

Programme

Borders – Human Geography Winter Seminar 2021

Time and place: 10th – 12th of March 2021, Zoom. Register for the seminar and sessions [here](#).

Wednesday, 10 th March		
Keynote 09.00-10.00	Transgressing boundaries in geographic scholarship Associate Professor Hilde Refstie, NTNU Zoom	As scholars we engage with boundaries in a number of ways. We construct them, transgress them, and disrupt them. Using my own work as a starting point, this lecture discusses three 'boundaries' in geographic scholarship. One is the negotiation of disciplinary and sub-disciplinary boundaries. The other is the relationship between research and practice in the academy. The third, and most emphasized in this lecture, is the changing north-south boundaries in research, education and practice in terms of what is increasingly being referred to as 'the southern turn' in for example urban theorizing. The lecture reflects on how boundaries such as the ones listed above may or may not be productively blurred.
Break		
Parallel sessions 10.30-12.00	Faghistorisk panel Jan Hesselberg, UiO Arild Holt-Jensen, UiB Britt Dale, NTNU Zoom	Sesjonen vil belyse geografifagets historie i Norge, en historie mange yngre geografer har mindre kjennskap til enn den internasjonale faghistorien. I Norge er faget utvilsomt etablert og utviklet innenfor svært trange grenser; med få ansatte og svært begrensede materielle ressurser helt frem til 1980-tallet. Kunnskap om denne historien bidrar til å styrke vår faglige identitet og gir grunnlag for å forstå og reflektere over hvorfor faget fremstår som det gjør ved de ulike lærestedene. De tre innleiderne vil presentere hovedtrekkene ved fagets utvikling ved universitetene i hhv. Oslo, Bergen og Trondheim. Markante fagpersoner, endringer i institusjonell tilknytning og utvikling av faglig profil vil bli vektlagt.
	Urban borders and boundaries Lars Böcker, TØI Edwige Yekple, UiB Kristian Tveiten, UiO Ragnhild Wiktrøm, UiO Terje Wessel, UiO, UiO Per Gunnar Røe, UiO Zoom	Cities, towns and urban regions are characterized by boundaries and borders, that are material and visible, imaginative and invisible, or social and symbolic. The city itself and its urbanisms are in many ways defined by boundaries. People living in or moving through urban spaces encounter such borders, enabling or constraining their everyday life activities. Borders are highly political, of course when cities are divided by walls raised for reasons of politics or power, but also when socio-spatial borders include or exclude humans or social groups in more subtle ways. In this session, we wish to openly discuss these issues based on short presentations from research. We will focus on the role, meaning and construction of borders in political projects, design and social practices in the city region.
	The dual crisis of capitalism: exponential growth and ecological limits	Ståle Holgersen will present some reflections from his coming book "Crisis of capitalism. Optimism from the edge of a cliff". How do the current economic and ecological crises interrelate in the dual and diabolic crisis of capitalism? Holgersen will argue that these crises are embedded in the same capitalist economy. Solving the economic crisis by regaining high levels of growth,

	<p>Ståle Holgersen, Uppsala University</p> <p>Håvard Haarstad, UiB</p> <p>Sylvi Endresen, UiO</p> <p>Yngve Heiret, UiO</p> <p>Zoom</p>	<p>will make it harder to solve the ecological crisis. The presentation will explore the logic and class character of this diabolic crisis of capitalism.</p> <p>Sylvi Birgit Endresen and Håvard Haarstad will comment on the presentation, opening for a critical discussion about ecological and economic sustainability, and the limits to capitalism.</p>
	<p>Master-presentasjoner: menneskets møte med naturen</p> <p>Torstein Throndsen (UiO) and MA students fra UiB, NTNU, UiO</p> <p>Zoom</p>	<p>Plast i fiskeri- og havbruksnæringens produksjonssystem. Anna Enerstvedt fra UiB.</p> <p>Environmentally forced migrants? A qualitative study revealing perceptions of climate change of rural population in the Ancash Region in Peru, and in what way migration has been climate-induced. Ingrid Løken fra NTNU.</p> <p>Hvem forsvarer naturen? En studie av det ytre miljøets plass i helse, miljø og sikkerhet på norsk sokkel. Tale Ellingvåg fra UiO.</p> <p>For whom are sustainable standards? Negotiating the legitimacy of a global palm oil standard by local affected groups in Central Kalimantan, Indonesia. Hanne Hamre fra NTNU.</p>

