

The Institute of Australian Geographers Inc. Conference 2022

Landscapes of change, challenge and creativity

Hosted by the Department of Geography and Planning, UNE - July 5-8, 2022

Sessional Abstract:

'Making and Imagining Change'

The notion that systemic change as a necessary aspect of the response to the challenges we are currently facing is ubiquitous but it also remains somewhat unchallenged. In this session we seek papers that critically consider wider theories of change and wider frames of change, and the empowering reciprocal relation between theories and action pathways of change. On individual and organisational scales, theories of change allow us to identify creative pathways for action and the subsequent steps required to achieve our long term goals. Applied on wider community and institutional scales, theories of change can enable us to imagine the future and reflect on the action that can be taken in order to achieve these imagined futures. Such creativity is necessary if we hope to face challenges such as Climate Change, environmental exploitation and unsustainable global trajectories with optimism, a sense of justice and much needed activity. However, we are left with critical questions of who, what and where. Who is responsible for establishing these theories of change? What are the scales of change being addressed? Where are the points of leverage that can instigate or accelerate these theories of change? But also, how ongoing process of radical change inform theory? What considerations upon horizons, strategies and scales of socio-ecological change can be learnt from grounded experiences of transition and transformation? These are some of the questions this session hopes to tease when discussing the wider theories of change for the issues of our era (decolonisation; adverse impacts of climate change; decarbonisation of the economy; sustainable development). We invite papers to examine the possibilities of their research to empower 'wider theories of change' through visualising action pathways and/or conceptual change.

Session Conveners (subject to change):

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