

Carceral Geographies: State of the Field

Hosted by the Urban Geography Study Group and the Political Geography Study Group

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A quick note: We would like to propose both a plenary panel session with invited speakers, and a standard open call paper session. We believe it is a bit overdue for the IAG community to grapple with carceral geographies so we would really like to get the conversation going! We hope that through both the panel and open session we can start to build a sense of the state of the field of carceral geographies in so-called australia, and build towards future workshops and/or a special issue, depending on what kind of response this receives. Thank you for your consideration, and for your patience – I know we are late in submitting this! Warmly, Natalie

Proposal for plenary panel:

Carceral geography has been a relatively marginal field within Australian geography, despite carcerality being central to how this colony was formed, how it sustains itself and settler occupation, and how its cities function. These geographies are unevenly distributed and often invisible to those who are not subject to them, which perhaps suggests why carceral geography, as a scholarly practice, emerges from abolitionist movements and the highly engaged work of activist scholars like Ruth Wilson Gilmore. Some of the concerns of carceral geographers are:

- The settler-colony, its origins and ongoing maintenance
- Slavery
- Prisons, jails, watchhouses
- Carceral urbanism
- Urban planning and carceral space
- Onshore and offshore detention centres
- Carceral dynamics in medical facilities, institutions, homes, public space, and other sites beyond prisons
- Borders and bordering
- The political economies of detention and incarceration
- Surveillance and social control
- Policing and other forms of state violence
- Social difference and carceral geographies
- Environmental injustice
- Practices and politics of organising and solidarity, resistance and abolition

In this panel we draw together scholars and activists who have been working on carceral geographies, who have been studying carceral geographies in their varied forms, resisting carceral violence and expansion, and who are engaged in abolitionist research and practices. We will invite them to reflect on the state of the field, grounding their analysis in the settler-colonial context of so-called australia, and outline agendas for transformative research and praxis.

Proposal for open call paper session:

Carceral geography has been a relatively marginal field within Australian geography, despite carcerality being central to how this colony was formed, how it sustains itself and settler occupation, and how its cities function. These geographies are unevenly distributed and often invisible to those who are not subject to them, which perhaps suggests why carceral geography, as a scholarly practice, emerges from abolitionist movements and the highly engaged work of activist scholars like Ruth Wilson Gilmore. We

invite submissions from scholars and activists working on carceral geographies, including on topics like:

- The settler-colony, its origins and ongoing maintenance
- Slavery
- Prisons, jails, watchhouses
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