

NEW DIRECTIONS IN POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

Macquarie University, 15-16 November 2022

Day 1 – Tuesday 15th of November

9.00 - 9.30 Acknowledgement of country/ introductions

9.30 - 11 Community

Chair/Discussant: Clare Mouat (Massey University)

1. Angela Smith (UNSW) - The Air Between Us: Connectivity from Breath to Atmosphere
2. Ellen van Holstein (RMIT) - Investing in inclusivity: framing neighbourhood centres as community infrastructure
3. Damien Laing (Monash/Wyndham City Council) - Religions on the Fringe: places of worship and greenfield development
4. Öznur Şahin (Western Sydney University) - Populist Urbanism: Imagining/Managing/Mobilising the Urban Crowd in Istanbul

11:00- 11:30 BREAK

11.30-1.00 Borders

Chair: Marilu Melo Zurita (UNSW)

1. J.J. Zhang (Nanyang Technological University) - Lifestyle displacements in everyday urban encounters: the case of Hong Kong's border towns
2. Andrew Burrige (Macquarie University) - Were we all in this together? Sub-national border closures during Covid 19: a case study of the Jervis Bay Territory
3. Isara Khanjanasthiti (University of New England) - The state border impact on economic development contribution of Gold Coast Airport: Barriers and way forward

1:00- 2:00 LUNCH

2.00-3:30 Governance/political economy

Chair: Germana Nicklin (Massey University)

1. David Avilés (University of Sydney) - Spatial Political Economy: Unravelling the 'hidden abodes' of capitalism's internal contradictions through relational geography.
2. Alistair Sisson (University of Sydney) - The philanthro-state: Bloomberg Philanthropies and its program of 'government innovation'
3. Grant Walton (ANU) - Spaces of corruption and the corruption of space in the Pacific
4. Germana Nicklin (Massey University) - More-than-profit in state resilience: the potential of Indigenous voices in political geography

3.30 - 4:00 BREAK

4.00 - 4.45 Online Political Geographies

Chair: Ari Jerrems (ANU)

1. Xiaofeng Liu (University of Hong Kong) - Doing Political Geography Online: Methodological Alternatives in Special Eras (online)
 2. Sulagna Basu (University of Sydney) - Cyberspace: Unsettling Geographies of Metaphor
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Day 2 – Wednesday 16th of November

9.30-10:30 Vegan Geographies: Spaces Beyond Violence, Ethics beyond Speciesism
(Andrew McGregor, Simon Springer, Paul Hodge, Richard White)

10.30-11.00am BREAK

11:00 - 12:30 More-than-human/ Futures

Chair: Pia Treichel (University of Melbourne)

1. Taylor Coyne (UNSW) - Drain Pain: Reorienting Sydney's Contemporary Urban Stormwater Governance
2. Blanche Verlie (RMIT) - Climate / energy / affect / power
3. Nadia Degregori (University of Melbourne) - Post-mining equitable futures
4. Rachel Hughes (University of Melbourne) - Reparation in play (Online)

12.30-1.30pm - LUNCH

1:30pm - 3:00pm Security

Chair: Andrew Burrige (Macquarie University)

1. Ari Jerrems (ANU) and Nicolas Lemay-Hébert (ANU) - Mapping red zones: colour-coding and cartographies insecurity
2. Umut Ozguc (Deakin University) - Postcodes as technologies of 'biomedical citizenship'
3. Dhiraj Nainani (Nanyang Technological University) - The Legal Geography of Wastewater Surveillance in Singapore (and Beyond) (Online)
4. Felicity Gray (ANU) – Making space for peace: Unarmed civilian protection as spatial-relational practice (Online)

3.00 - 3.30pm BREAK

3.30 - 4.30 Camps and spaces of detention

Chair/discussant: Josh Watkins (National University of Singapore)

1. Jessica Collins (Macquarie University) - The camp as a custodian institution: the case of Krnjača Asylum Centre, Belgrade, Serbia
2. Richard Carter-White (Macquarie University) - The Restless Camp
3. Andrew Burrige (Macquarie University) - Counter-mapping 20 years of Australia's use of hotel detention

Abstracts and Bios

Angela Smith (UNSW) - The Air Between Us: Connectivity from Breath to Atmosphere

This paper offers an analysis of contemporary political events through the vector of air. Drawing on intersectional feminist political geography and theories of entanglement, I explore the ways in which air, breath, and atmosphere are crucial to contemporary politics. Rather than separate entities, I argue that bringing air, breath and atmosphere into a singular frame helps us to understand the material and relational flows among humans, and between human and more-than-human beings. I consider these flows in the context of the multiple overlapping ruptures and intensifications regarded as “crises” which we have seen in recent years – global wildfires, COVID19, protests for racial justice, climate change and the governance of migration. Scholarship which attempts to theorise a relationship between air and politics tends to treat air, breath, and atmosphere as separate (and often gendered) entities. To think of air in its fullest sense as a political element and an element of politics, reveals the way in which these airflows circulate, making visible deep forms of entanglement and vulnerability. My intervention here is twofold: to illuminate material and relational forms of entanglement made visible when thinking contemporary politics through air; and secondly, to argue for the methodological and theoretical value of a fuller understanding of air (one which includes breath and atmosphere).

