

13th Annual Critical Geographies Mini-Conference

CGM-C 18'



Calgary-September 28 to 30, 2018

Supported by:



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UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY





The Office of Sustainability, University of Calgary, has certified the 2018 Critical Geographies Mini-Conference as a Gold-Standard Sustainable Event. Our conference has been organized responsibly, with a 'waste awareness' attitude, so our event has minimal impact on the environment and campus community.

Keynote Speaker

'Crisis: A Story in Three Parts'

Dr. Tiffany Muller Myrdahl

"This talk is a reflection on crisis and its relationship to human-nature at this historical moment. It is an invitation to understand the work that crisis does from two linked entry points. First, I explore some of the myriad ways we – and the worlds we inhabit – are shaped by crisis: I suggest that this is more than relational but instead is a dynamic interaction that requires us to rethink the boundaries of crisis and its embodied effects. Second, I consider the costs we bear as we embody and resist the mandates of crisis. Both felt and unseen, and incurred in and beyond recognizable time frames, these costs are inextricable from the shapes that result from (with) crisis. Yet, this is a story that continues to be written and it requires our participation. Part three, then, focuses on the necessary interventions that facilitate a different set of shapes and a different accounting of crisis and its effects. Drawing from an interdisciplinary set of literatures and an evolving feminist pedagogical praxis, this talk invites an active engagement with crisis, to rethink its terms and reshape its outcomes."



Dr. Muller Myrdahl's research examines urban inequalities and inclusion strategies, especially those targeting women and sexual minorities. Her work has appeared in Gender, Place and Culture, ACME: An International E-Journal for Critical Geographies, The Routledge Research Companion to Geographies of Sex and Sexualities, and Toward Equity and Inclusion in Canadian Cities. She serves on the board of Women in Cities International, a Montreal-based NGO focused on enabling all women and girls to lead in the creation of safe, inclusive, and equitable cities and communities.

CGM-C Organizing Committee, 18'

Dr. Ryan Burns, Ricardo Barbosa Jr. (MA Student), Liv Waldorf (M.Sc. Student), Danilo Borja (PhD Student), Ray Yeung (PhD Candidate), Dare Adeyemi (MA Student), Kristy Myles (MA Student), Suzanne Chew (MA Student), Aida Nciri (PhD Candidate), Dr. Victoria Lukasik

Schedule

Pre-Conference | Friday Afternoon, September 28th | 1:00pm to 4:30pm

Crowsnest Hall, Multipurpose Room

U of C Main Campus

1:00 - 1:30	Welcoming Remarks & Lunch
1:30 - 2:30	1st Panel Discussion
2:30 - 2:45	Break
2:45 - 3:15	Human Bingo
3:15 - 3:30	Break
3:30 - 4:30	2nd Panel Discussion

Panel Members & Questions	
<i>Panel 1</i> 1:30 - 2:30	<i>Panel 2</i> 3:30 - 4:30
How can you be a critical scholar and thrive in neoliberal academia?'	How can we challenge institutional injustices and the contradictions of neoliberal academia, while still being a part of it?'
1. How do you see research furthering your political engagement?	1. What are the contradictions of mobilizing within neoliberal academia?
2. How can researchers be more oriented towards addressing 'crisis'	2. How can we promote radical pedagogy and other emancipatory ways of learning?
3. How can we conciliate political and academic engagements?	
Marit Rosol Associate Professor (Geography)	Eliot Tretter Assistant Professor (Urban Studies / Geography)
Pablo Policzer LARC Director & Associate Professor (Political Science)	Gwendolyn Blue Associate Professor (Geography)
Alex Howard Engagement Coordinator with the Office of Sustainability	Victoria Fast Assistant Professor (Geography)
	Aida Nciri PhD Candidate, Urban Studies

