Political Geography Specialty Group

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Why did Pioneering Local Governments Adopt Sustainability plans: An Analysis of Policy Innovation Using Geographic Information Systems (POSTER)

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Despite the widely acclaimed organic fitness of the local scale for sustainability action, not all local governments have taken up sustainability initiatives. It will therefore be important to examine and understand why some local governments took the lead in adopting local sustainability plans whiles other have lagged. This question is related to the larger public policy question of policy innovation – how new policies come to be adopted in a political system? Two strands of answers have often been given to this question. The first strand is *policy diffusion* – intergovernmental relations and effects – and the second is the *internal determinants* strand – political, economic and social characteristics of the political system. This paper tests local governments' sustainability policy innovation using Geographic Information Systems (GIS). In terms of *policy diffusion*, a nearest neighbor analysis is carried out to learn if the distribution of local sustainability action plans across the United States are clustered; signaling innovation based on proximity. The variable of the *internal determinants* strand of policy innovation for the study include; population size, levels of income, city form of government, and political orientation. The data for the study are the 2010 sustainability survey of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA); the ICMA's 2011 municipal form of government survey data and the county level U.S. presidential election results for 2008, 2012 and 2016.

Politics of Hope: Affective Politics and the Corbyn Phenomenon

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Jeremy Corbyn MP was elected as leader of the Labour Party, the main opposition party in the United Kingdom, on 12th September, 2015, in a 'landslide victory'. This paper is an exploration of the complex and diverse reasons behind why and how the 'Corbyn phenomenon' emerged. Based on in-depth interviews and focus groups conducted with Corbyn supporters, as well as 'observant participation' that I conducted at a 'Meet and Greet' Corbyn event in Sunderland, I argue that Corbyn triggered a 'tipping point', whereby negative affects – such as anger, distrust, frustration, and despair – which had accumulated during the neoliberal era of 'post-politics', erupted and crystallised in support

for Corbyn. Corbyn's personality and politics moulded him into an attractive leader of the grassroots movement, which maintains a populist logic, symbolising a challenge to the 'status quo' and the possibility of change. My argument highlights the necessity of adopting an analytical approach that takes into account the role of affects and emotions in politics.

The Politics of (non) Certified Organic Olive Oil Production in Jordan

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Organic regulations take place within a political constellation of local and international organizations, companies, and governments. This paper explores how farmers participate in (or avoid) this political assemblage when choosing whether or not to participate in organic olive oil production in Jordan. First, I will explore the changes within a development project that was initiated by a Japanese aid organization with about 50 farmers in the early 2000s and has since declined to four. Then, I analyze the ways in which farmers and other stakeholders, with varying levels of involvement in the project, discuss the positive and negative aspects of organic olive farming and how it has developed in Jordan. I argue that an examination of the politics of organic production must place the certification within the larger political assemblage of companies, government, and policies that contribute to the constraints of organic and conventional farming in a particular location. In a place such as Jordan, where a common refrain is "why should we get a certificate? We already produce organic olives," the difference between organic production and conventional does not simply lie in certification. In fact, the certification carries little value on the local market. Therefore, examining the organic company or certification itself ignores the larger context of who participates in these projects and under what agreements. This larger context is essential to understanding how certifications are one manifestation in a larger international system of controlling and regulating agricultural production and the ramifications this has for local rural livelihoods.

Infrastructure Nationalism in Russia: Hard Borders and Soft Interiors

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This paper uses recent transportation infrastructure projects in Russia to address contemporary Russian state territorialization practices. Yakutsk, capital of Russia's Sakha Republic, is one of the world's most remote cities. 5,000 kilometers from Moscow, it has no overland connections to the outside world except in winter, when an ice road is built atop the frozen Lena River that separates it from the Russian transportation system. Despite strong local support for a bridge, it has not been built, although a Chinese state-owned company has offered to construct it. Meanwhile, resources like diamonds and oil in Sakha are being connected into global commodity circuits, suggesting that Yakutsk's remoteness is overwhelmingly determined by political and economic decisions rather than environmental conditions. The USSR promoted the conquest of nature as a reason to build infrastructure across the country's vast territory. But now, the Russian state presents an inability to conquer nature as a reason for not building infrastructure, masking ulterior political and economic imperatives. The Kremlin focuses on transportation infrastructure investments tied to the export of natural resources and politically strategic projects like two new bridges in the Pacific Coast city of Vladivostok built specifically for the 2012 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Summit. Whereas the Kremlin welcomes Chinese and foreign investment in infrastructure projects in Russia's interior, highly visible projects on its borders are carried out entirely with Russian capital and contractors. This suggests a softening of infrastructure nationalism within Russia but a hardening of it on the country's outer edges.

Marketing Militainment: political spaces of spectacular consumption

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This paper considers the promotional strategies used to sell the popular military-themed videogame Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 3. Billed as the 'biggest entertainment launch ever', the videogame was promoted via traditional methods, such as televised advertisements, billboards and media coverage. However, the release of the game also included more spectacular and experiential forms of marketing. I draw on personal ethnographic accounts of a series of staged 'launch night' events which marked the release of the game in the centre of London, 2011. I argue that these promotional spectacles are significant phenomena which, in this case, connect consumers to cultures of militarism. The paper outlines how the launch night was designed to blur the lines between the real and the imaginary militarised virtual worlds. In this case the space was organised, presented and performed in a way that drew on discourses of insecurity and fear of terrorism in major Western cities. Furthermore, the launch night provided opportunities for consumers to directly interact, experience and embody the militarised game world. The paper reflects on these spectacular instances of consumption and how they are productive of particular political identities and subjectivities.

Border Layers: peeling back the India-Bangladesh border

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This paper will introduce the notion of border layers as a means of understanding the cross-cutting social scales that go into constituting the border that runs between the nation-states of Bangladesh and India at the base of the Khasi Hills in Meghalaya. The Indian government continues to maintain that the entire length of this border will be fenced by the end of 2017, but the current absence of fencing around the Land Customs Station located at Dawki would appear to give lie to these claims. This concern with fencing off the border produces a securitized space that contrasts with the border as actually experienced in the region, where a vague desire to Act East finds concrete expression in the spate of infrastructure projects that are occurring in this remote region of the country. The concerns of the national center are telescoped into these border areas, impacting upon local life at a whole variety of scales. Based on fieldwork in early 2017, this paper will situate its claims in the layers of the border as they exist along Meghalaya's boundary while arguing for the utility of the notion of border layers in enabling us to get a handle of the nature of borders elsewhere in the world. Recent approaches to borders have focused on their multi-perspectival nature and different scales at which they were produced, but the notion of border layers accepts the existence of the border and instead seeks to trace its effects across a variety of political and social scales.

Terror and Territory: A new approach

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This paper focuses on the often neglected connection between terrorist groups and territory by challenging the discourse of post-territorial terrorism that dominates the terrorism studies literature. We claim that territoriality plays a pivotal role for violent non-state actors even for those organizations considered to operate through de-territorialized networks, such as Al Qaeda. We develop a conceptual model of the territoriality of terrorist groups that differentiates between the 'effective control of territory' (ECOT) by such organizations and their differing 'sovereignty claims over territory' (SCOT). We use the model to identify political and territorial archetypes related to both ECOT and SCOT and

we illustrate the different possible intersections between these dimensions through a consideration of contemporary and historical cases. By considering both how territory is used and how it is represented by such groups, our model sheds new light on the complex connections between terror and territory and provides a useful and simple framework to reintroduce territoriality into the study of terrorism.