Bio: Angela is a Scientia Phd Scholar in the Faculty of Law and Justice at UNSW, where her doctoral research takes an interdisciplinary approach to the study of aviation and air power in bordering practices across the Mediterranean. Her research interests include political geography, borders and migration, critical theory, colonialism, and security practices in North Africa.

Ellen van Holstein (RMIT) - Investing in inclusivity: framing neighbourhood centres as community infrastructure

Geographers commonly approach government and community as though they were separate domains. As a result, the ways in which governments determine and foreclose the groups and alliances that can take shape have been structurally understudied. This risks misinterpretation of new exclusions from the spaces, relationships and practices of citizenship. In this paper, I develop the concept of ‘community infrastructure’ to re-orientate research on the practices of community to include the influence of government. Traditional approaches to studying infrastructure analyse how social values are coded into infrastructures through government activities of design, investment and maintenance. Recent scholarship understands infrastructure as practised which enables it to analyse how infrastructure reproduces social difference through use. The concept of ‘community infrastructure’ combines these two approaches. I apply it to a case study of Australian neighbourhood houses which are an essential infrastructure in the development of community, that plays a little understood role in sorting people into groups. I use the case study to demonstrate the ability of the concept to facilitate analysis of community compositions in ways that are sensitive to political

influences such as conditions attached to community grant programs, through to neighbourhood house management and centre users' mundane practices of infrastructure use.

Bio: Ellen van Holstein is VC's postdoctoral fellow at RMIT where she analyses investment in and the use of community centres in Australian cities. She has previously done research on the politics of community gardening, the inclusiveness of community spaces for people with intellectual disability and on social housing tenants' experiences of digital inequality.

Damien Laing (Monash/Wyndham City Council) - Religions on the Fringe: places of worship and greenfield development

Melbourne, like many cities of the global north, is growing rapidly through migration. Many migrants find home on the urban fringe in Master Planned Estates. This settlement is encouraged by urban policy, but there is a need to understand and respond to the needs of the multitude of religious communities. This paper traces the development of places of worship on the fringe of western Melbourne and the possibilities for expression of faith on the periphery of established settlement. It illustrates, in particular, how places of worship are often either spatially disconnected from the communities which they seek to serve, or not fit for purpose in failing to meet the requirements of religious and cultural activity. The transformation of land into commercialisable units of housing, or commerce invites an improvisational response on behalf of religious communities, who recast space with religious meaning. These adaptive responses take place in warehouses, homes, farm houses, etc and reassert the sacred. Overall the study finds that the rudimentary consideration of places of worship in greenfield development is a touchstone of the difficulties that the majoritarian Australian planning system faces in encompassing the diversity of the community. The superdiverse migrant body with its transnational economic, cultural and religious connections represents a dynamic shift and complication of the suburbs that are all too often dismissed for a supposed homogeneity.

Bio: Damien Laing he/him is an urban planner, artist, and curator. Currently employed at the City of Wyndham as a Statutory Planner, Damien is interested in the yet to be imagined possibilities of the 'suburbs' and the lives of those who call it home.

Öznur Şahin (Western Sydney University) - Populist Urbanism: Imagining/Managing/Mobilising the Urban Crowd in Istanbul

The rise of Islamist politics in Turkey since the 1990s spread from the municipal level to the national electoral victory of Erdoğan's AKP (Justice and Development Party – the current ruling party) in 2002. Consequently, there have been increased numbers of staged urban events and performances, which entailed a remaking, as well as an intensified use, of urban spaces. The number of pedestrianised squares with mosques increased as the AKP municipalities enlarged pre-existing small squares in the city centres by closing roads to traffic. Many urban public squares were rebuilt in this manner into wide, plain concrete-covered areas to be used as multi-purpose event spaces under the control of municipalities.

These squares proved advantageous for the AKP government in mobilising crowds after the coup attempt in 2016. Erdoğan's practice of political urbanisation has considerably transformed urban space and urban life in a polarised way. Focusing on the transformation of public spaces as well as celebrations, commemorations and demonstrations, this paper argues that designing and organising spaces and events were a project of creating a new form of urban life and urban citizenship, which also paved the way for authoritarian politics in the city by transforming urbanites into the supportive crowds of the new regime.

Bio: Öznur Şahin is a researcher with the Challenging Racism Project at Western Sydney University. She received her PhD from the Institute for Culture and Society, WSU. Her research interests include the gendered and spatial dynamics of urban politics, urban governance and urban public space.