Conference | Friday Evening, September 28th | 6:00 pm to 8:15 pm

Community Wise Resource Centre
223 12 Ave SW, Downtown Calgary

6:00 - 6:40	Welcome to the conference
6:40 - 7:00	Blessing ceremony
7:00 - 8:15	Keynote delivered by Dr. Tiffany Muller-Myrdahl
8:15 – 8:45	Questions

Optional: drinks at Hop & Brew Pub | 213 12 Ave SW |

Conference | Saturday, September 29th | 8:00 am to 5:30 pm

U of C Downtown Campus
906 8 Ave SW, Downtown Calgary

Conference Saturday, September 29 <i>U of C Downtown Campus</i>		
Breakfast & Welcoming Remarks 8:00 - 8:45		
<u>Panel Discussion 8:45 - 10:15</u>		
Byron Miller (Professor) Susan Cahill (Assist. Professor) Marit Rosol (Assoc. Professor), Jeremy Torio (Doctoral Student)		
Break 10:15 - 10:30		
Presentation Session 1 <i>Crisis and Ecology</i>		
10:30 - 10:45	Water Insecurity, Gender, and Mental Health in a subarctic Indigenous Community	Maura Hanrahan
10:45 - 11:00	Whose caribou are these? Spatial marginalization through participatory democracy	Chui-Ling Tam
11:00 - 11:15	Gentrification as Disaster: Recovery Justice in Post-Katrina New Orleans	Jeremy Stone
11:15 - 11:30	Transformation a personal engagement	Nicole Schafenacker
11:30 - 11:45	A Socio-Historical Case Study of Political Discourse in park Land Management Decision Making in Edmonton, AB	Robert Priebe
11:45 - 12:00	<i>Questions</i>	
Lunch 12:00 - 1:00		

Presentation Session 2 <i>Crisis in the Global North</i>		
1:00 - 1:15	Understanding the 'crisis of trust' – threat perceptions at the EU's internal and external borders	Katharina Koch
1:15 - 1:30	Experiments in Space: Crisis, care and control in the north of Paris 2016-2018	Melora Koepke
1:30 - 1:45	<i>Questions</i>	
1:45 - 2:00	Why the Socially Mixed Do Not Mingle: An Ethnographic Account of Social-Interactional Mechanisms in a Dutch Neighbourhood	Erik Meij
2:00 - 2:15	A Space of their Own? A feminist exploration of gendered spatial relations in Professional Women's Organizations in Alberta's	Alicia Bjarnason
2:15 - 2:30	<i>Questions</i>	
Break 2:30 - 2:45		
Presentation Session 3 <i>Crisis in the Global South</i>		
2:45 - 3:00	Il n'y a pas de marché: Rescaling National Political Crisis to a Rural Togolese Marketplace	Jacqueline Daigneault
3:00 - 3:15	Water Crisis and Hydrosocial Relations in the Indus Basin	Abdul Aijaz
3:15 - 3:30	<i>Questions</i>	
3:30 - 3:45	Current crisis in the Maya territory of the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico	Veronica Briseno Castrejon
3:45 - 4:00	Blockades in Bolivia: the contentious spatial dynamics of rupturing mobility to reclaim territorial sovereignty	Ricardo Barbosa Jr.
4:00 - 4:15	<i>Questions</i>	
Break 4:15 - 4:30		
Presentation Session 4 <i>Crisis, Capital, and State</i>		
4:30 - 4:45	Geography, and the Historical Imagination	Dave Rossiter
4:45 - 5:00	The formality model	Natalia Perez
5:00 - 5:15	Turn your brand into a destination": toponymic commodification and the branding of place in Dubai and Winnipeg	Eliot Tretter
5:15 - 5:30	The prose of passive revolution: Anti-communism and the developmental state in decolonizing Singapore	Chris Meulbroek
5:30 - 5:45	<i>Questions</i>	

Optional: drinks at Last Best Distillery | 607 11 Ave SW|

Post-Conference | Sunday September 30th | 11:00 am to 12:00 pm



The Urban Research Network has generously provided their services for a downtown walking tour of 'Calgary's Vacancy Crisis'. This tour will be guided by Susann Lagore (TURN President and PhD Candidate, EVDS) and Hannah Allawi (TURN Vice President and PhD Candidate, EVDS). This activity is directed towards an interdisciplinary, interactive, and educational experience for the conference attendees.

