

Fluid Geographies Sessions

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1. Creative Engagement with Fluid Geographies

Closed Panel Convenor: Robin Kearns, University of Auckland with speakers, Kennedy Warne, Gregory O'Brien, Tony Nyberg. Discussants Professors David Conradson and Karen Fisher.

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We live amid fluidity, both embodied and grounded in the places of our dwelling. How can geography best express such relationships in a time of climate change complicities? Engaging in the geohumanities 'turn' and dialogue with creative practitioners with geographic sensibility offers a promising direction that take us out of the prosaic and into the realm of nuance and suggestion. This session invites dialogue between geographers and visual artists and writers who creatively address fluidity in Aotearoa. The session's purpose is to sketch a more expansive, inclusive and fluid geography. Confirmed speakers who will offer samples of their art and reflect on their practice include: writer Kennedy Warne; poet and painter Gregory O'Brien; and photographer Tony Nyberg. Contributors will be introduced, and discussants Professor David Conradson and Professor Karen Fisher, facilitated by Robin Kearns.

Key Words: Place, fluidity, art, creative writing, geohumanities

2. What lies beneath: Re-surfacing and re-claiming taonga stories from below

Session Convenors: Maja Zonjić and Jacs Forde, Te Herenga Waka / Victoria University of Wellington

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More-than-human geographies enable us to consider the multiplicity of entanglements we share with more-than-human relations and to challenge linear understandings of temporality and materiality. While advances have been made by geographers in encouraging more nuanced conceptualisations of these inter-connections across various scales, research that centres super-natural or metaphysical more-than-humans remains scarce within the Western geographic scholarship cannon. For example, although ocean currents carry knowledges, ancestors, and taniwha, it is their ability to support global flows of commercial shipping and human migration that is more frequently promulgated in publications. Similarly, 'development' agendas are more likely to frame culturally significant taonga species as commercially-viable 'natural resources', than acknowledge their whakapapa. Indigenous, anti-colonial, feminist, and community-centred research praxis challenge these framings, by highlighting that multi-faceted knowledge systems engaging with the spiritual are not folkloric mythologies or superstitions unworthy of scholarly attention. By making explicit the importance of attending to our relational entanglements with swampy, sandy, salty, and shape-shifting more-than-humans dwelling in the deep, this session welcomes papers that make space for their often overlooked narratives to advance our knowledge of the stories they tell.

Key Words: more-than-human geographies; spiritual; relational entanglements

3. Land to water: Ecosomatic experiences in the Anthropocene. Part 1.

Workshop Convenors: Karen Barbour, University of Waikato and Michelle Duffy, University of Newcastle

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Framed by the question, what does it feel like to engage in practices, processes and relations that help us understand the changes wrought by the Anthropocene?, this practical in-person workshop involves participation in accessible movement and listening activities. No prior specialised movement or listening experience is required. Participants should be willing to move and come prepared with comfortable clothes, a smartphone and a journal. The workshop will begin inside with gentle movement and then journey through local places (outdoors as weather permits). This workshop is Part 1 of two related activities. For those participants who can attend both, it is intended that there is a flow of ideas from Part 1 to Part 2. Participants are invited to read the following chapter in preparation for the session (PDF provided on request): Barbour, K. (2024). Shaky islands and rising seas: Dancing Entanglements in the Global South. In S. Fraleigh & S.R. Riley (Eds.), *Geographies of us: Ecosomatic essays and practice pages*. Routledge.

Keywords: Anthropocene, ecosomatic, water, embodied, soundscape

4. Land to water: Watery (re)thinking in the Anthropocene. Part 2.

Session Convenors: Michelle Duffy, The University of Newcastle and Karen Barbour, University of Waikato

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For those participants able to attend the earlier workshop, there will be a flow of ideas from Part 1 to Part 2. This session is an invitation to explore how the confluence of fluid ontologies and shape-shifting methodologies encourage avenues for responding to and addressing the Anthropocene. This session is framed by the question: what does it feel like to engage in practices, processes and relations that help us understand and seek ways to address the changes wrought by the Anthropocene? Fluid ontologies provides opportunity for experiencing and feeling water in terms of sociality rather than the suppression of water's vitality and agency that exists in its definition and management as a resource (Laborde and Jackson 2022: 360). Shape-shifting methodologies, with their explicit focus on engaging with the specificity of places-and-times, facilitate telling and retelling stories that describe multiple, nonlinear connections (Ngwu 2022). This combination of framing then can help us 'learn about phenomena – about specific material configurations of the world's becoming' (Barbour 2024: 113) and so capture the deep entanglement of human and nonhuman entities.