Adaptive Digital Governmentalities of the Anthropocene: Mapping, Sensing and Hacking

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In this presentation I explore three ways of rethinking governance in the Anthropocene. The first is reactive; here, the use of ubiquitous data is seen to enable new methods of mapping/tracing relations in time and space. In this paradigm, problems are seen more clearly through an ontology of depth, 'drilling down' to context where processes/path dependencies come to light which can be intervened in. The second is responsive, the paradigm of sensing and datafication: seeing relations in real-time, to enable increasingly automated processes of governing emergence. Here, the Internet of Things and cyborg more-than-human assemblages are imagined to govern with rather than over or against potential problems or threats of climate change, disease or socio-economic crises. The goal is that of resilience: the maintenance of the status-quo or homeostatic governance. The third form of digital adaptation is autopoietic, less goal-directed and therefore more future-orientated, for example, hacking as a project of exploration of the possibilities of relations and processes, detaching and repurposing assemblages creating new possibilities. In all three, the 'what-is-ness' of the world is given its due; there are no assumptions of linear, abstract or universal frames of knowledge or governmental capacity. They could also be seen as stages through which 'the digital', in enabling adaptive possibilities, has facilitated the building of a home in the post human age of the Anthropocene.

Ukraine's Internally Displaced Crimeans and the Question of Diaspora

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Diasporas are typically defined as inherently transnational, emerging only through migration across international borders from an original homeland and explicitly excluding communities of internal migrants. Because it relies upon the nation-state as a territorial reference point, this definition falls prey to Agnew's "territorial trap," and neglects the experiences of internal migrants within ethnically and culturally diverse states. Internally displaced peoples (IDPs) from the Russian-occupied Ukrainian region of Crimea provide an instructive example with which to critique this normative view of diasporas and diasporic identities: although they remain within the state where they are citizens, most Crimeans identify strongly with their estranged Crimea and consider it their homeland rather than Ukraine as a whole. However, most IDPs have left Crimea voluntarily and embrace a vision of Ukrainian civic identity that has surged since the 2013-2014 Euromaidan protests. Comprised of Russians, Ukrainians, and indigenous Crimean Tatars, ethnic cleavages further complicate processes of identity (re)construction taking place within Crimean IDP communities. Some IDPs from Crimea have begun referring to themselves as a diaspora, while others uphold the normative view that internal migrants cannot constitute a diaspora and to label them as such is therefore an implicit recognition of Russian sovereignty over Crimea. Relying on ethnographic fieldwork conducted within communities of Crimean IDPs, this paper advances a more critical view of diasporic identities that is attentive to the interplay between divergent discourses of territorial belonging among both external and internal migrant communities.

**Targeting memories: Project Wringer, mass interrogation,
and geographical intelligence in the cold war**

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In the initial years of the cold war, the United States national security state presented itself with an unprecedented challenge - to gather geographical intelligence on every potential strategic, industrial, and urban target in the USSR, its satellite states, and China. In the decade before aerial espionage, the most important source of military geographical, political economic, and industrial knowledge of closed-off adversaries was mass interviewing. Project Wringer interrogated over 300 000 prisoners of war - mostly German - returning from the Soviet Union between 1947 and 1955. Performed by Air Force intelligence officers in central Europe, it was probably the largest interrogation program of all time but is now virtually forgotten. Project Wringer was a postwar "analog database" and a prototypical effort in geospatial intelligence. A massive resource of military geography, it transformed subjective experiences of war (compelling and banal) and slavery into more than a million intelligence reports. Returnees were asked for their memories - their inner geographical knowledge of factory sites, transit points, and urban centers. Their detailed recollections and sketches were sifted, formalized and entered into the Air Force's comprehensive index of the world targets. Abstracted, memories of imprisonment and labor became the basis for a global targeting database. This paper recovers Project Wringer's history and explores its implications for writing political geographies of modern intelligence, targeting, and military science. It discloses an early instance of geospatial intelligence - a blend of imagery, mapping and regional geography - increasingly demanded by military patrons during the cold war and beyond.

Feminist geopolitical visualizations: seeing and drawing state violence

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This paper offers a graphic, visual investigation of state violence. Specifically, it consists of a graphic novel-style story about state violence and resistance in Houston, Texas between 2014 and 2017. The visual project draws from a 2.5-year ethnographic investigation of military enlistment in Houston, and uses feminist geopolitics to link social, political, and economic violence in the city with the mobilization of the military. While using art to tell a story about state violence and resistance in Houston, I also use the graphic novel form to visually explore the spatial metaphors used to think about such violence. I weave feminist geographic and geopolitical spatial metaphors, such as Katz's topographies and Pain's intimacy-geopolitics, into the visual narrative and examine they enable us to see. The paper then discusses the insights and limits of this approach to geopolitical storytelling and theorizing. Informed by the recent growth of creative geographies and geohumanities, I conclude by arguing that visual (and other creative) explorations of geopolitics can act as valuable tools to help us see and investigate new relationships. Finally, in discussing my own use of art and the short graphic novel as a means of dissemination, I propose creative geopolitical endeavors as a unique and productive form of radical geographic praxis.

**Deliberative Democracy Derailed?: Scale, State Power, and Public Participation in Minnesota's
Bonanza Valley Groundwater Management Area**

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This study examines the interactions between deliberative and electoral democratic politics through a case study of the public participation process surrounding a territorially-based groundwater management policy in Western Minnesota. Over three years the State of Minnesota engaged in a local-

scale project advisory process to solicit feedback from key stakeholders for its new Bonanza Valley Groundwater Management Area. Yet throughout that period, those same stakeholders influenced the direction of the policy through the state-level legislative process to change the very nature and parameters of the stakeholder process. During late 20th and 21st century public participation has become a de rigueur feature of environmental policy making by state agencies in the United States. This shift has often drawn on the idea of deliberative democracy, arguing that stakeholder involvement provides a possibility of truer democratic involvement than those afforded by electoral systems. Yet our understandings of deliberative democracy in environmental public participation fall short in three ways addressed by this paper. First, little research has examined the interactions between the deliberative democratic politics of environmental public participation and the electoral and legislative political processes with which they coexist. Second, previous work on environmental participation has not accounted for the fragmented nature of the state in U.S. environmental governance, where the deliberations between state agents are often as important as those with the public. Finally, understandings of public participation have been inattentive to questions of scale and how different democratic processes may function at different scales.

Hegemony is in the details: viewing global political transitions from the Island Pacific (POSTER)

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While scholars, militaries, politicians and pundits have long discussed a transition in hegemony from a declining U.S. to a rising China, less attention has been paid to the geographic region that serves as a maritime border between these competing powers. By examining shifts in the political, economic and cultural influences emanating from China and the U.S. – from the perspective of Guåhan (Guam), Wa'ab (Yap), and other Micronesian islands on the strategic 'second island chain' – this poster attempts to visually 'center the periphery' in order to examine how larger shifts in global power play out in, and are affected by, smaller political entities in the Western Pacific.

Migrant Struggles, Violence, and the European Migration "Crisis"

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This paper builds on the work of feminist geographers to examine power hierarchies, the power of politics of place, geopolitical narratives, and the various forms of violence that migrants experienced as they traveled to and throughout Europe from 2014-2016. In-depth interviews with migrants reveal that various forms of violence were motivating factors for leaving home and employed by smugglers, police, and some civilians during their journey. Migrants also describe the "violence of silence and waiting" that many experience in the camps as they await an official decision about their asylum applications in Europe.

Kazakhstan's Intra-State Regional Economic Policy: Assessing Evolving Strategies of Post-Socialist Development

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Inequity is common among post-soviet states. Differing proximities to markets, resource wealth disparities, and degrees of authoritarianism afford states of this region varied capacities for reshaping their respective economic geographies. The variables considered in creating intra-state regional policy evolve over time and in relation to changing political, social, economic, ecological, and geopolitical circumstances and ideals. This paper examines Kazakhstan's pursuit of economic development through intra-state regional economic and demographic policies. Analyzing the evolution of the state's

strategies toward development since 1991 presents a comparative structure for assessment of the current approach. Studying Kazakhstan should prove informative as a comparative with other states of the post-soviet realm and developing states more generally.

