

Call for Papers: **Bodies, space and difference in the global intimate**

Panel of the human geographies symposium at the Swiss Geoscience Meeting 2018, 30th November and 1st December 2018, Bern

Organizers: Karine Duplan (University of Geneva), Elisabeth Militz (University of Bern)

Theorized by feminist geographic scholarship, the global intimate has been especially helpful in developing an understanding of the various entanglements between global flows of labor, bodies, knowledge and goods and the everyday routines, intimacies and violences of getting by (Pain and Staeheli 2014; Pratt and Rosner 2012). Focusing on the intimate “as embodied social relations that include mobility, emotions, materiality, belonging, alienation” (Mountz and Hyndman 2006) – and we can include love, sexuality and care (Walsh 2009) – enables forms of embodied and felt knowledges of the global that remained for long unrecognized and untold and disrupts established binaries and categories of thinking.

In this context, attending to ways in which intimate relationships shape and inform everyday life in a globalized world asks researchers to explore the materiality of social being, thus considering the gendered, racialized, classed and sexualized body as a political site in particular. The body, as “the geography the closest in” unfolds as liminal space that relates to the transformation of the self as well as to the fleshly, leaky, messy dimensions of the body itself in everyday encounters (Longhurst 2001). Embodied experiences also connect to questions of subjectivity, emotions, affects, de/attachments and shared experiences of space (Ahmed 2004) allowing for a better understanding of how the global intimate unfolds through encounters that activate bodily histories of becoming. The research lens of the global intimate thus helps us to unmask the violent power relations that en/disable participation in global capitalism and the ways in which these power relations contribute to the reproduction of politics of differences anywhere, anytime.

This session seeks to bring together papers that explore the political struggles resulting from global intimacies. Empirical studies centering the body and/or drawing on the lens of the global intimate are highly welcomed. We invite submissions that address one or more of the following themes, without being exclusive:

- intersectional and/or postcolonial geographies of the global intimate
- geographies of the body and body politics in the global intimate
- sexual politics of the global intimate
- intimate geopolitics and intimacy-geopolitics
- science, technology and intimate geographies of care and reproduction
- spaces of encounters: transnational migration, belonging and difference

Please submit your abstract (max. 250 words (excl. references)) by 13th July 2018 via e-mail to Karine Duplan (karine.duplan@unige.ch) and Elisabeth Militz (elisabeth.militz@unisg.ch). We will inform all applicants by the end of July 2018 about the final selection of papers. **Final abstracts need to be uploaded electronically by 31st August** on the conference website using the abstract submission form (<https://geoscience-meeting.ch/sgm2018/abstracts/abstract-submission-form/>).

References

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- Longhurst, Robyn. *Bodies: Exploring fluid boundaries*. Routledge, London, 2001.
- Mountz, Alison, and Jennifer Hyndman. 'Feminist Approaches to the Global Intimate'. *Women's Studies Quarterly* 34, no. 1/2 (1 April 2006): 446–63.
- Pain, Rachel, and Lynn Staeheli. 'Introduction: Intimacy-Geopolitics and Violence'. *Area* 46, no. 4 (2014): 344–60. <https://doi.org/10.1111/area.12138>.
- Pratt, Geraldine, and Victoria Rosner, eds. *The Global and the Intimate: Feminism in Our Time*. Columbia University Press, 2012.
- Walsh, Katie. 'Geographies at the heart in transnational spaces: love and intimate lives of British migrants in Dubai'. *Mobilities* 4, no. 3 (2009): 427-445.