Lunch

Cultural lunch 12.30: Voices from Den norske studentersangforening

<p>Plenary</p> <p>1300-1400</p>	<p>Populismens grenser</p> <p>Håvard Haarstad, Professor UiB</p> <p>Camilla Houeland, Postdoktor UiO</p> <p>Tarje Wanvik, Forsker UiB</p> <p>Zoom</p>	<p>Hvordan skal vi forstå populismens fremvekst, og hva har den med grenser å gjøre? Populistiske strømninger har kommet til Norge, og gjør seg gjeldende i bompenggeopprør, distriktsopprør og i gryende motstand mot klimapolitikken. Som andre steder i verden ser motsetningene ut til å utspille seg i skillelinjen mellom by og land.</p> <p>I denne paneldebatten skal vi prøve å få grep om populismens fremvekt og se den gjennom blikket til samfunnsgeografien. Er det geografisk polarisering som ligger under disse trendene, eller bør det heller forklares på andre måter?</p>
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Thursday, 11th March

<p>Keynote</p> <p>09.00-10.00</p>	<p>Deep-sea minerals and oil 'lying in wait'?</p> <p>Territoriality and resource-making practices in the Barents Sea</p> <p>Berit Kristoffersen, Associate Professor UiT</p> <p>Zoom</p>	<p>This talk explores how the marginal ice zone and the Norway's northern waters more broadly, are designed, interwoven and operationalized in relation to extractive and political practices. Meanwhile the Barents Sea has been targeted as the most 'prospective' area for future petroleum developments by the Norwegian policy elites for the past two decades, the attention is now also turned towards deep sea minerals, where a management regime is set to be modeled after hydrocarbon practices.</p> <p>Drawing on conceptualizations of state space and territoriality, the talk examines the maps and practices that can render the Barents Sea resources commercially viable. For example: how does geological presence comes into being through mappings of its physics, and what are the wider political implications of these spatial strategies through which nature and geology becomes translated into economic phenomena?</p>
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		Berit Kristoffersen is an Associate Professor the Department of Social Sciences at UiT: The Arctic University of Norway. She leads the research project RENEW, connected to Smart Senja and ARC (Arctic Centre for Sustainable energy) and leads UiT's sustainability committee.
Break		
Parallel sessions 10.30-12.00	Geographical perspectives on migration and borders Marta Bivand Erdal, PRIO (chair) Mette Strømsø, PRIO Andreas Forø Tollefsen, PRIO Davide Bertelli, PRIO Sara Larsen Zoom	How is migration defined by borders? Geographical perspectives on migration and borders, will be explored through four presentations from contrasting vantage points within geography as a discipline and building on different empirical contexts. 1) The “us” and “them” of right wing populism: Border discourses within the Norwegian Progress Party and the Dutch Freedom Party (Sara Larsen; Master's student 2019). 2) “You are in society up to a point, beyond which you're not any longer, this is our difficulty as immigrants”: migrants and the challenge of everyday borders in Italy (Davide Bertelli, Master's student 2019). 3) Nation and migration: reconsidering boundary-making in the research design (Mette Strømsø). 4) Geographical patterns of conflict-induced migration – within and across borders (Andreas Forø Tollefsen).
	MA Student session By and for MA students, chaired by Peder Ressem Østring og Ingrid Holland BA students also welcome Zoom	Why are we studying Human Geography? The answer to this big question ranges from David Harveys call for an 'applied peoples' geography' to questions of labour market relevance. For this session, students will have a space of discussion and critical self-reflexivity about the role and conditions of the student. What can we as students do to realize our goals, and how does the institutes facilitate the development of critical subjects? MA students Ingrid Andrea Holland and Peder Ressem Østring will be chairing the discussion, and Ronya Reitan Solberg will have a short intervention from UiB.
	Local Environment special issue: Environmental governance and energy infrastructure transitions Siddharth Sareen, UiS Zora Kovacic, UiB Lars Coenen, Western Norway University of Applied Sciences Zoom	The special issue of Local Environment features four articles and an editorial synthesis on the varied aspects of the integrative theme Environmental governance and energy infrastructure transitions. Special issue editor Sareen will present the theme and motivation behind the edited collection, and offer a summary of a co-authored article . Kovacic will present an article she led. Coenen will reflect on these contributions, and take us into a panel discussion on the theme of the special issue: why do we need to combine a focus on environmental governance and energy infrastructure transitions? What challenges do human geographers face in doing so?
	Tekst og Rom Jørgen Alnæs, Anne Hege Simonsen, Ragnhild Fjellro, Marianne Skjulhaug, Tor Arve Benjaminsen,	AVLYST