Key Words: Water, fluid, Anthropocene, ontologies, methodologies

5. Living with Living Rivers

Workshop Convenors: Ian Fuller, Massey University and Jon Tunnicliffe, University of Auckland

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Rivers are inherently dynamic but have long been engineered and managed as though they were static. The true dynamism of our rivers, and the limitations of our management paradigm, has been revealed during recent catastrophic floods in Aotearoa New Zealand. These events have exposed the vulnerability of our society to social and economic disruption along our river corridors, significant repair costs, and wider impacts on adjacent transport corridors. While there is always a role for flood protection (static-river paradigm), moving towards allowing room for rivers (dynamic-river approach) is equal parts a scientific and knowledge challenge as it is an institutional and collective public action challenge. This workshop will provide a cross-disciplinary opportunity to discuss how we should operationalise rehabilitation efforts that seek to give Room to the River. How should we make this happen in Aotearoa? To successfully address this question, we need to understand our awa as living entities in our physical, social and cultural landscapes. We invite participation from across the spectrum of Geography in Aotearoa to workshop the challenge of living with living rivers in Aotearoa New Zealand. We welcome brief (5 minute) priming talks such as, examples, principles and concepts to consider how best to operationalise Room for the River.

Key Words: Economic and Social Analysis, Environmental policy and planning, Environmental stewardship - Kaitiakitanga, Fluvial Geomorphology, River corridor planning

6. Ocean based energy generation across Oceania

Session Convenors: Natasha Larkin and Dr Chantel Carr, University of Wollongong, Australia

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The ocean is increasingly looked upon by nation states and global capital as a spatial site for hosting renewable energy generation, including offshore wind, wave energy and solar on-water projects. While this presents new opportunities for industrial-scale decarbonisation, energy sovereignty and energy security in the Oceania region (the islands of the Pacific, New Zealand and Australia), it also brings new and significant socio-economic, political and cultural impacts. These nations share some important characteristics that distinguish them from the predominantly European and US-led experience that has dominated the offshore energy literature to date – they are island nations with colonial histories, located some distance from established offshore energy markets. Across Oceania, nation states and their people face vastly uneven vulnerabilities to climate change, global political power, and access to global finance networks. This session invites papers and a discussion about how ocean energy generation is unfolding across the Oceania region. Themes might include: the capacities of First Nations and Indigenous people to shape and participate in projects, energy equity, benefit sharing, supply chains, legal geographies, finance, the political economy of offshore renewable energy, and wider socio-cultural impacts. All theoretical influences and contributions from outside academia are welcomed.

Key Words: oceans, offshore wind, energy, Oceania

7. Geographies of biosecurity

Session Convenors: Sarah Edwards, Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research; Brendon Blue, Victoria University of Wellington; Susanna Finlay-Smiths, Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research and Deidre McDonald, Massey University

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This session invites critical perspectives on biosecurity in a range of contexts, including conservation, primary industries, tourism, and global trade. We welcome empirical, conceptual and methodological contributions using a range of approaches (e.g. More than Human, Political Ecology, Science and Technology Studies, Decolonising/Re-Indigenising, Mobilities). Potential themes/topics include but are not limited to:

- Understandings and management of ‘invasive’, ‘exotic’ and ‘alien’ species;
- The spatial and material complexities of ‘the border’ and associated practices of ‘containment’ and ‘securitisation’;
- Ethics, care and justice in biosecurity contexts;
- Biosecurity governance and associated governmental technologies;
- ‘Biosecure citizenship’ and associated environmental subjectivities/identities that are formed (or resisted) through biosecurity practices.

Social science research on these themes/topics is currently underdeveloped in Aotearoa New Zealand, and our hope is to build a community of scholars interested in exploring biosecurity issues. If there is sufficient interest from session participants, we will propose a journal special issue (details TBC).

Key Words: Biosecurity, Borders, Environment, Conservation, Agriculture

8. At the edge of the sea: A social geography of mobilities that intersect with shore and sea

Session Convenors: Maria Borovnik, Massey University

Specialty Group: Mobilities in Geography Study Group

Corresponding email for session convenors: m.borovnik@massey.ac.nz

This session invites papers that deal with the geographies of shore, ports, ships and any interactions in-between, while focusing on the changes and social interactions the edge of oceans have to offer. Papers could be looking at the (im)mobilities of shipping, seafarers and their access to ports, seafarer support systems, port operations, port workers, the changing landscape of ports and impacts of shipping on birds or other bio-systems along shores. This session also might include papers that explore cultural or social activities that connect ship and shore, such as narratives about incidents, seafarers’ lives, sailing, surfing, fishing, fly-in-fly-out activities (e.g. rigs), art, or contributions about cultural or sports events along ports or shore are also welcome.