Crop Booms at the Margin: Land Consolidation along Indonesia's Indigenous Frontier

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The indigenous rights movement in Indonesia has made notable strides in challenging legal designation of land for local control. However, the application of such victories have met with difficulty due to persistent changes in land relations across Indonesia's rural landscapes. This presentation explores the local processes taking place that complicate efforts to 'return' land to indigenous communities. Three different stages help to illustrate the processes that resulted in the conversion of communal and reserve lands to private groves with tree crops. First, I illustrate the historical tenurial and labor processes that opened up landscapes and structured relations for private uses. Second, I highlight the processes that resulted in the enclosure of communal lands through individualized rubber plots. Third, I examine the latest strategy to convert rubber to the latest boom crop, black pepper. The transition from rubber to pepper highlights the further entrenched land relations among rural subjects, the risks that people are willing to take, and the rupture that has forced large numbers of people to migrate and seek employment elsewhere. Findings are based on my dissertation research conducted through ethnographic engagement and participant observation since 2014 in and around the indigenous communities of Kajang, South Sulawesi. The Kajang are regarded in Indonesia as a symbol of resistance and social justice for indigenous communities as they are the first case to successfully challenge land authority of the vast national forest estate. In that light however, these findings complicate axioms among rights advocates that often overlook local political ecological processes.

Values and Effectiveness Reflected in Environmental Activism by Email (POSTER)

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Electronic mail messages suggested by non-profit environmental organizations were analyzed covering a period of five years. Analysis of environmental activism email was done to determine: 1) expression of issues through anthropocentric, biocentric, or ecocentric values; 2) effectiveness of internet activism in influencing decisions. Discussions of environmental issues sometimes call for changing society's predominant valuing of nature from anthropocentric (human-centered) to biocentric (animal/plant/organism-centered) or ecocentric (ecosystem-centered). Values reflected in the environmental movement of the 1960s include both biocentric and ecocentric values. Examples are Rachel Carson's Silent Spring and Aldo Leopold's A Sand County Almanac. Determining the prevalence of these values in present-day activist communications may illustrate a need for more emphasis on biocentrism and/or ecocentrism. The effectiveness of environmental activism by email is also questioned at times. Short interviews were conducted with various environmental organizations and political offices, along with a review of internet communication and literature, to help gauge values and effectiveness.

Where Women Stand: Local and Party Determinants of Women Candidates in Canada
(POSTER)

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This study examines the selection of women as Parliamentary candidates in the 2015 Canadian federal election through an analysis of local and national party variables and constituency demographics. What factors make it likely for women to stand for office? Like prior research, we find strong inter-party variation, a weak but significant positive effect of women in local party leadership positions, but no influence of constituency demographics. Surprisingly, we also find that incumbency is not significant. In addition, we perform a cluster analysis to show that the effects of these variables are spatially uneven, with significant departures from the model in Montreal, Toronto, and Western Canada. This suggests that the factors that lead women to stand for office (or not) are not fully captured by the available variables, and calls for further on-the-ground investigation.

The politics of potentiality: topological thought beyond resilience

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Topology has quietly assumed growing importance in political and cultural geography. While the concept can be formally defined in mathematical terms as any surface or form that can be deformed without losing its identity, for geographers, it signals a distinct way of understanding complex spatio-temporal relationships. For example, Doreen Massey's 'global sense of place,' Erik Swyngedouw's understanding of 'glocalization,' and Sarah Whatmore's 'hybrid geographies' each signal a relational understanding of space – and nature-society relations - rather than topographical understandings based on division and quantitative distance. However, while the emergence of topological thought is generally taken as a progressive development in geographic thought and practice, topology can also be mobilized towards more reactionary ends. Resilience thinking offers a case in point: ecological research into complex social and ecological systemic dynamics focuses on understanding and developing institutional factors that shape a system's ability to reconfigure itself in response to an external disruption. This paper explores the perils and contributions topological thought offers to critical geographers. I review work in geography and cognate fields on resilience and the geopolitics of the Anthropocene to draw out the stakes of topological thinking: topological thought can turn critical thought towards the outside, or the immeasurable potential to become otherwise; but it can also fold this potential into the existing state of affairs. The politics of topological thought thus hinges on constructing a non-immunological relation to potentiality.

Good Fences, Good Neighbors? The Shifting Modalities and Mentalities of Borders in the Early Twenty-first Century

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Over the last couple of years, events pertaining to borders, identity, and politics in Europe have unfolded at remarkable speed and often in unpredictable and even shocking directions. One result is that a combination of external instability and internal discord has undermined several foundational premises of the greater project of European integration, embodied by the European Union's aspirations for an ever deeper union. Border enforcement has been strengthened in places where it was previously

lax and re-instituted in places where it was non-existent. We seem to be witnessing the re-ordering and re-bordering of much of Europe. How did we come to these circumstances? And what does this mean going forward for borders and borderlands, and their relation to national identity, history, and memory? To try to address these questions, this paper will be divided into four parts. The first part will position border research in a historical perspective. The second, third, and fourth parts will examine the ideas of borders as method, as technology, and as institution, and how these perspectives might inform our understanding of the shifting modalities and mentalities of borders amid resurgent populism and nationalism in the early twenty-first century.

Stretched Thin: Transnational Governance in Syria's Opposition Territories

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Political violence in Syria has persisted now for six years. Critical to understanding why, but also how this conflict has endured for so long is the role of transnational processes. Although the dangers of foreign fighters and the burdens of hosting refugees are considerable, these topics hardly exhaust the border-crossing processes shaping Syria's conflict. Analytically, they reduce borders to a heuristic for locating threats to the territorial state system in the Levant. But many Syrians displaced by the fighting still participate in political opposition to the Assad regime in Damascus – openly, regularly and from the safe distance of exile. How, then, do Syrians in exile reach across borders without threatening host-state sovereignty? In this paper, I examine the geographies of Syria's opposition movement, focusing on transnational practices of mobility that reconfigure sections of Syria's borders and stabilize governance in the "liberated territories." I argue that the interior and exterior of Syria are in fact tightly interwoven in spite of (and partly thanks to) state borders. I do so by describing how a distinctive constellation of actors and circulations ties the liberated territories into opposition hubs in Turkey and Jordan, in the face of state violence and despite the ambiguities of exile. Informed by twenty-six months of fieldwork and building upon border studies and topological approaches to power, it hopes to clarify not whether, but where and how geography shapes to civil war and political violence in Syria.

Alternatives between "shouting and shooting": Scientific and technological constructions of so-called 'non-lethal' weapons

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Within the complex security environment of the "New Normal", everyday spaces are rendered 'battlespaces' whereby the intersection of science and warfare translates visions of technological omnipotence and rationality into the governance of everyday life. The normalization of military paradigms that increasingly integrate military policy and action within civilian spaces construct scientific and technological configurations used to aggressively discipline bodies and sanction a full spectrum of political violence, from surveillance to killing. This is a political and technophilic re-imagining of social and spatial order(s) into a radically "securitized" order(s) that blurs the distinction between military and civilian and state governance and warfighting. Within this growing security order, so-called-non-lethal intervention is becoming standardized, such that the violence of warfare becomes sensible, ethical and legal in civilian space. The co-evolution of science and technological discourses and practices and state security projects has led to the increased deployment of 'non-lethal' weapons in contested public spaces. Deployed in response to notions of (in)security and an ethos of the use of force these interventions are designed to appear "ethical" and "humane". Yet, what is considered "ethical" or "humane" about weapons deployed with potential violent and injurious effects is bound to the production of science and technology and its entanglement with policing spaces and bodies. Accordingly, this essay engages the diffusion of scientific, technological and militarized

discourses and practices of security in everyday life where social mobilization and protest are increasingly perceived through the lens of warfare thus requiring non-lethal intervention.