We will be meeting at 11:00 am just outside of the Waves coffee shop in front of the University of Calgary's downtown campus | 731 8th St SW

Hop & Brew: Our post-Friday conference drinks will be held at one of the oldest bars in Calgary (built by a cowboy in 1911!). This bar specializes in tap bars and is known for being one of the few bars in Calgary that doesn't have a television to distract us from our stimulating conversations. Fun fact: Hop & Brew was a meeting place back in the day for the Jacobins reading group.

Last Best Distillery: Following presentations and discussions on Saturday, we will be heading to our own private section of the distillery, which offers a community-focused atmosphere complementing our conference goals. Last Best is a key supporter of the local economy and a partner with YYC Growers and Distributors. They are generously providing us with \$5 beers all night, with all appetizers less than \$20.

Session 1

Crisis & Ecology

10:30 – 10:45

'Water Insecurity, Gender, and Mental Health in a Subarctic Indigenous Community'

Maura Hanrahan | U of L

Indigenous communities in Canada suffer disproportionately from compromised water insecurity, with multiple negative implications for physical health and community development. Working with others, I conducted long-term qualitative and quantitative research in a remote water-insecure Inuit community in Labrador. Over time, water security emerged as a gendered phenomenon and as a mental health issue. The physical and mental health of Inuit women are undermined by water insecurity; water is a source of multiple stresses that demand resilience. Given a developing remittance economy, gender was identified as an increasingly significant determinant of water insecurity. Having to retrieve water themselves, Inuit women experience altered gender norms and a persistent values conflict in addition to physical strain. Water acquisition is an added responsibility, impacting their labour load. Alternatively, in relying on available men to retrieve water, women feel guilt and anxiety and they worry about men fetching water in dangerous weather conditions and in the vicinity of unpredictable wildlife. Water insecurity interrupts Inuit relationships with the land, so crucial to Inuit identity and Inuit emotional geographies. Inuit experiences make clear the urgency for a materialist response to water insecurity in the Indigenous subarctic.

10:45 – 11:00

'Whose caribou are these? Spatial marginalization through participatory democracy'

Chui-Ling Tam | U of C

Deliberative participation is an ideal by which the public can influence environmental decision-making. Much scholarly and policy attention has focused on how democratic participatory processes can rectify power relations and legitimation crisis. Procedural remedies include identification and invitation of key stakeholders, acknowledgement of indigenous knowledge and ancestral territories, strict rules of turn-taking, and technology to communicate information. However, participation space itself warrants attention, not only as meeting point but as active shaper of communication, negotiation and citizenship. This paper interrogates the spaces of participation through a study of public hearings held by the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board in June 2016 to discuss a proposed total allowable harvest of caribou in the Kitikmeot region of western Nunavut, Canada. In situ observation of the hearings coupled with a content analysis of hearing transcripts and interviews with attendees suggest that decisions on participation space affect access materially because of who can be there in place to participate, and socially because of the place characteristics of participation. Participants can also be constrained by being out of place, cleaved from the affective support of their communities. The hearings shed light on normative and heretical geographies that constrain and alienate communities most affected by environmental decisions. At the Nunavut caribou hearings, spatial marginalization emerged as a dark side to participatory democracy.

