

GEOGRAPHIES OF OVERLAPPING CRISES

Tagung Neue
Kulturgeographie
Halle 2023

Call for Papers Neue Kulturgeographie 2023

Geographies of Overlapping Crises

January 26th-28th 2023, Halle (Saale), Germany

After a crisis-induced break, we would like to recommence the conference series Neue Kulturgeographie and therefore we invite you to join us in Halle (Saale) in January 2023. As always, the "Neue Kulturgeographie" will be a conference open to a wide range of contributions and topics. The need for an open forum to discuss contemporary issues and challenges in cultural and social geography seems particularly pressing at the current moment. At the same time, we would like to propose a conference theme that we think is suitable to pose contemporary geographical questions.

While organizing the 18th meeting of this established conference series might point to a return to a pre-pandemic normality, this return also takes place under the impression of multiple, interconnected and overlapping crises and related experiences that challenge the notion of a past as well as future normality. With the conference theme "Geographies of overlapping crises", we would like to engage with these crises and debate their meanings and consequences for the present and future.

It is very common to describe the present as a time of crises– a phenomenon as ubiquitous as it is in need of explanation (Runkel/Everts 2017). On the one hand there are time-diagnostic reasons for describing the present in the mode of crisis. Be it climate change, pandemics, war, the geographies of our current situation appear as "overlapping crises" (Sultana 2021a) that exacerbate existing inequalities. These overlapping or multiple crises are geographically and socially unequal and – we would argue – they can hardly be understood separately. This makes relational and intersectional approaches particularly relevant. On the other hand, the concept of "crisis" is multifaceted and plays an important role in many of the theories and approaches in New Cultural Geography, as they often emphasize the unstable, contradictory, and contingent nature of social relations and practices. One important question is therefore whether the concept of crisis needs to be updated or whether geography is particularly suited and prepared to research and describe the crises of the present or the present as crises.

While we welcome, as always, contributions from all fields of human geography and neighboring disciplines, we specifically invite you to engage with some of the following questions:

- What can geographers contribute to the understanding of our planetary (Clark/Yusoff 2017) as much as socio-economic and geopolitical predicaments? What are promising avenues for interventions and going „beyond critical“ (Sultana 2021b, Massey 2004)?
- The Neue Kulturgeographie gathering (NKG) since its inception has been a place for thought-provoking and cutting-edge research and theoretical debates. What can our existing insights into infrastructuring, technological assemblages, more-than-human

relations, affect, social practices, the small and the large – to name but a few – bring to analyzing our contemporary affairs?

- With the Covid-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine, there is also a sense that Western societies and their academics have by and large overlooked simmering geopolitical conflicts and global social inequalities for too long. Is that really the case? Maybe the findings of human geographers and other critical social scientists have not received enough attention yet. How do we create opportunities to make our arguments heard beyond the academic world?
- Making geographical research relevant is a crucial matter. What can we learn by engaging more deeply with intersectional approaches? Are we making progress in decolonizing and diversifying human geography and the wider social sciences?

The above questions will be our guiding themes for the next conference and we very much looking forward to learning about and discussing your current research and theoretical ideas. We cordially invite your suggestions for sessions and abstracts by 30 September 2022. Please note that this is a bilingual meeting. Presentations may be held in either German or English. Please email your abstracts to conference@geo.uni-halle.de. For information about registration, please visit the website www.kulturgeographie.org.

The conference will take place between, January 26th and January 28th, 2023.

References

Clark, N. / Yusoff, K. (2017): Geosocial formations and the Anthropocene. In: *Theory, Culture & Society* 34 (2-3), 3-23.

Massey, D. (2004): Geographies of responsibility. In: *Geografiska Annaler: Series B, Human Geography* 86, 5-18.

Runkel, S. / Everts, J. (2017): Geographien sozialer Krisen / Krisen sozialer Geographien. In: *geographica helvetica* 72, 475-482.

Sultana, F. (2021): Climate change, COVID-19, and the co-production of injustices: a feminist reading of overlapping crises. In: *Social & Cultural Geography*, 22 (4), 447-460.