Unbounded Territoriality: Territorial control in the Occupied Palestinian Territories

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The "temporary" Israeli occupation of the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem began in 1967. By what territorial logic does the Israeli military occupation of the Palestinian Territories function such that it can continue indefinitely and yet still be regarded an "occupation," which, by definition, is temporary? In Human Territoriality: Its Theory and History, Robert David Sack defines territoriality as "the attempt by an individual or group to affect, influence, or control people, phenomena, and relationships, by delimiting and asserting control over a geographic area" (Sack, 1986, p. 19). One of the three requirements of territoriality is delimiting the area under control. In stark contrast to this, I suggest the territorial logic of the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip represents what I term unbounded territoriality, a form of territorial control best exercised by not delimiting boundaries. This form of territoriality complicates the connection between sovereignty and territory in the nation-state system. The functioning of unbounded territoriality is not the result of Israel's inability to exercise territorial control as traditionally conceptualized, but is rather proof of Israel's overwhelming power to control territory in a fuzzy, piecemeal fashion. This project expands on efforts by scholars such as Israeli philosopher Adi Ophir to rethink familiar facts and existing discourse about the Israel-Palestine conflict, and traces the how (tools and apparatus), what (logics and maneuvers), and why (what it accomplishes and avoids) of unbounded territoriality in the Israeli occupation of Palestine (Azoulay & Ophir, 2012).

Nuclearity and the geopolitical event: polonium 210 and the killing of Alexander Litvinenko

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This paper examines the constitution of geopolitics in relation to the 'contested technopolitical category' (Hecht 2012) of nuclearity and the Deleuzian idea of the event as an intensive flux of matter and energy. It focuses on the role of the radioactive isotope polonium 210 in the killing of Alexander Litvinenko in London in 2006. Widely linked to the idea of a 'New Cold War' between Russia and the West, this event is explored in three linked ways: first, by considering how the materialities of polonium 210 flowed through the event and how they affected a range of bodies in addition to that of Litvinenko himself; second, by considering the role of knowledge practices in constituting the event as an event; and third, by considering how the event has been further shaped by the politics of denial, secrecy and revelation. Building on this discussion the paper then maps out three interlinked lines of inquiry concerning the materialities of Russian geopolitics; the ontological complexity of geopolitical events; and the place of agnotology in relation to geopolitics.

Could Kurdistan become a part of European Energy Security: Challenges and Opportunity?
(POSTER)

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I analyzed the Kurdistan Regional Government's (KRG) natural resource strategies, such as how it deals with huge reserves of many trillion cubic feet of its natural gas as significant energy. Because natural gas is of the cleanest burning fossil fuels, with 30 percent less carbon than oil, it plays a role in the global fuel economy. How KRG transports its natural gas to international markets like European countries via Turkey means they also participate in energy security as a new actor. Because the KRG is

landlocked strong factors may affect Kurdish natural gas strategies because KRG surrounding by todays partner and yesterday enemies politically and economically. Turkey, the neighbor of KRG, also buys of its gas, and has the influence on these strategies after the Ukraine crisis that pushed European countries to make a turn towards Caspian natural gas. Kurdistan is part of the best option for European energy security as it plans to diversify natural gas imports. While the KRG benefits from selling its natural gas directly to international marketing it will come with some straggles. Many of these obstacles can be classified into two kind issues: internal and external obstacles, such as conflict with central governments regarding how to share gas revenues. Others problems include Iranian neighbor interest on natural resource in Kurdistan and Russia that looks to Kurdish gas as its ally if Kurdistan joins the southern gas corridor pipeline.

Is nationalism just for nationals? Civic nationalism for noncitizens and celebrating National Day in Qatar and the UAE (POSTER)

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Is nationalism just for nationals? The scholarly consensus seems to be yes, but two small monarchies on the Arabian Peninsula suggest the need to reconsider this assumption. In Qatar, citizens account for about 12 percent of the country's 2 million inhabitants. Of the UAE's 8.2 million residents, 13 percent are citizens. Citizen-nationals enjoy significant legal privilege in these states, preserved by their *jus sanguinis* citizenship regimes, which preclude noncitizens and their children from naturalizing. Although they are frequently dismissed as "ethnocracies," Gulf states are not exclusively dominated by ethnic nationalism. Rather, as this study of "National Day" holidays in Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) illustrates, an incipient form of civic nationalism is increasingly being used to narrate state-based belonging on the part of noncitizen "expats." Through textual analysis of celebration discourses in the lead-up to the 2013 and 2014 holidays in the UAE and Qatar, supplemented by participant observation, I analyze the political geographical imaginaries at work in these ostensibly inclusivist narratives. Extending the citizenship studies literature on noncitizen inclusion, this case study shows how the Gulf countries challenge traditional assumptions about nationalism being the exclusive domain of citizens, and points to the need for more research about how noncitizens elsewhere in the world participate in nationalist rituals and to what end.

Juridical Borders: Government Dysfunction, Neoliberal Governmentality and the U.S. Immigration Courts

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In this paper, I draw upon my dissertation research on the legal geography of the U.S. immigration control system, which I conceptualize through the notion of juridical borders. My ethnographic and case research on the courts illuminates several systemic problems with the courts: they are unmanageably backlogged, immigrants do not have access to attorneys, basic principles of due process are widely neglected, and case outcomes (such as asylum) often depend more on the luck of the judge than on the quality of the case. I conceptualize these dysfunctions as a mode of neoliberal governance that creates a secondary sphere of informal exclusions and social controls that operates alongside the formal system of exclusions inherent to immigration restrictions. Nevertheless, I highlight the ways that immigration attorneys and immigrant rights activists strategically use the courts and the law to leverage moments of "relative justice", where immigrants can create "wins" that temporarily alleviate the fear of deportation.

Peace as plural: the differential approach in the Colombian peace accords

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Peace means and requires different things for different groups of people. The Colombian accords are the first in the world to recognize that those already marginalized because of age, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation and other categories suffered differently during the war, and thus need targeted measures to build peace. Drawing on a history of constitutional court decisions in the country, this is called a differential approach. But this aspect was added to the accords at the last minute, and while Colombia was in the midst of a homophobic backlash against recent LGBT civil rights wins. The approach was attacked as promoting a 'gender ideology', and it played a key role in the popular no vote against the accords. This presentation looks at how and why difference was taken into account into the accords as well as the fight both against and then for keeping this approach, which was changed but kept in the renegotiated accords. It also turns to how this approach is playing out in early implementation of the accords, and argues that full implementation of it will make the accords more likely to succeed in the long term.

Banal Terrorism and the Urban Geopolitics of Affect: Exploring the Emotional Mechanisms of Lockdown in Paris and Brussels

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In order to explore the wider links between contemporary violent geopolitical events of terrorist attacks in urban Europe, affect, and the built environment, this paper offers a comparison between two cities that have experienced different but networked terrorist attacks – Paris and Brussels. The series of terrorist attacks that have struck these two cities during 2015 and 2016 have triggered different securitization reactions – state of emergency in Paris and lockdown in Brussels. This research focuses specifically on the role of social space and urban built environment as places that mediate the visceral experiences of what Cindy Katz (2007) calls "banal terrorism", meaning everyday embodied experiences of terrorist threat. Therefore, the paper investigates how these imposed security measures translated into different ways of securitizing urban space in the two cities, focusing specifically on two squares – Place de la Republique in Paris and Place de la Bourse in Brussels. Both squares are historic sites that hold an important place in urban memory, and both became sites of mourning and collective emotional negotiation of the traumatic events. The massive public gatherings in the two squares that occurred despite imposed security measures attest to the importance of urban public space as they encapsulate the intimate and emotional ways urban landscape is enrolled in geopolitical struggles. In the aftermath of the events, these sites enabled and propelled different emotional and affective performativities in that space, thus catalysing specific affective atmospheres and significantly altering the sites' very materiality.