11:00 – 11:15

‘Gentrification as Disaster: Recovery Justice in Post-Katrina New Orleans’

Jeremy Stone | SFU

Gentrification and natural disasters share a great deal in common: the displacement of communities, breakdown in social capital networks, the loss of core livelihood services, and various forms of trauma. However, as community development practitioners we treat the two very differently. Disasters receive national attention and considerable investment, while gentrification is oftentimes accepted as an unavoidable market process. This research reflects on the relationships between gentrification and disaster, seeing gentrification as both a disaster itself and as the product of other hazards. Using a participatory action approach, the researcher and partner organizations in the Central City neighborhood of New Orleans, Louisiana have interviewed 80 local residents, gentrifiers, and non-profit/municipal leaders to understand how gentrification is unfolding in the neighborhood. We have also produced a video of interviews with local residents, and used that to encourage voting for anti-displacement candidates in the municipal election. Our core argument from this work is that gentrification is a recovery justice issue that stems from poor planning following disasters like Hurricane Katrina. Housing and economic rebuilding must be based on an intentional approach ensuring equity of outcomes rather than a scattershot assemblage of unrelated strategies that are equally applied across the population. More deeply, this work questions the very nature of how we identify, categorize, and respond to crises. The very definitional structures we use, and the systems we utilize for response and recovery based on those definitions, create and exacerbate cascading hazards that maintain cycles of inequality, disempowerment, and poverty.

11:15 – 11:30

‘Transformation as a Personal Engagement’

Nicole Schafenacker | UNBC | Via Skype

In *Climate Change and Social Transformations*: is it time for a quantum leap? Karen O’Brien references Andreas Weber’s “Enlivenment paradigm, or a cultural worldview that emphasizes the importance of ‘lived experience, embodied meaning, material exchange, and subjectivity’ as key to addressing complex social problems like climate change” (O’Brien, 2016). She goes on to say, “Quantum social theory challenges us to recognize that life matters, subjective meaning matters, and we matter” (O’Brien, 2016). Addressing the question, “can the arts and creative praxis be put to critical and political work?” Schafenacker will offer a creative intervention in the form of a performance monologue sourcing current transformation and adaptive capacity literature as applied to the social dimension of climate change and the need for a radical, paradigmatic shift. Inspired by Karen O’Brien’s work on resiliency and the applications of quantum social theory Schafenacker inquires the capacity for language to alter our notions of the “individual” and uses a feminist narrative model to approach the North American relationship to consumerism through an inquiry into inner landscapes of “need”. This creative intervention asks the question what if we viewed climate change through the lens of creative process? What would emerge from this willingness to meet the unknown/unknowable as a collective?

11:30 – 11:45

'A Socio-Historical Case Study of Political Discourse in Park Land Management Decision Making in Edmonton, AB'

Robert Priebe | U of A

The Edmonton Case Study explored how the Blue Quill and Greenview neighborhoods were engaged in the park planning processes from 1960 to 2012, including successful efforts in the 2000's to "repurpose" publicly accessible and used parkland to privately owned residential development through sales to economic interests. Parkland "re-purposing" initiated by political actors presented a unique set of circumstances for inquiry as politicians acted as initiators and adjudicators of redevelopment with no appeal mechanism. The Case Study revealed a continuing evolution of park planning institutionalisation that saw a parks system and co-production of place approach partially replaced in the 2000's with political priorities and privileging of economic interests with arguably more negative process issues than outcome implications.

11:45 to 12:00 pm | **Questions**

12:00 to 1:00 | **Lunch**

Session 2

Crisis in the Global North

1:00 – 1:15

Understanding the 'crisis of trust' – threat perceptions at the EU's internal and external borders'