Synne Tollerud Bull

Lunch

Lunch launch 12.30: Samfunnsgeografen

Keynote

1300-
1400

Geopolitical Fault-line Cities

Michael Gentile, Professor UiO

[Zoom](#)

Michael Gentile will discuss the geopolitical fault-line city, comparing it with the more established concept of the ethnographically divided city. The key differences between the two relate to the character and origin of the problems underlying conflict. In divided cities, the principal concerns are mostly local and related to social and spatial justice, discrimination, security, residential segregation, and uneven political representation. In geopolitical fault-line cities, on the other hand, there are severe disputes about geopolitical alignment, foreign policy, and the overall character of government.

Having introduced the concept of the geopolitical fault-line city, I proceed by linking it to the cases of two cities in east-central Ukraine: Kharkiv and Dnipro. I will show that the categories of “Ukrainian”, “Russian” or even “Russian-speaking” are of relatively little salience in these cities, contrary to the narrative of ethnic polarization that has been haunting many academic and media portrayals of Ukraine. What matters, instead, is self-identification as “European” or “Soviet”, imaginary supra-national communities that are geopolitical at heart.

Finally, I will attempt to show when, where and how the geopolitical fault-line city concept may be of use to scholars studying conflict in cities located beyond Russia’s incandescent margins

Friday, 12th March

Keynote

09.00-
10.00

The assemblage of culture-led policies in small towns and rural communities

Hans Kjetil Lysgård, Vice-rector UiA

[Zoom](#)

How and to what extent are local culture-led policies constructed as ‘assemblages’ of mobile global policy discourses translated and reconstructed through local traditions, practices, materialization and institutionalization?

Culture-led development has become an important discourse of urban and regional development policy in large urban metropolises, and small cities and rural communities are in the same way as large cities influenced by these mobile global discourses. Most research on culture-led policies have examined policies in urban contexts, but what about the rural? It is therefore interesting to look into how boundaries between urban and rural territorialities are defined when it comes to cultural policies and how to understand the construction of difference and similarity between urban and rural territories in this specific field of local policy.