J.J. Zhang (Nanyang Technological University, Singapore) - Lifestyle displacements in everyday urban encounters: the case of Hong Kong's border towns

This paper attempts to suggest new directions for critical border studies by reconceptualising the geopolitics of urban encounters through the analytics of 'lifestyle displacements'. More specifically, the Hong Kong–Shenzhen border will serve as an empirical focal point to interrogate the different ways in which local residents perceived themselves as being displaced by mainland Chinese day-trippers at three border towns in Hong Kong. Despite extensive media coverage on protests by Hong Kong locals against mainland Chinese shoppers who were accused of overcrowding and depleting the border town dwellers of their daily necessities, academic inquiries into these contested encounters remain scarce. The urban frontier presents a politically-charged analytical space to interrogate the strong anti-mainland Chinese sentiment that is clearly present in everyday life in Hong Kong. In this epoch of antagonism towards mainland Chinese shoppers, there is an urgent need to gain a more nuanced understanding of different forms of displacements experienced by the locals and their implications on territoriality and nationalism. Through ethnographic observations and in-depth interviews with 31 residents, the paper engages with several conceptual themes related to the tempo, rhythms and moral geographies of contemporary socio-political life at the border.

Bio: J.J. Zhang is an assistant professor of Human Geography at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. He gained his PhD from Durham University, UK. His research interests lie in the intersection of material culture, tourism and geopolitics. He writes on issues pertaining to bordering practices and social memories as they unfold at the 'lived' and 'everyday' levels.

Andrew Burridge (Macquarie University - Were we all in this together? Sub-national border closures during Covid 19: a case study of the Jervis Bay Territory

- With Zac Roberts (Macquarie University), Justine Lloyd (Macquarie University), Richie Howitt (Macquarie University) and Dan Ghezelbash (UNSW Kaldor Centre)

This project examines how sub-national Covid-19 border closures have affected governance and resilience of border communities in NSW. Border closures and changing governance of services, communication of rules, and management of mobility have shifted Australians' awareness and understanding of taken-for-granted internal borders. Regulation of sub-national borders has transcended pandemic management with legal, sociological and political implications, contrasting the national rhetoric of communities 'being in the pandemic together'.

Within this presentation, we reflect on preliminary findings from a case study of communities located within the Jervis Bay Territory, the smallest mainland territory of Australia, which closed its borders with NSW several times throughout 2020-2021. This territory is subject to multiple-levels of governance, including the Australian Federal Police, federal Department of Infrastructure, ACT government, Parks Australia, and the Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community Council (WBACC), amongst others, while also being a site of the Australian Defence Force.

Bio: Dr. Andrew Burrige is a political geographer, based in the Discipline of Geography and Planning, School of Social Sciences at Macquarie University. Andrew's work has focused primarily upon undocumented migration, the effects of border securitisation and immigration detention, as well as asylum and refugee reception and settlement. He has worked with several immigrant and refugee rights organisations including No More Deaths/No Más Muertes (U.S.); Bristol Refugee Rights and Right to Remain (UK); and the International Detention Coalition.

Isara Khanjanasthiti (University of New England) - The state border impact on economic development contribution of Gold Coast Airport: Barriers and way forward

Gold Coast Airport is one of the fastest-growing airports in Australia. The airport is uniquely located across the border separating two states (Queensland and New South Wales) and two local government areas (the Gold Coast and Tweed Shire). This paper, based on the author's published PhD thesis, examines how the border has negatively impacted the airport's economic development contribution, the majority of which has been constrained to the Queensland and the Gold Coast side of the border.

The principal contributing factor is the approach employed by both the airport operator and local and state governments, in which the airport has been politically treated as an asset of Queensland and the Gold Coast. The paper investigates how such an approach has negatively impacted planning policies and stakeholder collaboration and engagement across the border. The paper concludes with a proposed model of a cross-border airport city region centred around Gold Coast Airport, which can transform the border into an economic development driver.

Bio: Isara lectures in urban and regional planning at the University of New England (UNE), having commenced this role in January 2022. He received his PhD in 2021 for his thesis

entitled 'Planning for economic development around a second-tier airport: A case study of Gold Coast Airport'.

Germana Nicklin (Massey University, New Zealand): Dr Germana Nicklin is reinventing herself as a political geographer. She teaches and researches topics related to borders and the enacting of borders. Recent projects include the bordering of Antarctica, maritime security in the Indo-Pacific and the national security vulnerabilities from supply chain disruptions in New Zealand.

David Aviles (University of Sydney) - Spatial Political Economy: Unravelling the 'hidden abodes' of capitalism's internal contradictions through relational geography.