The politics of 'just transition' away from fossil fuels: Uneven resource geographies and supply destruction strategies in the Anthropocene

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The challenge of climate change mitigation is generally approached through demand-side reduction, yet there are increasing calls for interventions on the supply-side by curtailing fossil fuel production. Mainstream politics for a 'Fair' or 'Just' Transition away from fossil fuel supplies combine a phasing-out based on demand-driven market mechanisms, with a range of allocative policies seeking to reduce

production while maximizing developmental outcomes for low-income fossil fuel producers. Yet the proposal that as much of the remaining 'carbon budget' should be allocated to low-income producers to benefit their local populations is itself questioned by 'resource curse' arguments suggesting that such populations are least likely to benefit from resource revenues and energy supply, while more radical politics are advocating for more forceful strategies to constraining supplies. This paper discusses what the politics of a Just Transition might consist of, and the praxis of resistance to increased fossil fuel production.

The Impact of International Development Assistance Projects on Violent Conflict in Scale-Sensitive Geographic Analysis (POSTER)

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Do international aid projects prevent violent conflict and encourage political stability in developing countries? Observational data that are conventionally used to answer this and other related questions in the field of conflict studies exhibit spatial dependencies that make reliable quantitative analysis difficult. Furthermore, the scope (geographic extent) of aid projects' effects across regions within countries has not received due attention. Methods of accounting for spatial autocorrelation in quantitative analysis are relatively well established, falling into several categories of techniques. Comparatively absent from quantitative conflict research is a substantial investigation of Modifiable Areal Unit Problem (MAUP) influences, despite early identification of MAUP-related effects as early as Gehlke and Biehl (1934). We analyze new georeferenced foreign aid project data for sub-Saharan Africa between 2000 and 2010 alongside violent conflict events coded by time and sub-national geographic location. The influences of aid projects on violent conflict are estimated using an innovative simulation and extrapolation technique (SIMEX) that accounts for measurement uncertainty and misclassification error across scales of analysis.

Legal Geographies of Arizona Border Barriers (POSTER)

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As national demands for security have come to more decisively override the concerns of border communities in recent decades, local input in areas such as land use, the environment, and civil rights has been concomitantly diminished. In the U.S. this trend culminated in Congressional authorization for and Department of Homeland Security execution of legal waivers (REAL ID Act, 2005; *Federal Register* 9/22/05, 1/19/07, 10/26/07, and 4/8/08) and Congressional construction mandates (Secure Fence Act of 2006) pushing through construction of new border barriers. This poster maps where waivers of laws have been put in place to facilitate border barrier construction, the intersection of waivers with private and public land, and the types of walls and fences that have been built along the Arizona-Sonora stretch of the U.S. border with Mexico. Although the Obama Administration never reversed these laws, it did generally direct the Department of Homeland Security to voluntarily comply with many of the waived laws. Given the contemporary political climate, however, a return to the era when these waivers were passed is anticipated. Political action groups and others interested in federal border policy can benefit from knowing what border barriers already exist, where construction is likely to focus next, the precedent of voluntary compliance with waived laws, and where legal protections remain in place.

Jump-starting the Blue Economy: Understanding the Logic behind Capital's new Spatial Fix

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The emergence and strategic mobilization of "blue growth" and "blue economy" conceptions since the beginning of this decade, bears testimony to the geographical developments attending capital's current pursuit of a new spatial fix. This focuses on the integration of hitherto underdeveloped coastal and oceanic spaces through a rapid expansion of neoliberal regulation and governance structures. The production of the oceans under the capitalist mode of production has long been characterised by the accumulation regimes of merchant and industrial capital. However, more recent enclosure movements are increasingly reflective of the preeminent role assumed by financial capital. Identifying prospects for the organization of a coherent political counterforce to these tendencies therefore crucially hinges on grasping the contradictions internalized by the evolving dialectic. Debates on oceans and ocean resources in human geography have so far fallen short of providing a thorough theoretical and historical appreciation of these developments. It is into this lacuna that this paper will attempt to make a first foray. Drawing on the production of nature literature, we explore how the incremental commodification, parcelling and privatisation of ocean space inherited from previous rounds of accumulation relates to the specific workings of the contemporary moment within capitalism. To this end, we limit the empirical scope of our analysis to an examination of the strategies employed by multilateral governance and monetary institutions, who appear to have positioned themselves at the fore of the present blue economy regime.

Performing diplomatic decorum

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A key element of diplomacy is performative: looking and acting the part and developing a lobby narrative. Reflecting this has been a productive 'practice turn' in the field of diplomatic studies where attention has increasingly focused on the everyday routines, activities and performances of diplomats. Yet this scholarship has, to date, focused almost exclusively on 'official' diplomats from recognised sovereign states or international organisations. This paper instead turns attention to diplomats from de facto states, governments-in-exile and minority communities who seek to represent their communities through official diplomatic channels on the world stage, but who are legally unrecognised and thus face significant challenges to ensuring that their voices are heard. Drawing on qualitative research with a range of diplomats from unrecognised polities who lobby at the UN this paper explores the everyday strategies by which these individuals seek to perform in the diplomacy 'game' and 'pass' as bona fide diplomats: their bodily comportment, mores, modes of address, attire and adoption of conventions of diplomatic decorum. The paper uses the notion of liminality to examine how these embodied performances and practices trouble the boundaries between formal/informal and official/unofficial diplomacy and highlights the important intertwined relationship between diplomacy and political activism.

Enflamed Livelihoods: The Environmental Geopolitics of Tourism and the Haze Crisis in Northern Thailand

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In May of 2016 the Haze Free Thailand Campaign was launched in a collaborative and ongoing effort to ameliorate the haze crisis in northern Thailand. In this talk I examine how urban tourism

practitioners interpret the impact of the haze on their livelihoods, as well as their perceptions of its causes, implications and solutions. Additionally, I consider how these actors reimagine the interdependency of their livelihoods with rural agriculturalists who are widely blamed as culprits of haze production in the region. In doing so, I examine the relationship between, on the one hand, the role of tourism in environmental discourse and governance, and on the other, the environmental geopolitics of urban-rural relations in order to explore how the "geo" is "graphed" through tourism and a range of place- and space-making processes and ideas (Sparke 2007). Drawing on discourse analysis of popular media reports on the haze as well as ethnographic fieldwork with urban tourism practitioners in Chiang Mai, I argue that geopolitical imaginaries of urban-rural relations are remapped via escalating attention to the impact of the haze on the tourism industry. This research contributes to emerging work on the environmental geopolitics of tourism in Montane Mainland Southeast Asia.

Derwent's Ghost: a History of Geography at Harvard University, 1929-1956

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We present the history of the untimely decline of geography at Harvard University through the life of its foremost human geographer: Dr. Derwent Whittlesey (c. 1890-1956). Using newly available evidence from archives, interviews and secondary literature, we explore and describe Harvard's geography program from 1929 to 1956 to identify how, why and when the program ended. We interweave this narrative through Derwent's story. Dr. Whittlesey was a respected scholar of political geography, beloved by his students, who lived with his partner and fellow instructor Harold Kemp during the creation and rapid expansion of the human geography program. In the late 1940s, however, university politics, homophobia, and the Cold War culminated in President James Conant's decision to effectively close the program. This decision also involved his veto of the promotion of three staff members, including Dr. Edward Ackerman. Although this was not the only cause of geography's decline, we explain the decision's wider consequences until the formal end of the program with Derwent's death in 1956.

Recovering the Global East

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Carving up the world into Global North and Global South has become an established way of thinking about global difference. This binary, however, erases what this paper shall call the Global East – those countries and regions that are often labelled postsocialist and are neither clearly North nor South. The paper considers the Global East as that unbounded region which is suspended between globalising processes and the legacies of multiple transformations from imperialism to communism to neoliberalism and neopatrimonialism. It seeks to recover the Global East for scholarship by probing its distinctiveness in four respects: the dominant role of the state, the specific temporality, the ambiguous relationship to global mobilities and the multiplicity created by several incomplete transformations.

