate priorities, and make both anticipatory and reactive choices about how their imagined communities adapt, care for place, and sustain wellbeing in a hotter future. The experience foregrounds uncertainty, socio-ecological values, and collaboration, encouraging participants to learn about existing adaptive practices and to think about how the lessons of the future could be applied today. Following gameplay, the session opens into a facilitated discussion about how playful, participatory futures can subvert a ‘discourse of doom’, and enable richer conversations about adaptation, agency, and place-based resilience. The Heat Is On is an initiative of Curious Climate Schools, led by Dr Chloe Lucas and Dr Kim Beasy at the University of Tasmania.

**Key Words:** climate adaptation, deliberative play, climate citizenship, serious games

**Role-Playing Game Abstract not required**

### 53. Hope through a Community Economies Lens

**Session Convenor/s:** Jenny Cameron, Bhavya Chitranshi, Katherine Gibson, Nikolai Siimes, Community Economies Research Network Aotearoa and Australia

**Specialty Group:** Community Economies Institute and Community Economies Research Network

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Community Economies research and practice, with its commitment to starting in the here and now as the basis for building better worlds, is underpinned by an ethos of hope. Enacting this ethos involves an ongoing practice of wrangling with all that the world throws up to frustrate the achievement of possibilities. In this session, we invite community economies researchers to reflect on the role that an ethos of hope plays in their practice, including in how the research is framed, the choice of methodological tools, the voices of participants (human and more-than-human), the representation of research findings and the performative effects of practicing an ethos of hope.

**Key Words:** Hope, Community Economies, Diverse Economies, Possibility

### 54. Transitioning to Care Economies

**Session Convenor/s:** Swarnima Kriti and Kelly Dombroski, Massey University

**Specialty Group:** Community Economies Research Network

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There is growing recognition that economic system change is necessary to respond to climate crisis, inequality, homelessness, child poverty, and ecological decline. Around the world, communities, scholars, and governments are seeking pathways toward economies that prioritise wellbeing over endless growth. This session explores how we can move beyond individualistic economic models toward more collective and caring economies. Rather than focusing on what is broken, the session turns attention to the practices, institutions, and values already emerging through community-led transformation. The session invites research around community economies, diverse economies, urban commons, farming, composting, co-housing, and indigenous and community-based projects. Participants are invited to reflect on practical and imaginative pathways towards more just, relational, and sustainable futures.

**Key Words:** Care Economies, Diverse Economies, Community Economy, Wellbeing, Sustainability, Community Transformation, Commons

### 55. Diverse Economies and Colonial-Capitalist Political Economies

**Session Convenor/s:** Jack Barrett, Community Economies Research Network (CERN)

**Specialty Group:** Community Economies Research Network (CERN)

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Australasia has a rich body of diverse and community economies scholarship that cultivates empowering economies across an equally diverse range of empirical contexts, drawing attention to 'already existing' hopeful spaces. At the same time, diverse economies scholars are facing increasing calls to address 'stronger' forms of power within their research, with particular attention directed toward political economic arrangements that impact marginalised groups, such as racial capitalism, colonial-capitalism, and state power. A contemporary challenge for diverse economies scholars, therefore, is to maintain the tenet of cultivating diverse, empowering forms of economy, while engaging with complex power arrangements in a way that does not reduce community and diverse economies to outcomes of structural power. Picking up on this challenge, while acknowledging that scholars from Australasia are already engaging with such complexity, this session invites papers to explore diverse/community economies, and their placings within wider political economies. Papers are encouraged to explore the connections between diverse and community economies, and the political economic dimensions of Australasia such as colonial-capitalism and settler-colonisation. Papers at all stages of development are welcome, with the intention of creating a collegial and developmental space to uncover new strategies for nurturing diverse economies within Australasia's wider political economies. Australasia has a rich body of diverse and community economies scholarship that both highlights and cultivates hopeful spaces across a range of empirical contexts. Spanning 'economic openings' in post-industrial rural landscapes, alternative food networks, Indigenous enterprise on customary land in the Pacific, various forms of Indigenous social enterprise, finance, entrepreneurship and economy, to name but a few, diverse economies continues to uncover a range of 'already existing' hopeful spaces.