In this paper, I will discuss the production of capitalist space through the lens of commodity frontiers. The aim is to unfold the process of spatial commodification within the seesaw of uneven development through the appropriation and exploitation of Cheap Nature. Drawing on Lefebvre (1974), Moore (2015), Santos (1977), and Smith (1984), the analysis will focus on the historical expansion of capitalism's Cheap law of value through the production and reproduction of commodity frontiers within Chile's history of capital, particularly in Patagonia. The paper argues that in peripheral social formations, using violence, capital attempts to frame and extirpate any previous and possible alternative to its own spatial image. In doing so, applying capitalism's Cheap law of value produces contradictions in the nature-society relations that find a way out through the deployment of commodity frontiers, which set the foundations of abstract space. As the production of abstract space and nature operates under capital's strictures, contradictions are forged within capitalist relations of production. These contradictions can be partially untangled through the reproduction of abstract space via state-space, reflecting accumulation strategies forged in class struggles throughout the capitalist uneven and combined development. In this way, the paper contributes to understanding space as part and parcel of capital's emergent totality, which needs to be dialectically analysed through relational geography to understand the seesaw of capitalist uneven and combined development.

Bio: David Avilés Espinoza is a PhD candidate in the Department of Political Economy at the University of Sydney. He is interested in the spatial political economy of uneven development in relation to peripheral capitalist social formations. His PhD research is focused on the production of space and nature in Chilean Patagonia through the analysis of commodity frontiers from a world-ecology perspective.

Alistair Sisson (University of Sydney) - The philanthro-state: Bloomberg Philanthropies and its program of 'government innovation'

In the eyes of many large philanthropic organisations, government needs help. Even in relatively well-resourced settings in the Global North, governments are said to be tending toward inertia in the face of evolving challenges, dealing with significant capacity constraints, and relying on skills and systems fit for times gone by. Breaking from the

idealised 'separation' of private and public powers, several philanthropies have turned their attention, directly, to the task of 'innovating' government. The most notable, Bloomberg Philanthropies, helps establish 'innovation teams' in city governments, funds a range of projects through its global 'Mayors' Challenge', and defines and promotes evidence-based decision-making through the 'What Works Cities' certification program. Critical literature focuses on philanthropies as a governing force in and of themselves, separate from government, influencing government spending indirectly via 'thought leadership' and leveraging private donations. Rarely are they understood as 'teaching' the state how to govern. The shift from indirect influence to direct engagement raises questions about how the world-view and priorities of philanthropies come to constitute the state: its will to govern and techniques and objects of intervention. This paper explores these questions through analysis of Bloomberg Philanthropies' government innovation program and reflects on the form and implications of a nascent philanthro-state.

Bios: Tom Baker is Senior Lecturer in the School of Environment, University of Auckland. His research focuses on how public policies are made and implemented, addressing social, institutional, ideological and spatial dimensions. His current work explores welfare capital and the new welfare state, and the role of self-styled innovation in reshaping urban policy.

Alistair Sisson is a Postdoctoral Research Associate in the School of Architecture, Design & Planning at the University of Sydney. His work spans housing, stigma, gentrification, urban development, and urban governance.

Grant Walton (ANU) - Spaces of corruption and the corruption of space in the Pacific

This presentation examines key local, national and regional efforts aimed at addressing corruption across the Pacific Islands. It first examines corruption and responses to it in the region from a 'traditional' approach. A traditional approach focuses on country-level assessments of corruption and assesses the strength of separate national integrity institutions (these include the judiciary, civil society, parliament, ombudsman, anti-corruption agencies and other organisations focused on strengthening integrity). This approach represents a "corruption of space" in that it misrepresents the nature corruption in the region. Corruption in the region is best understood through tracing networks of corruption that moves between supposedly "licit" and "illicit" spaces. Reframing corruption in this way reveals that spaces of corruption in the region involve a transnational network of actors and organisations, many of which are located within Australia and New Zealand, seemingly 'clean' countries. Addressing the increasing threat of corruption will mean reframing the nature of the problem – that is understanding corruption as a networked problem rather than a country level or institutional one.

Bio: Grant Walton is a Fellow at the Development Policy Centre, Crawford School of Public Policy and Chair of the Transnational Research Institute on Corruption. Grant draws on political geography and political science to research issues related to corruption, education policy, international development and civil society.

Xiaofeng Liu (University of Hong Kong) - Doing Political Geography Online: Methodological Alternatives in Special Eras

Abstract: Qualitative research methods have dominated political geography studies, with ethnographic works serving as a prevailing approach since the early 2000s. The COVID-19 pandemic, however, pushes scholars to seek alternative methodologies as fieldwork became challenging due to travel restrictions. This research contemplates an ongoing trend of virtual and digital qualitative work, which some scholars frame as Qualitative e-Research, in order to provide methodological alternatives for doing political geography at special times and in longer terms. The benefits and drawbacks of such online, remote fieldwork for political geography research will be discussed in relation to the tools, participants, and procedures. Although the alternative method may not be able to substitute on-site ethnographic gazing, a virtual-real world hybrid mode for doing qualitative fieldwork can facilitate data collection across spaces and enrich political geography methodology.