The production of self-resistance through unequal access to urban green areas in Santiago, Chile

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This paper examines planning processes around greening in Santiago, Chile and how these policies have impacted social justice organizing. Using the existing literature on justice in Latin America I argue that the actions of wealthy municipalities are inadvertently promoting niches of socio-economic

resistance and cultural self-segregation among non-wealthy residents. I propose that this reality will affect physical mobility in the city as well as the economic, cultural and emotional relationship city residents and visitors have with the territory. Moving forward in this analysis I will first, analyze the geospatial distributions and socio-cultural qualities of major green urban areas in Santiago. Second, I will describe the outcomes of unequal green access for underserved communities and how non-governmental agencies have contributed to worsening/improving people's reality. Finally, I will suggest ideas to both, policy makers and organizers of resistance, in order to advance the understanding that is necessary to overcoming unequal access.

The Integration Struggle in Europe
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The post-World War II drive toward European integration was rooted in economic and political geographic circumstances that shaped the character and the ambition of the integration process. Despite its potentially radical nature, the integration project has been undermined by a combination of changing circumstances and an inability to free itself from the political-territorial logic of the traditional European state system. An exploration of the role geographic arrangements and understandings have played in the integration process provides insights into the challenges Europe is facing the wake of its financial crisis and the Brexit vote; it also demonstrates the importance of bringing a geographical perspective to bear on changes buffeting the global political-territorial order.

"A handshake across the Himalayas:" Chinese investment, hydropower development, and state formation in Nepal
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This article examines contemporary patterns of Chinese infrastructure development in Nepal's Rasuwa District and the ways in which Nepali actors engage with Chinese investments to advance projects of state formation. Particularly in the wake of political volatility and natural disaster, Chinese interventions support the material and imaginative projects of a Nepalese state seeking stability, security, and economic growth. Long perceived as peripheral to the state center, Rasuwa is rapidly becoming central to Sino-Nepal relations, particularly in the context of bilateral investments in hydropower and transportation infrastructure. Drawing on data generated from 30 months of fieldwork in Nepal, we argue that Chinese development in Rasuwa: a) undergirds territorializing practices of the Nepalese state; b) represents a "gift of development" that connects Nepali ambitions of bikas (development) with Chinese anxieties over exile Tibetan populations; and c) reflects a strategic reorientation of geopolitical alliances between Nepal, China, and India. Challenging studies that depict Chinese development as an overwhelming extractive force, we instead show how small states like Nepal in fact use Chinese interventions to advance domestic projects of state formation and national security at home. On the basis of this study, we expand understandings about the place and priority of infrastructure in national statemaking agendas, illustrate uneven local experiences with international development interventions, and highlight new configurations of Chinese investment and development abroad–characterized in Nepal as a "handshake across the Himalayas."

Manure Politics: Messy Interventions in a Landscape of Order
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In 2015, the Des Moines, IA Water Works sued several drainage districts in the rural Raccoon River watershed, seeking to define drainage tiles in those districts as point-source polluters under the Clean

Water Act. The response to the lawsuit was swift and brutal. Rural farmers and their defenders accused the Water Works director of "declaring war on rural Iowa," and pledged to boycott the city. In this context, several activists in the watershed throughout the summer and fall of 2015 began mapping where manure was being spread near their homes. Their efforts focused on compiling records from the Manure Management Plans (MMPs) of several hundred Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs). The MMP itself is a bureaucratic innovation designed to aid in the quick removal of animal fecal waste by commodifying the waste as manure. In practice, this allows CAFO waste to be spread across the landscape, entering people's homes, bodies, and water. By examining the lawsuit and the discursive responses to it alongside this activist MMP project, this paper examines how agricultural waste appears in everyday life through multiple scales across time and space – immediately in the rural landscape when it is spread, later in the city when it enters the Water Works. In so doing, this paper examines the connections between waste, water, and the bodies that constitute an industrialized food economy in Iowa, asking if it is possible to articulate the messiness of everyday life to a state apparatus that is determined to see only order.

Critical Legal Geography and Critical Cartography of Child Marriage Law: Mapping a New Conversation

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"A Strange Map of the World's Child Marriage Laws", the title of a recent article in The Atlantic opens with the following statement: "When it comes to child-marriage laws, the United States and Canada have more in common with Niger and Bolivia than with other Western, industrialized nations"(Khazan, 2015). At first glance one is shocked or perhaps surprised that the US and Canada are the same color as many less developed nations. From this map, we might also take note that India, China, Russia, and much of central Asia have more protective laws regarding child marriage. However, is the story projected by this chloropleth map overly simplistic? What this map, and similar attempts to visualize complex phenomena, fails to demonstrate are the actual practices and experiences of individuals in these places and the heterogeneity of the application of the laws themselves. Similarly, overly simplistic cartographic and geographic metaphors are frequently found in legal scholarship. At present, territorial understandings of jurisdiction tend to dominate much of the legal scholarship – especially at the scale of the nation-state. What is of greatest concern here is how the map discussed in The Atlantic article, and others like it, are technologies of jurisdiction and how these technologies inaugurate and solidify simplistic understandings of jurisdiction and in doing so, silence or hide the actual practices and sufferings occurring within these spaces. This work seeks to utilize a variety of cartographic methods to visualize child marriage laws and practices with the goal of bringing maps back into the critical geography conversation.

China to Catembe: Chinese Migration to Maputo for the Construction of Catembe Bridge and Resulting Racial Perceptions

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China has been militarily and economically involved in African nation-states since the 1950s; however, little research exists regarding the Chinese migrant's perspective of locals, and the human geographical implications of Chinese involvement in Africa. This paper focuses specifically on the

Chinese laborers employed by the China Road and Bridge Corporation to construct the suspension bridge from Maputo, Mozambique to Catembe, Mozambique. Research is based off of personal interviews of workers at the construction site, both in supervisory and labor roles. Interviews were conducted to determine the driving factor for workers to move from China to Mozambique for work, their perception of local blacks in Mozambique, potential reasons for those perceptions, and the possible influence of Confucian thought on said perceptions. Interviews indicated that most Chinese workers hold a prejudiced view toward local blacks and their work ethic. The reason for such viewpoints is somewhat influenced by traditional Confucian thought, but such thought is not the sole contributor.

Methodology in geopolitics: problems, examples and issues

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Considering the extensive use of the word Geopolitics in the last years after decades of neglect, several overreactions have been occurring in academics, media and etc. In many cases, the use of the term "geopolitics" is used but it is not related to the geopolitical literature and its general concepts, while in others more extreme cases there is not even geographic or spatial aspect at all, what is problematic by itself considering the fact that misuses of the term already led to mistakes in the past, as for example, the Geopolitik that in turn resulted in a very aggressive foreign policy in Nazi German. This work aims to explore what could be a geopolitical subject in its relation with Strategic interests, which could be considered as a confluence of political, economic and military interests in the same delimited territorial circumstances.

To save a city: Urban-scale geopolitics in Slavutych, Ukraine

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The city of Slavutych was built specifically to house the workers of those who would continue to work at the post-disaster Chornobyl Nuclear Power Plant (ChNPP) and their families. It was the pinnacle of Soviet planned cities, the culmination of decades of lessons learned from similar projects and the architectural embodiment of Soviet multinationalism. For all the excitement the new city elicited however, within just a few years the now-independent Ukrainian government, under pressure from international organizations like the International Atomic Energy Association and the United Nations, established a hard expiration date for the shutdown of all of ChNPP's reactors, which in turn would mean economic devastation for Slavutych and render its existence wholly unnecessary. Rather than wait for the inevitable, city leaders and residents leveraged global and national interest in the Chornobyl disaster and its aftermath, drawing investments from multinational corporations, international organizations, and states to keep the city alive. Their scattergun approach to economic diversification and preemptive urban revitalization paid off however, as Slavutych thrived even as the rest of Ukraine suffered major economic and demographic crises. This paper will examine how Slavutych was able to forge, and then act upon, its geopolitical relationships in order to mitigate the lingering social, political, and economic effects of the Chornobyl disaster in the city.