Katharina Koch U of Oulu

European Union (EU) politics is currently defined by a 'state of crisis'. The Ukrainian crisis (2013–2014), the so-called 'refugee crisis' of 2015, the recent terror attacks on European soil and the threat of disintegration through the Brexit referendum in 2016 have sparked a 'crisis of trust' (c.f. Withers, 2018) among the population of EU member states towards politicians, institutions and academics. This crisis manifests in a general uneasiness towards 'the Others' in the form of increased right-wing party success and apprehension towards foreigners and immigrants in the EU. Previous research suggests that there has been no consistent engagement with the study of trust in human geography despite the widespread interest in the topic. This paper concentrates on the role of trust from the perspectives of borders/bordering in the EU to show how the concept of trust can assist researchers in conceptualizing the social construction of borders and to understand the impediments towards efficient cross-border cooperation (see Häkli, 2009; Koch, 2018). This paper will focus on two distinct border regions for analyzing the impact of trust and mistrust. First, it focuses on the increased threat perception in Finland towards the Finnish-Russian border since the beginning of the Ukrainian crisis in 2013 and throughout the so-called 'refugee crisis' of 2015. Second, it analyzes the impact of the Brexit referendum and the looming withdrawal of the UK on the higher education sector in the Republic of Ireland. In both cases, the population's reaction is based on uncertainties. Consequently, both trust and mistrust are determining contingency plans and future

transnational relations. Therefore, this paper aims to emphasize the necessity to research the impact of trust as it can fundamentally alter and re-define transnational relations in crisis situations.

1:15 – 1:30

Experiments in Space: Crisis, care, and control in the north of Paris, 2016 – 2018

Melora Koepke | SFU

How does a city spatialize crisis? How does crisis, in turn, shape the city? In this paper I trace the ways that crisis manifests itself in urban space, and how experimental spaces are created to address and manage urban issue. Two case studies from recent ethnographic fieldwork in experimental municipal spaces of care in Paris, France inform my discussion: France's first supervised injection site and the country's first (and Europe's largest) CPA (Centre de premier accueil, or urban reception centre for newly-arrived migrants). Both spaces are experimental in nature and born of specific perceived urban "emergencies" affecting public life in the north of Paris - in one case, the disordered use of public space by PWUDs (people who inject drugs) in the vicinity of Gare du Nord, Europe's largest train station in the 10^{ième} arrondissement, and in the other, the increased presence of precariously housed primo-arrivals living in informal camps in various locations in the urban spaces of the 10^{ième} and 18^{ième} arrondissements of Paris. Findings from two years of engaged "site ethnographies" in both these spaces inform my discussion of the diverse ways these spaces have shaped and been shaped by specific material and political crises through human and the more-than human engagements in, with and through these spaces and their urban contexts, relation these spaces, engender, facilitate, and embody.

1:30 – 1:45

Why the Socially Mixed Do Not Mingle: An Ethnographic Account of Social-Interactional Mechanisms in a Dutch Neighbourhood'

Erik Meij | U of Groningen

Scholars have called into question the efficacy of social area-based interventions, including social mixing, to combat urban inequality. To better understand why, a more fundamental comprehension of the social nature of inequality and how it is produced in an urban context is required. To that end, we examine inequality in a neighborhood setting through a lens of everyday social-interactional mechanisms. Social-interactional mechanisms are conceptualized through the interplay between everyday neighborhood rhythms, intersubjective understandings and situated agency. What follows is a detailed ethnographic account of a disadvantaged neighborhood in the city of Groningen, the Netherlands, which was targeted by a social-mixing intervention. Our empirical findings highlight the importance of everyday neighborhood rhythms for local socialization processes. Furthermore, we illustrate how perceptions of local social inequalities are reinforced in part due to the social mixing intervention. On a structural scale, we gain insight as to how, as a result of social mixing, inequality is spatially diluted over the wider city, which renders it a less urgent issue in a statistical sense. Simultaneously, however, everyday perceptions of inequalities remain unchanged or in some cases become exacerbated, making urban inequality an even more persistent problem. Therefore, we call for a critical re-examination of the consequences of social area-based interventions in respect to the social nature of urban inequality.

