

New climate change adaptation geographies

Lauren Rickards, Blanche Verlie and Phil McManus

Nature, Risk, Resilience study group

As climate change escalates rapidly, so too are social responses, whether labelled as impacts, adaptation or neither. This session calls for papers that explore some of the emergent and unexpected geographies climate change is generating and exposing. Drawing on examples from various scales and contexts, the session aims to help document and address neglected or immanent vulnerabilities, risks and impacts, including those stemming from the cascading, compounding (e.g. Sultana 2021) and normalisation of socially uneven shifts, disruptions and losses. It aims to help interrogate what kinds of resilience are being idealised and generated (Grove 2014; Anderson 2015), what adaptations and capacities are emerging in different contexts, and what progressive possibilities are being pursued.

Papers in the session could include empirical and/or conceptual studies of: new climate change vulnerabilities and risks; the contested or contestable nature of present and future climate change impacts and their dynamics (e.g. McMichael et al. 2021); emerging adaptation expectations, principles (e.g. Singh et al. 2021), knowledge, skills, struggles, outcomes and feedbacks; and repercussions for existing geographies and geographic scholarship.

REFERENCE LIST

- Anderson, B., 2015: What Kind of Thing is Resilience? *Politics*, 35, 60-66.
- Grove, K., 2014: Agency, affect, and the immunological politics of disaster resilience. *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*, 32, 240-256.
- McMichael, C., Kothari, U., Mcnamara, K.E., and Arnall, A., 2021: Spatial and temporal ways of knowing sea level rise: Bringing together multiple perspectives. *Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Climate Change*, 12, e703.
- Singh, C., Iyer, S., New, M.G., Few, R., Kuchimanchi, B., Segnon, A.C., and Morchain, D., 2021: Interrogating 'effectiveness' in climate change adaptation: 11 guiding principles for adaptation research and practice. *Climate and Development*, 1-15.
- Sultana, F., 2021: Climate change, COVID-19, and the co-production of injustices: a feminist reading of overlapping crises. *Social & Cultural Geography*, 22, 447-460.

Redefining and defending 'nature': conceptual and practical challenges

Geography has long explored the messy entanglements between the Modern domains of the 'social' and the 'natural' and now frequently works with alternatives such as the 'nonhuman', 'inhuman', 'naturalcultural', 'posthuman', 'material-discursive', 'multispecies' and 'planetary' (e.g. Houston et al. 2018; Clark and Szerszynski 2020). At the same time, with declarations of emergency from Extinction Rebellion, geographers (Wilkinson and Clement 2021) and many others, there is growing awareness of the foundational, practical importance of biodiversity and the rest of 'the natural world' and the existential threat posed by 'environmental' pollution and destruction. Among other things, these concerns are driving belated efforts in

at least some quarters to reduce nonhuman deaths, to extend justice to species other than humans (Celermajer et al. 2020) and to 'work with nature'. Related policies include stronger implementation of conservation protections and 'nature-based solutions' to climate change (Xie and Bulkeley 2020). But such approaches can re-essentialise nature and are not uncontested (Fletcher et al. 2021; Osaka et al. 2021). This session will explore historical and contemporary manifestations of 'more-than-human' geographies that reinforce, remake, grapple with or dissolve human/nature binaries, including consideration of the necessity (or not) of interdisciplinarity in such work. Papers in this session could address questions such as:

- How are categories of nature and natural being defended or redefined in contemporary real-world debates and why?
- What are the normative and biopolitical implications of how the human-nature distinction is being selectively reinforced or reworked in different empirical contexts?
- What are the distinctive features of scholarship 'beyond anthropocentrism' and what is at stake – for whom – in such work?
- How can more-than-human scholarship and a multispecies ethic be reoriented towards more collaborative practices of intercultural solidarity and justice (e.g. Country et al., 2016)
- What geographical ideas, practices and methodologies are particularly suited to exploring multispecies/posthuman etc geographies, and what needs to change?

References:

- Celermajer, D., Schlosberg, D., Rickards, L., Stewart-Harawira, M., Thaler, M., Tschakert, P., Verlie, B., and Winter, C., 2020: Multispecies justice: theories, challenges, and a research agenda for environmental politics. *Environmental Politics*, 1-22.
- Clark, N. and B. Szerszynski (2020) *Planetary Social Thought: The Anthropocene Challenge to the Social Sciences*. Cambridge, Polity.
- Country, B., Wright, S., Suchet-Pearson, S., Lloyd, K., Burarrwanga, L., Ganambarr, R., Ganambarr-Stubbs, M., Ganambarr, B., Maymuru, D., and Sweeney, J. (2016) Co-becoming Bawaka: Towards a relational understanding of place/space. *Progress in Human Geography*, 40, 455-475.
- Fletcher, M.-S., Hamilton, R., Dressler, W., and Palmer, L. (2021) Indigenous knowledge and the shackles of wilderness. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 118, e2022218118.
- Houston, D., Hillier, J., MacCallum, D., Steele, W., & Byrne, J. (2018) Make kin, not cities! Multispecies entanglements and 'becoming-world' in planning theory. *Planning Theory*, 17(2), 190-212.
- Osaka, S., R. Bellamy and N. Castree (2021) Framing "nature-based" solutions to climate change. *Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Climate Change* 12(5): e729.
- Wilkinson, C. & Clement, S. (2021) Geographers declare (a climate emergency)? *Australian Geographer*, 1-18.
- Xie, L., and Bulkeley, H. (2020) Nature-based solutions for urban biodiversity governance. *Environmental Science & Policy*, 110, 77-87.