Key Words: social geography, ocean mobilities, ports, ships, cultural events

9. Diverse economies and community economies research of Asia-Pacific

Session Convenors: Kelly Dombroski and Swarnima Kriti, Massey University

Specialty Group: Community Economies Research Network

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This session highlights recent research from the field of diverse and community economies in and of Aotearoa New Zealand and the wider Asia-Pacific. Scholars of diverse economies have been actively documenting and inventorying diverse economic practices in the Asia Pacific region for several decades. These diverse economic practices contribute to a full kete of possibilities for constructing different kinds of economies that honour the interdependencies of community, place and economy for both humans and more-than-human. Other scholars have investigated the ethical negotiations in place that can produce new forms of community economy or revitalise ancient and older forms of doing economy in place. This is a student-friendly session with time for relationship-building and cross-pollination of ideas.

Key Words: diverse economies, community economies, Māori economies, Aotearoa New Zealand, care economies

10. Circular flows, care and community: Responding to the problem of waste

Session and Open Panel Convenors: Polly Stupples, Te Herenga Waka Victoria University; Gradon Diprose, Manaaki Whenua; Kelly Dombroski, Massey University

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In the linear 'take-make-waste' practices of contemporary capitalist consumption, the messy material flows of the things we throw 'away' are largely rendered invisible: buried in landfills or flushed out to sea. They return to us in drifts on the beach, in ageing landfills unearthed by coastal erosion; their material and chemical traces surface in our soils, waterways, in our bodies and in the bodies of other species. However, a wide range of community organisations are actively working to cultivate more circular material flows through sharing, repair and reuse. These practices often render our waste and wastefulness more visible; generate spaces for community connections and care; respond to the particularities of place; and pragmatically support degrowth. As they are located at a distance from growth-oriented circularity models, they often receive little attention from policy-makers and little resourcing. This panel invites proposals that attend to such practices and sites, engaging with the intersection between communities, care, and circularity.

Key Words: waste, circular economy, community economy, care, transitions

11. Bodies, gender, sexuality, space and place: Fluid Geographies?

Session Convenors: GAGA members: Lynda Johnston (lynda.johnston@waikato.ac.nz) University of Waikato; Marcela Palomino-Schalscha (marcela.palomino-schalscha@vuw.ac.nz) Te Herenga Waka Victoria University of Wellington; Emma Sharp (el.sharp@auckland.ac.nz) University of Auckland; Ritu Yumnam (rituyumnam87@gmail.com) and Maria Teresa Braga Bizarria (mtbizarria@gmail.com)

Specialty Group: Gender and Geography Aotearoa (GAGA)

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Gender and sexuality are lived in and through bodies, ranging across various spatial scales such as homes, workplaces, cities, regions and nations. This paper session calls for scholars, activists, and artists to consider (non)fluid geographies of bodies, genders and sexualities at a range of places and spaces. We are interested in papers that explore the particularities and intersections between fluidity with gender, sex, sexuality, Indigeneity, race, ethnicity, class, age, disability, culture, space, and place. In other words, presenters are encouraged to explore the many axes of feminist and / or queer research, methodologies, and collaborations. A recurring theme throughout feminist and queer geographical literature is the importance of foregrounding fluidity, relationality, positionality, the multiscalar, and marginalised bodies. Understanding gender, sexuality and related identities as fluid has the potential to highlight the stickiness of power and inequalities. We welcome papers that are theoretical, methodological, and / or empirical in nature. We also welcome papers that engage in the construction of fluid geographical knowledges.

Key Words: genders, sexualities, bodies, fluid, sticky places

12. Fluid geographies: Women's work and citymaking in the Global South

Session Convenors: Anindita Datta, Professor & Head, Dept of Geography, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi and Swagata Basu, Professor & Head, Dept of Geography, SSV college, Hapur, Uttar Pradesh

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We understand citymaking as the entire array of work and circulations that keeps the city functional, throbbing and alive and simultaneously maintain that cities in the Global South, present labour extractive contexts, much like sponge cities designed to absorb women's physical, emotional and lifemaking work. Women's work, their informal placemaking tactics, mutual aid and solidarities, leisure and loitering, networks of care constitute their citymaking activities. Together these are the fluid, slithery components of citymaking, linking bodies, households, neighborhoods and communities across the expanse of the city. These fluid geographies are crucial to sustain the city and are deeply entangled with race and caste. Building upon our recent work examining women's work as citymaking (Datta and Basu 2024) through participants narratives within the GenUrb project, we invite papers to examine these fluid geographies of women's work and citymaking in the Global South. Themes include but are not limited to the fluidities of women's work, its messy entanglements with violence, precarity and debt, women's leisure and loitering, fluid geographies of care and feminist solidarities in the city.