1:45 to 2:00 pm | **Questions**

2:00 – 2:15

'A Space of their Own? A feminist exploration of gendered spatial relations in Professional Women's Organizations in Alberta's Resource Sector'

Alicia Bjarnason | U of C

As a profession, the geosciences have seen an increase in women entering the field. Throughout the life cycle of a geoscience career gender inequalities still exist, even in the face of legislative change. Empirical evidence shows gender inequalities in terms of pay and promotion, and many female geoscientists are leaving the profession mid-career. One response to gender inequities in Alberta's resource sector is the formation of professional women's groups. This research investigates the role of spatiality in response to gender inequality within the Alberta geological workplace, specifically centring on the role professional women's groups plays within this dynamic. Drawing on feminist geography, the objective of this research was to explore the social relations and power structures involved within the Alberta work environment that categorized where women's groups are created, why they are created, and the strategies used in addressing gender disparities and inequality. This mixed methods study included an inventory of current groups that exist in Alberta, an online survey to reach professional STEM women within the geoscience community who have been members of one or more professional women's groups, and in-depth semi-structured interviews with three key actors from one Alberta based group. By investigating how relational space and gender inequality are interlinked, the information can support the building of better theories and practices to challenge gender inequality found within the geoscience work environments. The intended outcomes were to create evidence-based solutions, which in turn will help contribute to concrete solutions to better support professional female geoscientists in Alberta.

2:15 – 2:30 | **Questions**

2:30 – 2:45 | **Break**

Session 3

Crisis in the Global South

2:45 – 3:00

'Il n'y a pas de marché: Rescaling National Political Crisis to a Rural Togolese Marketplace'

Jacqueline Daigneault U of Minnesota

In August 2017, thousands of protestors took to the streets of Lomé, Togo, calling for long-awaited constitutional reforms and an end to the family dynasty that has ruled this small West African nation since 1967. International media and neighboring governments quickly turned their attention to "political crisis" in Togo, recognizing the emerging protests important landmarks in the country's longer history of dictatorship, development, and democratization. Yet such a reading of these events obscures important if subtle accompanying political, economic, social, and spiritual dynamics of contemporary Togolese society

in the wake of the 2017-2018 protests. Questioning “crisis,” I draw from recent anthropological work has called for a critical analysis of the term, demonstrating how “crisis” is often invoked to narrate and produce reductive meanings about the African continent. While such scholars have pointed to the importance of expanding the temporal scales of crisis, I add to this to suggest the need for a reconsideration of spatial scales of crisis in contemporary Africa. With an interest in everyday lived experiences and narrations of “crisis,” I rescale the national political crisis from urban protests to the site the rural Togolese marketplace, those ubiquitous centers of political, economic, and social exchange in which the majority of the population continues to carve out a living. Drawing on 12 months of ethnographic research from August 2017-July 2018 in the northern market town of Bassar, I attempt a “cinematic view” (Larkin 2018) of contemporary political crisis in Togo as continual movements that unfold over time and space in the rural marketplace, and the senses and meanings that these movements produce.

3:00 – 3:15

‘Water Crisis and Hydrosocial Relations in the Indus Basin’

Abdul Aijaz | IUB

The transformation of Indian rivers from gods into machines under British imperial rule was brought about “by a diligent practice of the new disciplines of knowledge” which Partha Chatterjee (1995) recognizes as “texts of power”. Accomplice to colonial hydrology was colonial sociology which imagined, represented and materialized a certain ordering of water and society in colonial India and thus laid the foundation for a new set of hydro-social relations. In this materialization of discursive formations in the canal colonies of the Punjab certain other ways of perceiving, imagining and representing water and society were made less real, less legitimate or entirely invisible. Keeping in mind Bruno Latour’s (1999) critique of the nature-society binary in modern scientific and social science knowledge, I explore the changes in nature-society dialectics with the colonial intervention in India. How does a power reconfiguration in society necessitate a different relationship with nature? How does water figure into the everyday lives of people as an agent configuring their emotional, ideological and material selves while itself being framed, appropriated and controlled in different ways? And how can ecocriticism and postcolonial theory help understand this complex nature-society dialectics in the Indus Basin? Through a close reading of Krishan Chander’s short story “Pani ka Darakht,” (Water Tree) this paper charts the story of this reconfigured relationship between people and water in the Indus Basin.