Framing the European refugee crisis as a security problem

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The arrival of a vast number of asylum seekers over the so called Western Balkan migrant route in 2015 and beginning of 2016 sparked a vivid debate in Europe. Competing views about the nature of the event, its causes and consequences have emerged. One of the most influential view is highlighting

the security dimension of the so called "European refugee crisis". It's grounded on the presumption that refugees and asylum seekers pose a multiple threat to national security.

Framing the crisis as a security problem has important impact on public opinion and governmental policy in many European countries. The paper analyzes its impact on national policy in the transit countries along the Western Balkan migrant route. The first part of the paper briefly investigates the spatiality of the "European refugee crisis". It explores to what extend were the transit countries effected by it. The second part explores the notion of dangerous asylum seeker. The third part examines how the framing of the crisis as a security problem is informing the governmental policy, especially on the field of border control, migration management and asylum policy.

Mapping the Shatter-Zone, Interstitial Space, and Non-State Territorial Control at the China-Myanmar Borderland

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Myanmar's border with Yunnan province has been documented with regards to ethnic conflict and civil war between the Burmese army (Tatmadaw) and several prominent ethnic groups. This border space, however, is much more than what the available maps have been able to show us - caused by the politics of the 'shatter-zone' and the 'invisible', and 'fragmented' nature of the territory and conflicts. Ethnographic work reveals that this is one of the most peculiar, precarious, and potent grey spaces in Asia - where the border opens up to resource extractive investments and illicit human movements, while being selectively accessible, or often completely closed to, international media, humanitarian aide, and scores of fleeing ethnic refugees. The paper follows in two parts: First, it constructs a more realistic territorial control and access map, representing inter-ethnic diffusions, militia control, and actual control points of the Burmese and Chinese military. Second, it visually and analytically lays out the intricacies of ethnic conflict, extractive resource exploitation, militia capitalism, and large-scale ethnic displacement. Through these cartographic interventions, we hope to analyse and create a dialogue on how the map changes depending who has the right to the border-space, while at the same time delivering a more in-depth map of the well-known geopolitical conflicts in the region, superimposed with a map of the less visible interstitial conflicts that have emerged within and across it; i.e. a map of a 'shatter-zone' that can only be realized through insights from ethnographic research.

The border on a plate: Food, provenance, and the border in everyday life

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This presentation analyzes the role of food as a key material through which people experience the border in everyday life. The title for this talk is a play on an influential paper by Ian Cook and Philip Crang from 1996 called "The World on a Plate" that analyzes the representations of place through material cuisines and the implications of a culinary cosmopolitanism. More than twenty years later, there is a re-articulation of state sovereignty that is contributing to the militarization of borders and a decline in global trade. Drawing on a case study of chicken meat in Japan, I analyze food as a crucial material that transmits popular geopolitical understandings. In a series of focus groups, Japanese consumers consistently expressed a preference for Japanese chicken meat and anxiety about imported chicken meat, particularly imports from China. I argue that the provenance of food is interpreted through everyday geopolitical understandings but also that these borders can be both porous and obscured. Provenance labelling is optional for chicken meat that is served in restaurants or processed imports, meaning that the origin of chicken meat is regularly obscured. The chicken industry in Japan has suffered periodic outbreaks of avian influenza beginning in the mid-2000s. Scientists hypothesize

that migratory birds from Southeast and East Asia are vectors for avian influenza, highlighting the porosity of state borders.

Boundless Boundaries: Iconicity, Ideology, and Irish Nationalism

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St. Patrick's Day was once a day of reverence in Ireland but is now an internationally celebrated day of what is seen as authentically Irish. With a parade/celebration to be found on every continent (bar Antarctica), Irish national identity vis-à-vis St. Patrick's Day has come to be an internationally celebrated 'identity.' By employing the cultural sociological concepts of 'iconicity' and 'iconic power,' I argue that St. Patrick's Day has reached iconic status thereby opening and extending the boundaries of Irish nationalism. Nationalism as an ideological phenomenon is able to lend itself to a variety of platforms as well as bend itself in ways that 'everybody is a winner.' Indeed, scholars, most notably Billig (1995) and Malesevic (2013), have highlighted the 'banal' or 'trivial' aspects of nationalism which are not the exception, but more so the rule. It has been said that the phenomenon of nationalism is strongest when it emerges as mundane or ordinary (cf. Malesevic 2013). It is with this in mind that I contend Irish nationalism to be one of the strongest, if not strongest, nationalisms in the contemporary world. To showcase this, I will set Irish nationalism in the context of tourism and analyze the latest version of Tourism Ireland's 2016 'Global Greening' campaign in which the color green is superimposed over numerous iconic national monuments worldwide in honor of St. Patrick's Day. The ostensibly global recognition of the color green and St. Patrick's Day as signs of Irishness affirm the hypothesized strength of contemporary Irish nationalism.

The shifting spatial regime of post-Oslo East Jerusalem

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The claim that Israel has implemented strict demographic planning policies in the occupied and annexed areas of East Jerusalem (EJ), aiming to create an Israeli-Jewish majority in the 'unified city,' is widely conceded and has been validated in numerous research studies. However, this paper will argue for a shift in the logic and processes of the production of space in post-Oslo EJ: from promoting demographic goals via mass construction for Israelis, to territorialization and control over the entire annexed space through various spatial policies and initiatives. I conceptualize this development as the evolution of a new spatial regime in EJ. With this term I seek to explain the bundle of diverse spatial strategies and policies (including planning) that combine to produce a tangible (and political) logic of the production of space. In the case of EJ these spatial processes transform the annexed Palestinian areas into decoded, more tangible and regulated spaces, enhancing Israeli governability and mastery of territory.

I will ground this argument by analyzing four spatial initiatives in EJ, whose cumulative effect is the creation of a new spatial regime and the transformation of spatial politics in EJ. This research will contribute to the analysis of contemporary developments informing the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in Jerusalem, as well as to the scholarly literature on the relationship between processes of production of space and the dynamics of urban and spatial conflicts in contested societies.

Philanthro-Capitalism in Asia: Singapore's State-Finance Nexus and the Global Spread of Financialized Philanthropy

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Since 2008, when the collapse of the Lehman Brothers bank brought capitalism under siege, foundations and wealthy individuals like Bill Gates or Mark Zuckerberg funnel more and more money into global development. These funds flow to a significant extent into so-called social enterprises, which provide basic goods and services like healthcare, water, sanitation, housing or microcredits to mostly marginalized populations in remote geographies. Social enterprises, their production units and other related infrastructures, represent tangible spatial fixes of a phenomenon termed philanthro-capitalism. By harnessing the logic of capital circulation, philanthro-capitalists transform the act of philanthropic "giving" into a profit-oriented investment process, which demands for 'a more creative capitalism' and aspires new ways to integrate more people into the debt economy. Given the global approach of philanthro-capitalism, Asia is deemed to have the strongest potential for social enterprises, while diverse actors at different scales and in various contexts attempt to build a functioning market. In this context, the paper deals the role of Singapore as an international financial centre and investment hub for philanthro-capital in Asia. Beyond various tax advantages for global investors, Singapore has developed a strong institutional infrastructure for legal and strategic advisory in the field and makes use of what David Harvey calls a powerful 'state-finance nexus'. The analysis of this nexus is also based on intensive field research in Singapore and the cities of Bangalore, Mumbai and New Delhi in India, where I conducted more than 30 qualitative expert interviews form July 2016 to February 2017.

Blame Attribution Conspiracy Theories: The Case of MH-17

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On 17 July 2014, the passenger jet airliner MH-17 was shot from the skies over eastern Ukraine. The event caused international outrage, an outrage only compounded by an attempt by Russian President Putin and Russian media organizations to attribute blame for the event onto Ukraine. This paper uses the empirical history of this event, and survey data on subsequent popular attitudes about who was to blame, to consider the role of blame attribution and conspiracy theories in geopolitical cultures.