Bio: Xiaofeng LIU, PhD candidate at the Department of Geography, The University of Hong Kong. Her research interests include political geography, the Belt and Road, border, and sustainability. Personal webpage: <https://geoxliu.github.io/>

Sulagna Basu (University of Sydney) - Cyberspace: Unsettling Geographies of Metaphor

The abstract and complex nature of cyberspace lends itself to rich metaphor and neologisms. While scholars have explored various metaphors employed in the context of cyberspace, more attention should be paid not only to how these metaphors propagate a particular vision of cyberspace but also how these serve to naturalise, reify, and remove cyberspace and its related technologies, from the dynamics of its political and historical development. In this paper, I examine some notable spatial metaphors employed in the discourses on cyberspace and locate their multiple shifting geographies. I further assess their implications for not only how cyberspace is imagined, represented and contained but also how specific subjectivities may be constructed. I suggest that a fuller examination of these metaphors can serve to unsettle the specific geographies that implicate larger structural forces such as capitalism, imperialism and colonialism. More broadly, this analysis can allow for a more conscious and critical reading of cyber related technologies.

Bio: Sulagna Basu is a PhD candidate in the Department of Government & International Relations at the University of Sydney. Sulagna's research interests include critical security studies, gender & technology and critical geography.

Vegan Geographies: Spaces Beyond Violence, Ethics beyond Speciesism (Session)

Andrew McGregor, Simon Springer, Paul Hodge, Richard White

In this session we explore how the recent interest in vegan geographies (Hodge et al. 2022, Sexton et al. 2022, Giraud 2021) can intersect with political geography. While veganism has established roots in environmental philosophies, critical animal studies, cultural studies, sociology and history, it is only recently that food, animal, economic and cultural geographers have begun grappling with it. However, veganism is not just a social or cultural lifestyle phenomenon, but an inherently political project oriented at avoiding animal exploitation, suffering, and death wherever possible. Veganism pursues far reaching political, social and spatial change based on the pursuit of justice for all (human and non-human) and the exploration of more just ways to share space. Political geography has an important role to play in dismantling the politics and infrastructure that enable the spaces and practices of mass violence. In this session members of the Vegan Geographies Collective will reflect upon the recent release of their book and the possibilities for political geographies of veganism.

Taylor Coyne (UNSW) – Drain Pain: Reorienting Sydney’s Contemporary Urban Stormwater Governance

Understanding stormwater governance in urban Sydney requires a reflection on the historical and social settings which drainage infrastructure occur in. Fundamentally though, it requires a political consideration too. For this paper, I will explore the complexity of current governance structures for stormwater drainage in Sydney. Using the case study of Bondi in Sydney’s east I will map the story of how the Bondi Lagoons were drained so increase land for agricultural and then urban development. Removing the lagoons was also enmeshed in themes common across the British empire - sanitisation and dispossession. The latter being connected to the ongoing displacement of the region’s Indigenous peoples. The lagoons have now gone, but the undulating topography of eastern Sydney reveals ‘ghost waterscapes’ during heaving rains. To address this frequent localised flooding, the local Waverly Council have embarked on an extensive retrofitting of exiting stormwater infrastructures. Contemporary public-facing communication regarding council’s stormwater harvesting recycling scheme presents information about drainage driven by scientific-engineering rationale, and shows a politically flat notion of the stormwater infrastructures. By highlighting the local, state and non-government politics of these infrastructures, I will show that contemporary iterations of urban stormwater design have an opportunity to not only materially dismantle legacies of settler-colonialism in the city, but to create a future where marginalised communities’ knowledges and experiences of water can be prioritised in the design and governance processes. I conclude this paper by showing how reorienting stormwater governance away from technocratic methods such as recycling/harvesting and towards a culturally inclusive practice of co-design will enable tangible change in design and, perhaps, politics.

Bio: Taylor is a Human Geography PhD Candidate, Urban Political Ecologist and Hydrosocial Historian in the Environment and Society Group at the University of New South Wales, Sydney. Taylor works in the space of creating community-centric, culturally inclusive water sensitive urban design. He is currently involved in a number of collaborative projects in Sydney, Melbourne and Europe, all focused on water, undergrounds, infrastructures, and

human/more-than-human relations. In his research he asks how and why did Sydney's waterscapes - in particular stormwater - come to be the way they are today. Further, he questions who's knowledges and experiences have been included and excluded in the way these spaces have been designed, planned, managed and governed. As such, his work draws on three main areas: Urban Political Ecology, Environmental History and Critical Design Studies - all threaded together with the core themes of water and Sydney.