3:15 – 3:30 | **Questions**

3:30 – 3:45

‘Current crisis in the Maya territory of the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico’

Veronica Briseno Castrejon | U of C

This presentation will examine current crises that are impacting the indigenous Maya and their territories in the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico. Deforestation for transgenic monocultures, diverse megadevelopments, and biopiracy are only some of the challenges that form part of the context in which my research project on Maya ancestral practice of stingless beekeeping, meliponiculture, is immersed. In the name of progress, Maya people and their lands are subject to market forces. In this situation, the masks of sustainability, neocolonialism, and green capitalism displace indigenous people without prior,

free, informed, and culturally appropriate consultation. The state sows territorial conflicts, attacks, and criminalizes those who defend their mother Earth and their culture. Thus, Maya organizations are fighting against invasions that are causing division, damage, and poverty among their communities. They want their way of life including their water, forests, Milpas and sacred stingless bees, to be respected. The Maya resistance has won some important battles by asserting their legal rights; however, they must continue to fight with cohesion in order to achieve their autonomy and self-determination.

3:45 – 4:00

‘Blockades in Bolivia: the contentious spatial dynamics of rupturing mobility to reclaim territorial sovereignty’

Ricardo Barbosa Jr. | U of C

In Bolivia, social groups employ blockades as a spatial strategy to restrict passage in cities (i.e., streets) and in-between them (i.e., roads and highways). The practice of blocking passageways is rooted in historical indigenous practices and has occurred in and out of Bolivian cities for centuries. Since the early 2000s, major highways used to transport natural resources to international markets have been blocked in the landlocked Andean country to physically obstruct (neo)extractivist processes. I argue in this paper that roadblocks have strategic significance for Bolivian social movements, because of the country’s physical geography and political economy. A theoretical exploration of the phenomenon is carried out based on core geographic concepts. The premise of this exploration is that social and spatial processes cannot be dissociated, i.e., social struggles are also spatial struggles. Likewise, spatial characteristics shape social processes and can ultimately determine their outcome. Yet analysis of struggles are often aspatial in nature. Hence, this work investigates how roads, traditionally perceived as spaces of connection, may also become strategic places for rupture. I find that demonstrators use blockades to subvert space by rupturing mobility among spatialities (i.e., the inbetweenness), in Bolivia and internationally. This tactic is used to hinder state reach and corporate profits, thus leveraging popular political power to reclaim territorial sovereignty.

4:00 – 4:15 | **Questions**

4:15 – 4:30 | **Break**

Session 4

Crisis, Capital, and State

4:30 – 4:45

‘Geography, and the Historical Imagination’

Dave Rossiter | WWU

At the risk of going over old ground, this presentation argues for the importance of highlighting the historical imagination in critical geographical interventions in ‘crises’. Reflecting on the identity and

experience of the teacher-scholar, I argue that across a range of scales we need to (re)place the historical at or near the centre of our curriculum and analyses. In offering this reminder of the importance of the historical imagination to critical geographical understanding, I provide a sketch of what I perceive to be a diminishment of explicitly historical-geographic inquiry in both undergraduate curriculum and geographical scholarship (very broadly defined).

4:45 – 5:00

'The Formality Model'

Natalia Perez | SFU

Primitive accumulation (Marx 1978; Hall 2013) and accumulation by dispossession (Harvey 2003) have contributed towards the conceptualization of dispossession as a process that is at the core of the historical geography of capitalism. According to these accounts, state power is often used to enable dispossession through mechanisms such as the advancement of private and individual forms of property. Although there is a growing academic literature that is expanding the details and nuances of the varied forms that contemporary dispossession adopts, it has often taken for granted what property is when analyzing the role that [private] property plays in relation to dispossession. According to relational property scholars, when taken for granted, property is often produced as an abstraction that appears simple, certain, clear, equitable and benign despite its manifest exclusions, expulsions, and violence (Blomley 2013). Conceptualizing property, relational property scholars argue, necessarily implies making controversial value judgements about how to choose between conflicting interests (Singer 2000). This paper introduces a critical relational property perspective into the analysis of the land restitution policy implemented to address land dispossession in Colombia. By focusing on the legal conceptualizations of land dispossession included in rulings of land restitution, an administrative and legal transitional justice policy that would provide land as a means of reparation to the victims of land dispossession within the context of the Colombian armed conflict, this paper seeks to illustrate how the implicit ways in which property is conceptualized is crucial in determining the shortcomings of government interventions to reverse land dispossession.

