

Power and politics in affective ecologies.

Scholarly and lay attention to the issue of 'eco-anxiety' is rapidly increasing, although much of this attention occurs through a psychological lens. Yet there is a rich history of geographical research into emotional and affective attachments to place, nature and the planet, and the losses and grief that can occur when these relationships are ruptured (Tschakert et al. 2019). What has received less attention is the politics and reconfigurations of power that are occurring as different communities apprehend, experience, and respond affectively to environmental change (although see Lobo 2019; and Osborne 2019). While many debate whether 'doom and gloom' or 'hope' are 'better' responses to planetary calamity, important questions such as *who does* and *does not feel what* about distinct environmental changes, and what the implications of these diverse (non) responses are, often remain unasked and unanswered.

This session is seeking presentations exploring how issues of identity, place, ideology, justice, ethics, solidarity and activism are being reconfigured through diverse affective engagements with planetary change. For example, in what ways might contemporary climate change be experienced as 'deja vu' of colonialism (Whyte 2017), a compounding of the intergenerational multispecies trauma many Indigenous communities face - and how might this be resisted (Williamson, Weir and Cavanagh 2020)? What are the risks of unacknowledged climate anxiety, in a context of increasing right wing extremism (Osborne 2021)? What potentials for cultural transformation and new solidarities might emerge from shared-but-differentiated experiences of ecological distress (Verlie 2022)?

References

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