Break

Parallel sessions 10.30-12.00	Language barriers, dilemmas and exclusions in geography and planning Elin Børrud, NMBU Siddharth Sareen, UiS Ryan Gever, Statsbygg Yngve Heiret, UiO David Jordhus-Lier, UiO Zoom	<p>Five people who either work in higher education or have student experience from these institutions, will share their reflections around the problems we have with language. Language builds community and enables learning, but in a rapidly internationalising university system, the question of what language we use is becoming increasingly troublesome.</p> <p>Often we make these choices without much reflection, but taken together every-day language decisions can pave the way for structural changes – or cement existing cultures.</p> <p>Through short introductions, we will talk about how our language practices include or exclude different groups of students and staff, how they facilitate or impede conceptual learning, how they prepare our students for the labour market, and what they mean for our discipline’s relevance in society.</p>
	Taking stock of the PhD education in geography in Norway: what are the future needs and potential? Hege Merete Knutsen (UiO), Ragnhild Overå (UiB), Gunhild Setten (NTNU) Zoom	<p>This session is an open invitation to a dialogue over the PhD education offered at the geography departments in Bergen (UiB), Oslo (UiO) and Trondheim (NTNU). Offering high quality PhD education in the discipline is one of the essential and most exciting tasks of the departments. This was also stated as a key motivation for setting up the Norwegian Researcher School in Geography, funded by the Research Council of Norway (2013-2018), and a ‘joint venture’ of the departments. A main intention of the Researcher School was to play a central role in contributing to strengthening geographical research, and to secure the recruitment of geographers to researcher positions and university faculty posts. Another intention was to act as a platform for more systematic national as well as Nordic collaboration concerning the PhD education. The School was in many respects successful in being such a platform, yet, after the School ended, we are left with some concerns regarding how to continue collaborating and in what ways. To set the dialogue off, Gunhild Setten will provide a brief introduction by drawing on the conclusions of the final report of the researcher school.</p> <p>Issues to be addressed in the session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which disciplinary/thematic debates are the PhD candidates keen to engage in? • What are the departments able to offer in terms of PhD courses? • What are the experiences from and thoughts regarding scaling up to more systematic Nordic collaboration?
	The Norwegian-Swedish border Bjørnar Sæther, UiO Peter de Souza, INN Bjørn Terje Andersen, Innlandet fylkeskommune Zoom	<p>Professor in human geography Bjørnar Sæther presents from his recent book «Kunnskapsbasert utviklingsarbeid i grenseland» based on studies of Interreg supported cross border development efforts.</p> <p>https://www.universitetsforlaget.no/kunnskapsbasert-utviklingsarbeid-i-grenseland</p> <p>Professor emeritus Peter de Souza, Inland Norway University of Applied Sciences comments on the book.</p> <p>Senior advisor Bjørn Terje Andersen, Innlandet fylkeskommune, comments on the role of cross border co-operation.</p> <p>Followed by questions and discussion</p>

	<p>Samfunnsgeografiens grenser: Hva er profesjonen verdt i yrkeslivet?</p> <p>Gunnar Berglund, Asplan Viak</p> <p>Kari-Anne Isaksen, Klima- og miljødepartementet</p> <p>Daniel Mathé, Kommunal- og moderniseringsdepartementet</p> <p>Jenny Kosberg Skagestad, ZERO</p> <p>Iselin Hewitt, UiO (chair)</p> <p>Zoom</p>	<p>Hvordan jobber samfunnsgeografer utenfor akademia? Hvorfor er samfunnsgeografi et nyttig og relevant fag? Hvordan er grensesnittet mot andre fagdisipliner? Hvordan utfordres faglig integritet og fagets kritiske perspektiver?</p> <p>Hør erfaringer fra fire samfunnsgeografer med mye erfaring fra fagområdene byutvikling, planlegging, klima og miljø. Det blir fire korte innledninger, etterfulgt av paneldiskusjon og spørsmål fra salen.</p>
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Lunch

Cultural lunch 12.30: Spoken word by Hanna Asefaw

<p>Plenary</p> <p>1300-1400</p>	<p>The covid-19 lockdown one year later</p> <p>Svenn Erik Mamelund, OsloMet (Chair)</p> <p>Ulrikke Wethal, UiO</p> <p>May-Britt Ohman Nielsen, UiA</p> <p>Ole Georg Moseng, USN</p> <p>Marta Bivand Erdal, PRIO</p> <p>Zoom</p>	<p>This panel brings together two historians and two geographers to discuss the role of borders in historical and present pandemics.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ulrikke Bryn Wethal discusses how social practices compete, interact and are negotiated in the 'home-as-office' during the COVID-19 pandemic. 2. May-Britt Ohman Nielsen thematizes microbes, borders and historians, and points out how the relationship between epidemics and borders has been characterized by a two-sided dynamic within the history of science and medical history. 3. Ole Georg Moseng will problematize connections between pandemics and borders through globalization, expert advice, pandemic control without vaccines, and global inequality in health. 4. Marta Bivand Erdal will address issues and concerns related with seasonal labor migration and the spread of COVID-19.
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