5:00 – 5:15

'Turn your brand into a destination: Toponymic commodification and the branding of place in Dubai and Winnipeg'

Eliot Tretter | U of C

The selling of naming rights to corporate sponsors has led urban policymakers to increasingly view the identities of public places as rent-generating assets to fund urban infrastructure. Yet few scholars have critically analyzed this emerging global trend of toponymic commodification and the seeking of "naming rent." Through a combination of archival research, on-site field observations, and semi-structured interviews, this study examines how the practice of toponymic commodification is transforming the cultural landscapes of contemporary cities by considering two naming rights programs: Dubai's Metro Naming Rights Initiative and the Sponsor Winnipeg Program. In each case, we explore the implications of commodifying public place names as well as the conflicting perceptions of such sponsorship programs. In doing so, the present study illustrates how the selling of naming rights is reshaping the built environment

into a space of symbolic/economic capital transformations as brands become destinations and public places are reconceived as marketing opportunities.

5:15 – 5:30

'The prose of a passive revolution: Anti-communism and the developmental state in decolonizing Singapore'

Chris Meulbroek | UBC

During the Cold War, a barrage of globally-mobile development professionals proliferated throughout the decolonizing Third World to both assist in economic development and to constrain the geopolitical spread of communist-sympathetic regimes. This paper considers a document authored by one such professional, Albert Winsemius, and draws on Antonio Gramsci's concept of passive revolution to theorize the process of state formation in the midst of Singapore's developmental state construction in the 1960s. By examining Winsemius's role in Singapore's economic planning, I demonstrate how globally-sourced, ideological anti-communism and transnational economic expertise were inscribed into the institutional structure of the Singaporean state under Lee Kuan Yew and the People's Action Party in an attempt to stabilize the political environment. Basing the analysis in a close reading of a key economic planning document, I argue that Winsemius and the Industrial Survey Mission demonstrate a political understanding of state formation rooted in the need to suppress labor strife and navigate political-economic crisis in the post-colonial context. This paper contributes to a more spatially-nuanced understanding of East Asian industrialization and state transformation through a theorization of the influence of transnational expertise on an archetypal 'developmental state'. It also develops a method for reading key texts of economic planning by focusing on geopolitical, historical, and biographical context.

Catering for this conference is provided by *Ethnicity* and *Cravings*; both of which provided us with ethical food options that met our Gold-Sustainability standard. Having your feedback on food restrictions further allowed us to ensure gluten-free and vegetarian options were provided for all to enjoy.

Pre-Conference Menu

Friday, September 28th

Welcoming lunch

- Falafel wraps (Middle East)
- Veggie wraps
- Green curries (Thailand)
- Veggie kormas (India)
- Servings of rice
- Baked Fatayer (Palestine)
- Hot Tea & Coffee

Conference Menu

Friday, September 28th

Appetizers

- Assorted Fruit Platter
- Vegetable Platter (Gluten Free)
- Hummus Dip with Fresh Pita Bread (Gluten Free)
- Spanakopita
- Vegetable Samosa

Saturday, September 29th

Breakfast

- Fresh-baked Fruit Bread
- Low-fat Coffee Cakes
- Hot Tea & Coffee

Lunch

- Finger Sandwiches (vegetarian)
- Marinated Vegetables
- Mixed Greens
- Italian Trattoria
- French Bistro (vegetation)
- International Wraps

Breaks: Gourmet Cookies with Hot Tea & Coffee