**Key Words:** Diverse economies, political economy, colonial-capitalism, settler-colonisation, power

## 56. Legal Geographies of Hope and Praxis

**Session Convenor/s:** John Carr, Brad Jessup University of New South Wales, University of Melbourne

**Specialty Group:** Legal Geography

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In keeping with the theme for this year's Joint NZGS/IAG Conference, this session seeks to bring together work from across Legal Geography and related disciplines that seeks to enable restorative change and justice, recognizing the essential role of hope in all such projects. While critique is an essential foundation for contemporary legal geography scholarship, the urgent challenges of the present call for work that operationalizes critique while evoking the hope that lies at the heart of the demand for more just, fair and thriving planetary futures. Accordingly, we invite contributions from a wide range of theoretical and methodological approaches that are based in, or seek to elicit hope, as well as projects that draw on geographies of creativity, regeneration, and possibility in seeking to make positive change in the world.

**Key Words:** Legal geography, praxis, just futures, law

## 57. Legal Geographies and the Lived Experience

**Session Convenor/s:** John Carr, Brad Jessup University of New South Wales, University of Melbourne

**Specialty Group:** Legal Geography

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Legal geography is more than an academic discipline. It is a field of scholarship rich with stories about places and the human and more-than-human condition. It employs methodologies that seek to understand the world through people's experiences of and relationships with the law. In this session, we highlight Antipodean legal geographies of hope—scholarship that integrates the lived experience of law and geography in ways that celebrate the empirical potential of legal geography.

**Key Words:** Legal geography

## 58. Regenerative Geographies: The Stability and Fragility of Hope

**Session Convenor/s:** Dr. Ananya Bhuyan, Nishtha Tewari, University of Melbourne

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Regeneration is frequently articulated through the language of futurity – the promise that places, communities, and social worlds can be renewed, repaired, or made possible (García, 2004; Newman, 2022). But while it may generate forms of hope and anticipation, it is also inseparable from experiences of loss and grief, including the erosion of existing ways of life, displacement, and uneven distribution of benefits. This panel critically engages with these imaginaries by examining regeneration as an uneven, relational, and affectively charged process. At what temporal scales might we think of regeneration, from immediate interventions to protracted transformations? How does it help us reframe loss? Does it enable movement towards hope and the creation of hopeful spaces, even when the present might appear bleak? We welcome papers that examine regeneration across diverse social worlds, geographical contexts, and generations. We are interested in how regeneration is imagined, enacted, and contested in practice; through bodies, environments, infrastructures; through practices of care and labour; through belonging, health, and precarity; and through broader social, political, and ecological conditions. Rather than conceptualising regeneration as an enduring outcome, we approach it as fragile and provisional – an ongoing process in which hope and loss are simultaneously entangled.

**Key Words:** regeneration, hope, loss, fragility, scale

## 59. Reclaiming Authority from the Consultocracy

**Session Convenor/s:** Nicolas Lewis, University of Auckland

**Specialty Group:** Economic Study Group

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This session will examine the role of consultants in shaping the policy process through the production and authorisation of economic knowledge. Papers will investigate the work of the Big Four management consultants in New Zealand. They will ask how the 'thought leadership' activities of consultancies shape policy discourse and the atmospheres of the policy making processes. The consultants manufacture and exercise authority in governmental boundary spaces where state, private and iwi corporate interests overlap. They use their uncommissioned report writing, webinars, and public commentary to promote themselves and to create demand for their services, but this work also intermediates between actors and economic knowledge, concentrates, sharpens and authorises certain positions, and anticipates, speculates, imagines and seeks to prefigure futures while precluding others. In this session papers will ask what to make of that work. It will pose questions about futures made possible and foreclosed and whether rebuilding capability within the state offers opportunities to disrupt the influence wielded by consultants. Does the futuring work of consultants amount to spaces of hope?

