
AAG Node 2024

University of Toronto

Thanks to our sponsors: University of Toronto St. George Department of Geography and Planning, York University Department of Human Geography, University of Toronto Scarborough Department of Human Geography, University of Toronto School of Cities

We wish to acknowledge this land on which the University of Toronto operates. For thousands of years it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and the Mississaugas of the Credit. Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land.

Schedule- Day 1

April 19, 2024

1:30 pm - 2:40 pm

Collecting Obscured International Migration Data (featuring Haven's first live data drop!)

LIVE | Room: Sidney Smith 5017

Speakers: Alison Mountz, Kira Williams, Ana Visan, and Kate Motluk

Haven: The Asylum Lab is launching a new website to share migration-related data through monthly data drops. Each drop features a unique dataset archived at the University of Toronto, accompanied by interviews, papers, and webinars. The Haven website will make it possible for those interested to be involved in multiple ways: by contributing data, by joining the Haven network, or by using our resources in the classroom.

2:40pm - 3:00pm

BREAK

3:00pm - 4:20pm

What are the roles of universities in supporting Indigenous sustainability?

LIVESTREAM | Sidney Smith 5016 G

Panelists: Margaret Rudolf, Elizabeth Figus, Adelheid Herrmann, Margaret Rudolf, Nicholas Parlato, Mike DeLue

Universities stand in a unique position to make space for complex topics and diverse decision-making audiences. This panel highlights the current and potential role of universities through the lens of early career and Indigenous scholars in Alaska. How are universities supporting sustainable Indigenous community-led work across complex political and cultural geographies? What are the next steps for universities as hubs of network-maintenance, service, education, and mentorship?

International Migration Data and Contemporary Bordering Practices

LIVE | Room: Sidney Smith 5017

Speakers: Alison Mountz, Kira Williams, Ana Visan, and Kate Motluk

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4:20pm - 4:40pm

BREAK

4:40pm - 6:00pm

Methodological Approaches to, Experiences of and Challenges in Making Access to Information Requests

LIVE | Room: Sidney Smith 5017

Speakers: Alison Mountz, Kira Williams, Ana Visan, and Kate Motluk

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Transnational Migration, Precarious Legal Status: Spatialities of Movement, Negotiation, and Resistance

LIVE | Room: Sidney Smith 5016 G

Speakers: Leah Montange, Martha Balaguer Cuervo, and Bahar Hashemi

Our paper session addresses the strategies, struggles, and negotiations of migrating people without permanent legal status or permission to work. We explore this theme spatially, though in different ways, as well as in different (trans)national contexts: the circuit of Iranian women's migration to Canada as they navigate transnational family connections; the caravanning of Central American asylum seekers across Mexico to the US-Mexico border; and undocumented migrant struggles over urban space, policing, detention and political subjectivity in Madrid, Spain.

6:00pm - 7:00pm

SUPPER (provided)

7:00pm - 8:00pm

20 Dreams

LIVE | Room: Sidney Smith 5017

Speaker: Katherine McKittrick

Schedule - Day 2

April 20, 2024

3:00pm - 4:20pm

The Political Economy of Migration Governance: Extraction, Logistification and Racial Capitalism 1

LIVESTREAM | Room: Sidney Smith 5017

Speakers: Danai Avgeri, Ali Bhagat, Lauren Martin, Lorenzo Vianelli

This paper session looks to advance methodological approaches, theoretical framings and empirical studies that explore the extractive and racial capitalist character of migration governance practices. We seek to attend to the convergences, dissonances, and new potentialities across our work as critical scholars wanting to unpack humanitarian exploitation, racialized value extraction, and the logistification of migration governance at large.

The Production of Space at 50: Demarcations

LIVESTREAM | Room: Sidney Smith 5016 G

Panelists: George García-Quesada, Riki Scanlan, Dhivya Janarthanan, Francesco Biagi, Eric Sheppard, Key MacFarlane

This paper session aims to investigate the enduring legacy of Henri Lefebvre's *The Production of Space* on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. After half a century, the idea of the production of space has lost much of its sense of urgency, dulled by time, repetition, and overuse. It is easy to forget that Lefebvre's text aimed to address a real historical need: to develop a unitary theory of space that would transcend the existing domains and specializations of knowledge. This unity was to be grasped dialectically, not as a completed system but as an open totality, an ongoing political project. What is the status of Lefebvre's project in our contemporary moment? What does it mean to speak of the production of space at a time when the destruction of space has come, so unevenly, to the fore?

4:20pm - 4:40pm

BREAK

4:40pm - 6:00pm

Towards Geographies of Trust

LIVESTREAM | Room: Sidney Smith 5016 G

Discussants: Benjamin Trouble, Josh Watkins, Tara Sutton, Chris Lizotte, Michael Glass

Although a voluminous literature exists on trust and its intersections with several issues, including climate change, pandemics, conflict resolution and ethnoracial relations, geographers have had relatively less to say about the role of trust. An exception is Withers' (2018) overview of trust as investigated by geographers. This session's papers investigate trust in its interpersonal, institutional and epistemic forms from a geographic perspective. As trust is a relatively new area of inquiry in geography, we employ a broad definition of trust and the role it plays across a variety of arenas.

Local climate justice: The role of climate activists and local government

LIVE | Room: Sidney Smith 5017

Speakers: Nushrat Jahan, Miranda Baksh, Ryan Cheung, Anne Keary, and Shah Mohiuddin

The panellists will cover topics on the ethical underpinning of their climate action, the diverse range of climate action implemented by activists, the local government's climate policy and climate action programs, and the various ways community members and activists collaborate with local government. The discussion will further explore the ethical framing behind local climate action, the similarities, and differences of climate action in different geographic locations, and the role of local government in achieving climate action goals.

6:00pm - 7:00pm

SUPPER (provided)

7:00pm - 8:30pm

What Does Palestine Teach Geographers?

LIVE | Room: Sidney Smith 5017

Speakers: Majd Al-Shihabi and Rachel Goffe

The Placing Palestine research cluster emerged out of dialogues between faculty members and graduate students as the genocide in Gaza started unfolding. But the history of the Question of Palestine at its core is a spatial one: starting with the United Nations partition plans of the Eastern Mediterranean (Mashriq), to the ethnic cleansing of Palestine (The Nakba), to the continued dispossession of land through the apartheid regime of the State of Israel. As geographers, we are being informed by the current moment to learn with and through Palestine. This session will be a town hall, with a facilitated discussion about the impact of Palestine on our work on our campuses.