Blanche Verlie (RMIT) - Climate / energy / affect / power

Taking climate justice as an entry point, this presentation will explore my preliminary efforts to consider questions of affect, energy and power in human-climate entanglements. Through a conversation between affect theory, climate justice scholarship, the energy humanities and feminist posthumanism, I am trying to develop a framework that can trace the uneven flows of affect, energy and power in the climate system. I want to be able to attend to the energetic affects of human bodies as they experience and respond to climate change (such as feeling exhausted, inspired, or burnt out), and to situate these in relation to the planetary energy dynamics that characterise the changing climate (such as the burning of fossil fuels which exacerbates bushfires). I am hoping to explore how affective experiences such as climate anxiety are politicised; how energy systems have affective as well as climatic impacts; and how climatic dis/empowerment is experienced as affective states such as (not) having sufficient bodily energy.

Bio: Dr Blanche Verlie is a Research Fellow in the Centre for Urban Research at RMIT University. She draws on feminist and multispecies philosophy to consider the complex, diverse and intimate ways that climate changes manifests in contemporary life, and how this analysis could inform more just and ecological modes of living in, with, and as the world.

Nadia Degregori (University of Melbourne) - Post-mining equitable futures

The notion that metal and mineral extraction will necessarily bring about so-called 'development outcomes' has been challenged by activists, scholars, and residents of mining areas alike. (See, for example: Arsel et al. 2016; Bebbington and Williams 2008; Martinez-Alier 2012; among others). However, scarce attention has been paid to what happens after mineral or metal extraction cease in terms of 'development' (a few exceptions: Bainton and Holcombe 2018; Gregory 2021; O'Faircheallaigh and Lawrence 2019; and others). In this session, I would like to share some of my PhD research findings on the closure of mine 'Pierina' (Peru) and offer preliminary thoughts on the possibilities that past experiences of violence and inequity in mining contexts might open up when envisioning equitable futures. My aim is to initiate a conversation with other geographers interested in post-mining (or, more generally, post-industrial) futures and environmental justice. In that sense, I hope my presentation serves as a prompt for a collective discussion of questions such as: What is the potential for communities' history-making practices and collective memory to shape the future? How does the degree of negative mining 'impact' affect the possibilities for

prefigurative political action? In which aspects do mine closure processes differ or coincide in contexts across the world?

Bio: Nadia is a PhD candidate at the University of Melbourne. Her research project examines the temporalities of mine closure governance using a Political Ecology approach. Her professional experiences include policy analysis and research into the socio-environmental dimensions of resource extraction in Latin America with WWF, USAID, and with private companies.

Rachel Hughes (University of Melbourne) - Reparation in play: civil courage in the Courageous Turtle

This paper focusses on a recent point of intersection between international criminal justice processes and the norms of international development: international donor-funded reparation for historical crimes. A United Nations-supported tribunal underway in Cambodia since 2006 has codeveloped and formally recognised twenty-four ‘reparation projects’ that seek repair for historical Khmer Rouge crimes. I focus on one such reparation project (funded by the German state) which took the form of a theatrical production. It was developed and performed in high schools across Cambodia over the years 2015-2018. In line with long-standing critiques of the global standardisation of memory policy, I briefly analyse the way in which the play translates the German concept of Zivilcourage into the Cambodian context. My argument, however, is less about the ethics of such a translation, and more about translation being subject to the specificities of creative practice and place in the case of the Courageous Turtle.

Bio: Rachel studies the geographies of remembrance in late twentieth-century Cambodia and justice-seeking with reparation for historical crimes and has published extensively in these fields. She has also worked collaboratively to research museum exhibitions and experiences in Cambodia, Italy and Australia.

Ari Jerrems and Nicholas Lemay-Hebert (ANU) - Mapping red zones: colour-coding and cartographies insecurity

Red zones proliferated in the context of the global pandemic where colour-coded security zones defined the spatial dimensions of diverse restrictions. Prior to this, red zones had already been established and delimited in diverse locations around the globe. Nevertheless, there has been little specific theorisation of red zones in Political Geography or cognate disciplines. There is, however, burgeoning literatures in visual security studies and critical cartography that have interrogated related phenomena. Building on this work, this paper seeks to provide an initial conceptualisation of red zones and the regimes of visibility they shape. It does this by, firstly, offering an initial typology of red zones, outlining how they are deployed across diverse fields including policing, military intervention and hazard and disaster risk analysis. Secondly, it analyses the cartographic practices and visual logics underpinning the classification of red zones looking particularly at the importance of the

colour red in doing so. Finally, it explores the ramifications of regimes of visibility for those living in red zones, drawing on the case study of Port-au-Prince in Haiti. In theorising red zones, the paper contributes to visual security studies and emerging work on the chromatology of security.

Bios: Ari Jerrems is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs at ANU. His research and teaching interests cross the disciplines of International Relations and Political Geography. He is currently co-convener of the Australian Critical Border Studies Network and the Political Geography Study Group of the Institute of Australian Geographers.