**Key Words:** Management consultants; economic geography; futuring; knowledge

## 60. 'Hopian Geographies' of Migrant and Former Refugee Resettlement

**Session Convenor/s:** Marcela Palomino-Schalscha, Valentine Ibeka; School of Geography, Environment and Earth Sciences, Te Herenga Waka VUW

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The etymology of 'hope' lies in the late old English word 'hopa' meaning 'to have confidence or trust in the future', with some of its antonyms being despair, desperation, distrust and fear. In the context of the largest flows of people in human history, particularly forced migration, this session invites contributions which explore the 'hopian geographies' of migrant and former refugees in Australasia. When migrants and former refugees arrive in their new places of residence, they have wishful desires for their new lives. Commonly They have left conditions such as economic insecurity, negative impacts of climate change, persecution and/or war. They look forward to experiencing more expansive futures including: meaningful employment, greater ontological security, belonging and freedom. Yet, overtime their 'hopa' may wane or fluctuate as they maintain distant relationships with loved ones (places and people) at risk, and/or as they interact with spaces, institutions, rhythms and people who 'other', discriminate or hate. This session calls for papers and creative communications (including performances (poetry, song, dance...) and/or visual presentations (videos, exhibitions...) that centre the agency and lived experiences of migrants and refugees. Contributions that explore the emotional, spatial and temporal negotiations of resettlement and engage with the complex, intersections of hope and its antonyms are welcomed.

**Key Words:** migrants, refugees, resettlement, trust, futures

## 61. Exploring Place-Based GIS: When Place Becomes More than Space!

**Session Convenor/s:** Diane Pearson, Massey University

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Goodchild (2011) describes place as a human created space shaped through regular use, where communities and neighbourhoods emerge. It reflects the emotional and personal bonds people form with particular settings, influencing how they interpret and find meaning in the world. Sense of place captures these feelings and attachments, contributing to both individual and collective identity. Tuan's (1979) definition of place as "space infused with human meaning" reinforces the need for a human centred understanding rather than treating place as a simple geographic location. Place has long been fundamental to geography, yet it remains difficult to represent within GIS because it involves subjective, emotional, and experiential dimensions that resist straightforward visualisation. In response, place based GIS has emerged as a field focused on interpreting and formalising the meaning of place so it can be incorporated into spatial systems. Central to this work is capturing individual perceptions and translating them into forms that GIS can meaningfully handle. Despite progress in GIScience, significant challenges remain. Further research is needed to better represent sense of place and the subjective nature of this human construct. This session will examine the human construct of place and explore methods for addressing the challenges of representing place within GIS environments.

**Key Words:** place-based GIS. sense of place theory

## 62. Children and Young People in Hopeful Spaces

**Session Convenor/s:** Dr Cat Volpe Johnston, UNE; A/Prof Harriot Beazley, USC

**Specialty Group:** Geographies of Children and Young People

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This session explores how children and young people experience, imagine, and actively produce hopeful spaces across diverse social, cultural, and environmental contexts. In a time often framed through uncertainty, risk, and crisis, the session is focused on children and young people's creativity, agency, and participation in shaping more just, liveable and hopeful futures. It also invites contributions that engage familiar concerns in children's and young people's geographies, such as inequality, precarity, exclusion, and environmental change, through a hopeful lens attentive to possibility, resistance, care, and transformation. By bringing together diverse perspectives, this session aims to highlight the role of children and young people not only as subjects of hope but as active contributors to the making of hopeful spaces. Possible topics for presentations may include (but not limited to): children's and young people's spatial practices of hope, agency and political possibility; geographies of care, belonging and interdependence; youth

activisms, climate justice and collective futures; education and the politics of hopeful futures; digital geographies, online worlds, digital storytelling and technological futures; creative and participatory methodologies; Indigenous, decolonial, feminist and more-than-human approaches; migration, mobility and contested futures; geographies of play, public space and everyday world-making; and critical reflections on hope as a conceptual, political and methodological concern in research with children and young people.

**Key Words:** children; young people; hopeful spaces

### 63. Promoting Geography through Social Media: A Practical Guide from a Millennial

**Session Convenor/s:** Cadey Korson, NZGS Communications Officer

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Want to understand the world & shape the future? Choose geography! What do we want the public to know about geography and geographic research? How can we sustainably promote our discipline to potential majors? Drawing on experiences from managing the Aotearoa New Zealand-based social media campaign, @ChooseGeographyNZ, this workshop outlines the basics of branding, lessons learned from collaborating with a marketing firm and using Canva (and a few other tools) to facilitate a social media campaign. Promotional work and outreach often fall under the umbrella of 'service', which is not always directly beneficial to career advancement. In the workshop, we will also discuss how promotional work can be sustained in time-poor working environments. If you want to learn how to create posts or visuals in Canva, advertise your courses, program or research on social media, or manage a campaign, this workshop is for you! Bring your laptop or tablet for the best experience.