The geography of same-sex marriage vote in Slovenia and Croatia (POSTER)

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This poster contributes to political geography research by analyzing the results of four gay rights referendums that took place in Slovenia and Croatia between 2001 and 2015. Through an evaluation of three Slovenian referendums, this study shows that the geography of gay rights support has not undergone any major changes over the past 15 years with an exception of the capital city Ljubljana, where it increased significantly. Furthermore, the analysis demonstrates significant spatial correlations of these referendums and of referendums on other subjects in relation to party support. There is also a notable urban/rural cleavage. In Croatia, on the contrary, urban/rural divide is not visible, and the correlation between geography of the gay rights referendum and electoral results is much lower.

Slow violence and emergency: articulating the temporalities of crises

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This paper seeks to better understand how the temporal relationship between political geographies and disasters is articulated. Particularly, I examine the relationship between slow violence and emergency to understand how it influences the politics surrounding understandings of crises. To understand the relationship between past and present crises, this project brings together Rob Nixon's concept of slow violence – a violence that occurs out of sight, over time, and often is deferred – with political geographers' engagements with emergency to explore the temporalities of crises and how those varied temporalities influence each other across time and space. I first discuss slow violence and then examine political geographic scholarship about disasters – most notably emergencies. I next use the May 2014 floods in Serbia as an empirical starting point to think through the relationship of slow violence and emergency. I conclude that integrating the concept of slow violence with political geographers' understandings of emergency allows for engagement with the temporal as well as the spatial aspects of environmental disasters.

Space and The Gift: Some Geographic Philosophy

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The concept of 'the gift' has been well explored in both anthropology and philosophy. What relevance does the idea have for political geographic thinking today? Conversely, how can reflection on geographic space inform extra-disciplinary dialogues? This paper explores phenomena such as territorial exchange, current conditions of human migration, and land-based rights systems from the perspective of 'the gift,' seeking to counter notions of the impossibility of the true gift with the possibility for radical generosity.

Man Ray, Gift (1921)

The ironies of militarized and colonial cartography: exploring the mythologies of the Minembwe map

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This paper traces the genesis, constitution and 'weaponization' of the map of the territoire of Minembwe in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. Minembwe territory was a short-lived administrative region created under rebel rule during the Second Congo War (1998–2003), in response to demands by the 'ethnic' Banyamulenge group. The territory's creation was the culmination of processes of the territorialization of ethnicity fostered by the colonial authorities, including via cartography. While suppressed after the Second War, another rebel group has continued to vigorously advocate for its resurrection, including by drawing upon a rare map of this isolated mountainous area. Inquiry into this mysterious map, first obtained from the rebel group, revealed its layered history. It led us to the anti-colonial 'colonial' geographer who had written the first 'modern' geography of the region decades earlier and a Banyamulenge MA student engaging in a participatory mapping exercise to redress the colonial authorities' failure to grant them a territory of their own. Drawing on Denis Wood and John Fels' critical map semiotics, we show how the Minembwe map's powerful mythologies are

grounded in the surprising entanglement of Belgian colonial cartography's 'scientific' authority, the geopolitics of the contemporary Great Lakes Region, and its complex insurgent landscape. This exploration allows for highlighting the indeterminacies and contingencies of both colonial and 'militarized' cartography and their 'uses'. In particular, we carve out a space for agency in the overdetermined processes of colonization and militarization, mapping their ironies and the ironies of mapping.

An extra-regional solution: Australia's use of humanitarian aid and border security support to immobilize asylum seekers in South Asia, the Middle East, and North Africa

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Since the late 1990s, Australia has received tens of thousands of asylum seekers from South Asia and the Middle East. The Australian Government has responded through border externalizations preemptively discouraging potential asylum seekers and deflecting migrant boats at sea. The Government frames such externalizations as a "regional approach" to border security, using regionalist discourse to legitimize securitizations; the region being presented as a natural territory of just asylum governance. How Australia's "regional solution" has engendered maritime militarization and border securitizations in the Pacific and Southeast Asia has been well documented. However, the diversity and geographic scope of Australia's border externalizations have yet to be fully analyzed. This paper shows that despite Australia's regionalist discourse, the Australian Government has assembled externalizations in South Asia, the Middle East and North Africa. Australia's use of humanitarian aid to make distant places of potential asylum seeker mobilities more hospitable, yet confining, to the displaced is detailed. Also emphasized is Australia's border security support to distant source countries, and countries of first asylum, to discourage asylum seeking irregular migration. I argue that humanitarian aid and border security support has been used to externalize Australia's borders through targeting populations and places associated with irregular migration, that Australia has adopted both territorial and temporal strategies of border securitization. I further suggest that the border externalization literature should avoid reifying certain regions as territorial traps of securitization as they risk becoming static frames of inquiry masking the complex geographies of preemptive border security.

Circuits of Chinese birth tourism: geopolitical marketing and cross-strait segmentation
(POSTER)

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Birth tourism describes the practice where pregnant women travel abroad to give birth. Although motivations behind it vary, many point to the lure of foreign citizenship for the newborns and, eventually, the entire family. The ethnic Chinese have been one of the most visible groups practicing birth tourism, and a transnational industry facilitating it to the U.S. is well established by the late 2000s. This paper, drawing from a multi-sited ethnography of the Chinese birth tourism industry that spans southern California and the Asia-Pacific, investigates new transnational circuits alongside existing migratory patterns by ethnic Chinese ethnic families. Specifically, the paper argues against dominant narratives of China-U.S. transnationalism that still primarily focus on linkages between migratory origins and destinations. Emerging circuits of Chinese birth tourism between China and the U.S. demonstrate how ideas about values of U.S. citizenship create not just China-U.S. relations, but perhaps more importantly new intra-Asian linkages. This paper explores two particular manifestations of intra-Asian linkages in the Chinese birth tourism industry: geopolitical marketing that focuses on

images of national strengths, and cross-strait segmentation that spoke to long-standing cultural differentiation among Taiwan, Hong Kong, and mainland China.

Crime, Climate Change, and Hegemony: Military Interventions of the United States and Brazil on the Brazilian Border

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In this article I investigate the impact of the United States as a hegemonic power and the emergence of Brazil as a regional power in Latin America. I compare the two forms of authority to clarify which obstacles and opportunities exist in Latin America's future with respect to the division of power in this region. This research will focus on the roles of the United States and Brazil regarding legislation on three themes: the production and distribution of narcotics, the growth of Islamic terrorist groups, and climate change in South America. Focusing on the Brazilian border and the national periphery of Brazil, I investigate the border zone as a reflection of current patterns of post-Cold War neo-hegemony in Latin America (Burges 2008, Burges 2015, García 2014, Oliveira 2011, Teixeira 2011, Varas 2008). Using the Brazilian border as a location of US and Brazilian military force, I demonstrate that there is a lack of geographic attention to Brazil as a new colonial force in its continent. Brazil has not always been seen as an integral part of Latin America (Bethell 2010). After decades of territorial, economic, and political transformations, Brazil in 2017 is a regional power with global ambitions. Using geographic literature, governmental documents, and journalistic media, in this article I review and compare US and Brazilian strategies in Brazilian border zones. I pay attention to the areas of drugs, terrorism, and climate change because of their roles as trans-territorial phenomena which affect more than any one individual country.

A Changing Landscape: Territorial Name Changes In Hawai'i

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The erasure of indigenous place names takes place all over the world. Hawaii did not escape this colonial process, but the writing over of our geographic labels has a unique genealogy. For many places under the control of empire, the traditional place names are omitted during the process of surveying. Many of Hawaii's inoa wahi (place names) survived this process but were eventually obliterated as part of the geopolitical climate that began just after the Hawaiian Kingdom's overthrow. This presentation will describe Hawaii's unique renaming genealogy and examine the factors that contributed to it. I aim to contextualize characteristics of Hawaii's territorial period (1900-1959) and discuss the ways that Kanaka Maoli (Native Hawaiians) were disenfranchised and connect that to current issues facing Hawaii's indigenous people and landscape.

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