Nicolas Lemay-Hébert is Associate Professor in the Department of International Relations in the Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs at ANU. His research interests include state-building and intervention issues in Asia/Pacific and beyond. He is particularly interested in local resistance to international interventions and the political economy of interventions.

Umut Ozguc (Deakin University) - postcodes as technologies of 'biomedical citizenship'

This paper examines postcodes as form of a political technology and argues that in the context of Australian pandemic borders, postcodes signify repetitive forms of settler colonial bordering, its 'white possession' (Moreton-Robinson 2018), and its re-construction of 'biomedical citizenship' which frames and governs the qualities and responsibilities of neoliberal subject in a particular way to qualify the demands for access to care. This paper explores how postcodes as technologies of biomedical citizenship and create such more-than-human topological multiplicities by bringing different human and non-human actors, knowledge and technologies together entangling bodies and places.

Bio: Umut is currently a lecturer in International Relations and Politics at Deakin University (soon to be joining Macquarie University). My research interests include border politics, critical security studies, and settler-colonialism. My research examines the construction of borders in settler colonial states, biopolitics, walls, and the changing nature of security in the context of global (im)mobility regime. I am the co-founder of Australian Critical Border Studies Network.

Dhiraj Nainani (Nanyang Technological University, Singapore)- The Legal Geography of Wastewater Surveillance in Singapore (and Beyond)

Amidst the plethora of public health surveillance techniques and technologies that have emerged from the COVID-19 crisis (Couch et al., 2020), wastewater surveillance – the process of testing wastewater in a catchment area to detect certain biomarkers – has come to be considered as an effective and non-intrusive means of regulating disease (Thompson et al., 2020).

Using the work of Philippopoulos-Mihalopoulos (2014) on legal geography, Foucault (2007) on power, and Larkin (2013) on STS and infrastructure, I look at how wastewater surveillance has been deployed in Singapore during the COVID-19 pandemic as a means of investigating how the law uses public health surveillance to capture and enmesh a diverse group of human and non-human bodies in urban space.

As a form of ‘epidemiological lawscaping’, wastewater surveillance in Singapore affects and implicates three interconnected sets of bodies: a) those ‘above’ ground, such as citizens and migrant workers; b) those ‘below’ ground, such as pipes and diverse bodies of water; and c) those ‘within’ and ‘without’ the human body (such as viruses and various techno-legal objects of surveillance). This also raises intriguing possibilities for formulating multi-specific public health surveillance strategies in the future.

Bio: Dhiraj Nainani is currently a Research Fellow at the Singapore Centre for Environmental Life Sciences Engineering at Nanyang Technological University. His current research focuses on public health surveillance, especially wastewater surveillance. He is especially interested in studying this from the interdisciplinary perspectives of legal geography, data studies, and ethnographic fieldwork.

Felicity Gray (ANU) – Making space for peace: Unarmed civilian protection as spatial-relational practice

The protection of civilians is a spatial-relational practice. Different practices of protection – armed, unarmed, civilian, military – shape varying forms and experiences of protective space. Conversely, different forms of protective space constrain and shape possibilities of protective practices and relationships. Though spatial analyses of conventional protection modalities such as United Nations peacekeeping are well developed (Higate and Henry 2009), explorations of alternative protection geographies are more limited. In this paper, I explore how unarmed civilian protection – a form of civilian-led, nonviolent protection practiced by civil society and communities – shapes understandings and practices of protective space in different ways to conventional protection mechanisms. Through an ethnographic case analysis of civilian protection in the context of the civil war in South Sudan, I argue that in contrast to conventional protection practices that emphasise fixed boundaries of protective spaces (the border of a state, a Protection of Civilians (PoC) site, the creation of protective zones) and securing these spaces through force, unarmed civilian protection practices rely on relations to create protective spaces that often defy conventional confines. This results in protective spaces being opened and utilised in different scales, particularly at the level of the personal. Rather than top-down, blanket protection areas defined by external third-party actors, local communities use personal relationships to develop protective spaces more skin to collective, relational quilts, stitched together by a diversity of actors across conventional boundaries.

Bio: Felicity Gray is a PhD student at ANU. Her doctoral research examines how nonviolent practices contribute to the protection of civilians in situations of violent conflict. Her project explores the possibilities and limitations of alternative forms of nonviolent

practice that are being used to protect civilians, with a particular focus on ‘unarmed civilian protection’ methodologies. She has a particular interest in the role this plays in the conflict in South Sudan.