**Key Words:** Outreach, Geography Education, Social Media, ChooseGeographyNZ, Practical Tools

**Workshop Abstracts not required**

### 64. Meet the Editor: Three Book Series for Australasian Geographers

**Session Convenor/s:** Iain Hay, Royal Geographical Society of South Australia/ Flinders University

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Navigating the contemporary publishing landscape requires more than just rigorous research; it demands strategic insight into book Series that contribute to global and regional discourse. This session offers a unique opportunity to engage directly with the editor overseeing three distinct book series central to the interests of geographers in Aotearoa/New Zealand and Australia. The session will spotlight:

\* The IGU [International Geographical Union] Series on Contemporary Geographies (Edward Elgar): A platform for cutting-edge international research addressing the world's most pressing geographical and environmental challenges.

\* The RGSSA [Royal Geographical Society of South Australia]/Anthem Series, Antipodean Perspectives on Human Geography: A vital outlet featuring short volumes intended for voices and scholarship rooted in the unique socio-spatial contexts of Australasia.

\* The Edward Elgar Series, How to be an Academic Superhero: An international series intended to help navigating the professional and personal complexities of modern academia.

Intended for early-career researchers and established scholars alike, this session provides an overview of the aims and ambitions of these diverse series. Bring your questions and your project ideas for an informal and informative dialogue.

**Key Words:** Academic Publishing, Australasian Geography, Scholarly Communication, Professional Development

**Closed panel and workshop**

## 65. New and Emerging Research in Cultural Geography

**Session Convenor/s:** Melina Ey, University of Newcastle; Elizabeth Straughan, University of Melbourne and Tara Jeyasingh, University of New South Wales

**Specialty Group:** IAG Cultural Geography Study Group

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This session showcases new and emerging research in Cultural Geography that engages with the conference theme of Hopeful Spaces. Cultural geography comprises a wide-ranging group of geographical sub-disciplines that engages with the arts, humanities, natural and social sciences. Cultural domains of geographical research continue to grow in breadth and depth, with expanding theoretical formulations, methodological approaches and fields of interest. This year's conference theme 'Hopeful Spaces' will also resonate with many of the creative, collaborative, and emergent research interests of cultural geographers, and this session provides an opportunity to highlight and showcase the disciplinary contributions of cultural geography. Standard papers and/or creative or alternative formats are welcomed. We also warmly invite papers from researchers at all levels – including postgraduates, early career researchers, and research leaders.

**Key Words:** Cultural Geography

## 66. Machinic Geographies: Technology, Affect, and the Future of Hope

**Session Convenor/s:** Tom Roberts, University of New South Wales-Canberra and Andrew Lapworth, University of New South Wales-Canberra

**Specialty Group:** IAG Cultural Geography Study Group

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Recent proliferations of artificial intelligence (AI), algorithmic mediation, and automated decision-making technologies are reshaping the materiality of our lives at breakneck speeds. From AI-assisted memory practices and synthetic photography to platformed labour, therapeutic chatbots, and algorithmic forms of governance, these technologies are reframing human experience through their impact on embodiment, affect, politics, creativity, work, and the environment. These machinic mutations of culture and society breathe new life into long-standing geographical debates relating to agency, materiality, care, representation, and the production of space itself in a more-than-human world.

In this session we invite contributions exploring "machinic geographies", broadly conceived. We welcome work engaging with emerging digital technologies ranging from AI and automation to algorithms, platforms, infrastructures, devices, and interfaces. In keeping with the conference theme of hopeful spaces, we are particularly interested contributions that explore how socio-technical systems are reshaping the conditions under which hope, care, imagination, and collective futures become possible. How might these machinic geographies simultaneously constrain and enable new forms of relation, memory, creativity, and political life? What kinds of hopeful (or contested) futures are emerging through contemporary human-machine entanglements? And how are affective life, perception, and subjectivity being transformed through increasingly pervasive digital technologies?

Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

- AI's impact on collective memory.
- New forms of machinic imagination, image-making, and aesthetics.
- Intimacy, friendship, therapy and care in the age of LLMs.
- Automating welfare and the risk of algorithmic harm.
- Theorising (and resisting) techno-authoritarianism(s).
- Critical, feminist, decolonial and Indigenous approaches to technology.
- Experimenting with machinic research methods.

**Key Words:** Cultural Geography