Key Words: women's work, Global South, citymaking

13. Indigenous geographies: Relational research

Session Convenor: Dr Sandi Ringham, University of Waikato, Dr Meg Parsons, University of Auckland and Dr Karen Fisher, University of Auckland

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In this session, we call for papers that attend to the ways in which relational geographies are embedded in Indigenous research. Attention to relationality within social sciences is increasing with specific interest towards ontologies and epistemologies that are cultivated within environments. Indigenous epistemologies, ontologies and axiologies have – arguably – always centred relational geographies, as environmental families are often expressed and known through kincentric responsibilities. We invite presenters to consider the procedures and practices that shape and facilitate their relational research within and beyond the academy. Indigenous scholars progressively challenge academic modes of knowing and being through producing research via fluid relationships across time and space, land and water. This work is founded on an ethic of care and responsibility for the research community, both human and more-than-human, and the elevation of knowledge holders' expertise. Contributors are encouraged to explore Indigenous theories, methodologies and collaborations that advance and enhance research and relational geographies.

Key Words: Indigenous research, relational geographies, kincentric, environmental families

14. Critical physical geographies

Session Convenors: Brendon Blue, Te Herenga Waka Victoria University of Wellington and Marc Tadaki, Cawthron Institute

Specialty Group: Critical Physical Geography

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Critical physical geography describes geographical research that seeks “to investigate material landscapes, social dynamics, and knowledge politics together, as they co-constitute each other” (Lave et al., 2018: 6). Bringing physical geography's close attention to biophysical form and process into conversation with political ecology and science and technology studies, critical physical geography promises situated understandings of place, people, power and the biophysical environment. In this session we ask how critical physical geography contributes to understanding socio-environments.

We offer an open invitation to theoretical and empirical contributions that might be construed as critical physical geography, broadly understood. This might include those that:

- Investigate biophysical dynamics (of e.g. rivers, coasts, climates, ecosystems, hazards) as situated in their socio-political context, and vice versa
- Explore the interconnected evolution of environments, knowledge, and society
- Analyse the social and political dynamics, discursive formations and/or materialities of environmental change or human-environment relations
- Consider how Indigenous and critical environmental perspectives might influence the practice of physical geography
- Draw on alternative modes of environmental knowledge production

Key Words: critical physical geography, human-environment relations, environmental science, political ecology, science and technology studies.

15. Remembering our geographical tactics and enactive contributions (in a science system that needs reminding!)

Session Convenors: Erena Le Heron, Le Heron Leigh Consulting and Gradon Diprose, Manaaki Whenua

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New Zealand's National Science Challenges officially finished in June 2024. While imperfect, these cross-disciplinary approaches to mission-led science marked a significant shift in how science is funded, prioritised and governed in Aotearoa New Zealand. As we write this session description the current National-led government is running an advisory process to help inform the future of the science sector. In this session we invite researchers, partners, and policy makers associated with the National Science Challenges to reflect on what has been learnt, and what we should take forward. We invite reflections and examples from across the National Science Challenges – and beyond - that address the following:

- How problems, concerns, and science approaches/methods were re-framed to take into account Indigenous knowledge, social concerns, and place-based knowledge;
- The practices that enabled collective learning and shifts towards new framings;
- The outcomes of these shifts – what did it mean for the researchers, partners, and communities

Key Words: Geography, tactics, science system, knowledge, National Science Challenges

16. Understanding our world through GIS

Session Convenor: Lars Brabyn, University of Waikato

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The use of GIS is constantly evolving as new methods and datasets are developed. This session is open to research and practice related to all aspects of GIS, including new techniques in spatial analysis and cartography, remote sensing, applied applications, and GIS education. GIS practitioners from industry, and local and central government are welcome to share their experiences. Themes related to AI, cloud-based computing, web applications, and big data are encouraged. This session is also open to critical assessments of how GPS and spatial data are being used. We also welcome teachers at high school and tertiary institutions to share their thoughts on the teaching of GIS.