Jessica Collins (Macquarie University) - The camp as a custodian institution: the case of Krnjača Asylum Centre, Belgrade, Serbia

Care and control are concepts frequently invoked within Camp Studies, often as a means of characterising the varied logics of institutional camps. This article builds on recent geographical literature by going beyond care and control and proposing a renewed focus on the idea of custodianship within a range of historical and contemporary camp contexts, from colonial and totalitarian concentration camps to present-day refugee camps. The notion of the camp as a custodian institution, that is, a sovereign authority whose biopolitical interventions imply both the preservation and curtailment of life, provides an effective means of apprehending the complex nature of camp governance, and in particular the shifting intensity of power relations between management and camp residents. We develop this conceptual discussion via existing literature on concentration camps, before grounding our analysis in the case study of Krnjača Asylum Centre, a refugee camp along the so-called Balkan Route migration corridor in Serbia. Our empirical discussion of Krnjača indicates that the concept of custodianship can be useful in understanding seemingly distinct and even contradictory modes of camp governance as part of a single coherent regime of power, from the imposition and negotiation of everyday rules and regulations to the strict containment measures put into place during COVID-19.

Bio: Jessica Collins is a fourth-year PhD Candidate in the Discipline of Geography and Planning at Macquarie University. Her PhD project investigates the political geographies of institutional camps in Serbia in the context of the Balkan Migration Route. Her research interests are broadly situated within political geographies: (1) informal migration corridors, (2) smuggling networks, and (3) migration governance.

Richard Carter-White (Macquarie University) - The Restless Camp

Since its invention in the late 19th century, the camp has frequently been regarded as the first recourse in providing support for human beings in the most urgent need of care, including refugees and victims of disaster. Yet the camp has also and infamously been used as an experimental tool in pursuit of the absolute demolition of the human being, marshalling the tools of modernity towards a novel and terrifying form of violence. The historical enrolment of camps into campaigns of both humanitarianism and atrocity might be written off as a superficial observation: the outcome of camp spaces having simply been used at different times for differing political purposes. But this would be to disregard the influence of the camp itself as a coherent geographical formation with its own distinct practices, spatial arrangements, power relations, orientations and (geo)political outcomes. This paper introduces a book project that theorises the camp not simply as a neutral tool that is instrumentally deployed to fulfil a diverse range of political purposes, but instead, via

Foucault (1988), as a spatial political technology that has its own restless impetus and makes possible certain political conditions and realities across wildly differing geopolitical contexts.

Bio: Richard Carter-White is a Lecturer in Human Geography at Macquarie University. His research sits at the intersection of cultural and political geography, and provides a geographical perspective on structures, spaces and experiences of violence (both political and environmental). He is currently engaged in projects investigating the spatialities of the camp, and post-disaster communities and landscapes in Japan.

Andrew BurrIDGE (Macquarie University) - Countermapping 20 years of Australia's use of hotel detention

- With Petria Wellsby (Macquarie University); Michael Chang (Macquarie University) and Daniel Ghezelbash (UNSW Kaldor Centre)

This presentation takes a specific focus upon the use of hotels, motels and other forms of ad-hoc accommodation by the Australian government to detain and contain asylum seekers since 2002, as part of its wider detention landscape. The use of these non-traditional spaces – classified as ‘alternative places of detention’ (APODs) by the Australian government – has remained relatively unknown in contrast to more formal detention centre sites.

To date, no comprehensive study of Australia's use of APODs has been conducted, considering the longer historical trajectory and purpose, and connection to the broader onshore and offshore detention landscape. Further, no publicly available and comprehensive documentation of APODs exists – their location, number of detainees held, and other information remains difficult to trace, and at times purposefully obfuscated by government agencies. Drawing upon practices of counter-mapping, we have sought to document all known locations of hotel detention sites currently or previously in use across Australia between 2002-2022. This presentation therefore asks, what is the purpose, what are the challenges, and what can we learn from practices of (counter-)mapping hidden sites of detention?

Bio: Dr. Andrew BurrIDGE is a political geographer, based in the Discipline of Geography and Planning, School of Social Sciences at Macquarie University. Andrew's work has focused primarily upon undocumented migration, the effects of border securitisation and immigration detention, as well as asylum and refugee reception and settlement. He has worked with several immigrant and refugee rights organisations including No More Deaths/No Más Muertes (U.S.); Bristol Refugee Rights and Right to Remain (UK); and the International Detention Coalition.

Pia Treichel is based at the University of Melbourne, in the School of Geography, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences & the Melbourne Climate Futures Academy. Her PhD research explores the political economy of the Green Climate Fund – the largest of the funding

mechanisms under the international climate agreements – as a means of explaining its climate change adaptation portfolio and the associated justice implications.

Josh Watkins (National University of Singapore): Dr. Josh Watkins is a Lecturer of Global Studies at National University of Singapore. Josh's research centers on ethics, geographic imaginations and knowledge, and migration management.

Marilu Melo Zurita (UNSW): Dr Marilu Melo is part of the Environment and Society Group the University of New South Wales (UNSW), Sydney. With a disciplinary background in human geography and cultural anthropology, her research has explored the fields of social housing relocation projects, peri-urban disaster management, water governance and volumetric urbanism.