Key Words: Geographical Information Systems, spatial analysis, GIS education, remote sensing

17. Rural Studies: Writing rural lives

Session Convenor: Lex Chalmers

Specialty Group: Rural Studies

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The intent is to look at the post gold-rush attractors of access to forests and lands of Aotearoa between 1870 and 2001 (DIRA Act). The internal and external flows of immigrants over this period is the macro driver in this research field, influenced by economic, social and environment considerations. Documentation of rural lives is a rich field, given the digital tools available, and the focus on individual family histories. Local, regional and national institutions have enriched our heritage resources, but researchers need to keep one eye on the mirror.

Key Words: rural, lives, 20th Century, dairy

18. Enacting post-structural political economies: A critical dialogue

Open Panel Convenors: Nick Lewis and Richard Le Heron, School of Environment University of Auckland

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Based on our recent Sustainable Seas experiences around framing policy guidance over enacting a societal and policy-centric proposal for transitioning to a blue economy we are very conscious that others may have informative experiences and valuable insights to relate. We have adopted a panel format to encourage wide ranging debate. The panel session will open with a summary of the Blue Economy project and what it might mean for a new generation of economic geographers in Aotearoa and beyond. This will be followed by panel presentations. The session will conclude with a round-the-table reflection on learnings and lessons from the presentations. We welcome and invite cases dealing with diverse approaches to building new economic futures.

Key Words: enactive geographies, economic geography futures, post structural political economy, transitioning practices

19. Management consultancies as knowledge infrastructure

Session Convenors: Nicolas Lewis, Politics, Economies and Place Research Network, University of Auckland

Specialty Group: Economic Geography

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This session explores the work of global management consultancies, a group of actors at work engineering knowledge infrastructures that template policy and channel global investment. Papers will explore how they shape capitalist futures in the interests of their clients. They will question notions of fluidity of thought, flow and practice in relation to the political economy of economic knowledge encounters with the structural forms of economic organisation.

Key Words: management consultancy, Big Four, knowledge infrastructure, economic geography, post-structural political economy

20. Understanding watery places through recreation and leisure practices: Bodies in the water and on the sand

Open Panel Convenors: Belinda Wheaton and Marg Cosgriff, University of Waikato; Rebecca Olive, RMIT and Doortje Hoerst University of Queensland

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In this panel we will explore how recreation and leisure help us to understand oceans, coastal places, coastal practices and relations, and cultures in Aotearoa and beyond. Speakers in the panel are all using creative place-based methodologies to explore embodied recreational practices (e.g. 'beaching', open-water swimming, surfing) with and across different coastal places, communities, and demographics (gender, age, ethnicity). Our research explores key questions related to the importance of coastal spaces in Aotearoa for diverse human and more-than human wellbeing and the methodological and ethical issues and responsibilities associated with undertaking this research. The roundtable discussion will focus on interdisciplinary understanding drawing on research from cultural geography, feminist cultural studies, health, sociology, and outdoor education, and how these interconnections might help to (re)shape geographical debates.

Key Words: coast; recreation, leisure, blue space; creative methodologies; mobile methods, more-than-human

21. Coastal leisure and recreation: From liminal spaces to coastal liquidity

Session Convenor: Belinda Wheaton

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Research interrogating coastal places and leisure practices have long histories across the social sciences and humanities. Seaside sociologist Daniel Burdsey (2016) introduced the conceptual approach of 'Coastal Liquidity' which emphasises the fluidity of social relations and spaces, and locates coastal places and recreational practices within wider, relational, sociological, and geographical perspectives. Burdsey's approach encourages us to re/imagine ideas about seashores as liminal spaces based on promises of freedom, recognising that they are also spaces of control, regulation, surveillance, and cultural contestation, involving the exclusion/marginalisation of differently positioned bodies particularly across the intersections of sex/gender, ethnicity, indigeneity and culture. We invite papers or contributions exploring coastal liquidity in and through everyday recreation practices in, on, and by Aotearoa's coastal blue spaces (e.g. paddling, swimming, surfing, boating, fishing, sunbathing and picnics, coastal restoration activities). We particularly welcome papers that consider embodiment, more-than-human wellbeing, diverse ontologies, methodologies, and intersectional approaches.

Key Words: Coastal leisure and recreation; coastal liquidity; therapeutic landscapes; cultural contestation, more-than-human

22. Radical geographies here: Spaces of possibility and responsibility panel

Closed Panel members: Amanda Thomas, Marcela Palomino-Schalscha, Billy van Uitregt, Te Herenga Waka Victoria University of Wellington and Ritodhi Chakraborty, Te Whare Wānaka O Aoraki Lincoln University

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Radical geographies that developed in the 1960s and 70s were a response to the social conditions of the time, and the need for geography to say something more meaningful than offering technocratic and managerialist disciplinary insights. Rich streams of radical geography also emerged in Aotearoa New Zealand (see Watters 1998; Tim-adical Writing Collective 2017; Palomino-Schalscha et al 2023). However, perhaps reflecting the need for geographers in Aotearoa New Zealand to be generalists, there is little contemporary work that explicitly claims to progress radical geographies here. Yet geographies that are sharp in critique, wild in imagination and dogged in pursuit of justice, are needed more than ever. At the current moment – characterised by genocide, insidious toxic patriarchy, technofetishism, re-embedded colonialism, neoliberal fascism and accelerated climate injustice – what are the spaces for cultivating justice? What are the responsibilities of our geography community? What kinds of radical geographies emerge from this whenua and moana? In this panel session, we will foster a discussion on ways to cultivate radical geographies and geographies across spaces (spaces of learning, research, engagement). This panel session invites conversation, critical interrogation and practical ways forward for radical, inclusive and responsible geographies in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Key Words: Radical geographies, Aotearoa, Responsibility, Possibilities

23. The Power of Place Naming

Session Convenor: Michael Roche

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'The naming of places', according to Berg and Kearns (1996), in a much-cited paper is a key component in the relationship between place and the politics of identity in contemporary societies. Nearly 30 years on and on the centenary of the establishment of an Honorary Geographic Board, predecessor of the New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa, it timely to revisit approaches to the study and practices of place naming. We invite presentations that examine power relations associated with place naming, addressing issues such as: identity, authority and authenticity; performance of place names; decolonial and indigenisation of place through naming.

Key Words: Naming, Places, Power, Identity, Geographic Board

24. Transforming geographies through introducing geographies: reflecting on our experiences writing and editing the 4th edition of *Introducing Human Geographies*

Closed Panel members: Kelly Dombroski Massey University, Mark Goodwin Exeter University, Junxi Qian Hong Kong University and Andy Williams Cardiff University

Corresponding email for panel convenor: k.dombroski@massey.ac.nz

Editing a textbook to introduce a field as large as human geography is not a small task. In response to extensive reviews, editors of the previous editions of the best-selling *Introducing Human Geographies* brought together a new editorial team and revamped the entire book with mostly new contributors. In this session, the editors speak with a range of contributors to the new edition on the opportunity to reframe and transform the direction of human geography, while also honouring and reflecting on where it has come from. Some of the chapter authors will present their key arguments and insights from their contributions to the fourth edition of *Introducing Human Geographies*. The editors will screen a video of a range of participants from around the globe who have contributed but are unable to attend the conference due to distance or cost. They will also discuss how their chapters relate to the broader themes and issues of the book, such as geographies of the Anthropocene, geographies of difference, and geographies of hope, and the desire to increase the diversity of both the peoples and places represented. The session will provide an opportunity for the audience to engage with the authors and ask questions about their research and writing.

Key Words: Teaching geography; discipline; human geography; decolonisation; pedagogy

25. Author meets readers: Caring for Life by Kelly Dombroski

Closed Panel members: Swarnima Kriti and Kelly Dombroski Massey University

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Kelly Dombroski's new book *Caring for Life* examines the remarkable evolution in Asia-Pacific hygiene practices and amplifies the creative work of ordinary people guarding human and more-than-human life in their everyday practices of care. The book develops the concept of “guarding life,” a viewpoint that counters homogenous cultural practices and imposed sanitation standards and instead embraces diverse hygiene practices that are networked across varying wisdoms and bodies. She traces how the Chinese diaper-free infant toilet training practice of *baniao* has travelled to Australia and New Zealand, and she explores the practice of “elimination communication,” in which babies learn to communicate to their caregivers when they need to eliminate, thus removing the need for diapers. Dombroski conducted ethnographic research on the Qinghai-Tibet plateau and in virtual forums in Australia and New Zealand, examining how collectives of mothers and others draw on Chinese knowledge and their own embodied practices of childcare to create new hybrid forms of infant care. In this special session, a panel of readers and critics will comment on *Caring for Life*, and Kelly will respond. Warning -- bodily fluids will be discussed for sure!

Key Words: China; infant care; care geographies; medicine; gender; bodies