Commission on Political Geography

International Geographical Union

IGC PRE-CONFERENCE 2024

CELEBRATING A WORLD OF POLITICAL DIFFERENCE

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

SCHOOL OF NATURAL AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT

SCHOOL OF HISTORY ANTHROPOLOGY PHILOSOPHY AND POLITICS

Royal Geographical Society with IBG

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Politics and Space

Environment and Planning C

Geopolitics

- Programme updated 23/08/2024
- **Paper sessions** are 80 minutes long, allowing 20 minutes per paper, including time for questions.
- **A handful of presenters are joining their session virtually**. These are presenters are highlighted.
- **If you are preparing slides** we strongly recommend that you use PowerPoint. Session room computers will be running Microsoft Windows, with an internet connection. All presentations must be brought to the session on a USB-key. You will not be able to connect your own device to the room's AV.
- **Wifi access:** If you have Eduroam, you may use your home institution's credentials to access the internet. Non-Eduroam options are also available.
- **Coffee and refreshments:** Tea/Coffee and Scones/Biscuits will be provided during the morning and afternoon breaks.
- **Lunch** has been ordered for Friday only - it is up to you to find your lunch on Thursday. There are some convenient on-campus options and several lunch spots on University Road, Botanic Avenue and Stranmillis Road.
- **Directions:** The pre-conference is taking place in the iconic Lanyon Building (pictured below). When you first arrive, enter through the main door to the black and white hall, and climb the staircase on your left to reach the registration desk in the Canada Room.

THURSDAY 22ND AUGUST			
Venue/Time	Canada Room (Lanyon Building)	Room TR6 (Graduate School)	Room 01/052 (Lanyon Building)
09.30-10.00	Registration & Welcome		
10.00-11.20	**International and Popular Geopolitics** Chair: Tristan Sturm (Queen's University Belfast) 1. **Rory Rowan (Trinity College Dublin)** Irish Neutrality and Anti-Colonial Internationalism 2. **Simon Wellisch & Songmin Liang (National University of Singapore)** Drawing China: Negotiations of Geopolitics in Online Communities 3. **Katrinka Somdahl (Rowan University)** The Popular anti-Geopolitics of the MCU Phase 4 Superheroes 4. **Gerry Kearns (Maynooth University)** Anticolonial Geographies and the British Geographical Imagination	**Biographies and Geographical Thought** Chair: Diarmid Finnegan (Queen's University Belfast) 1. **Oliver Dunnett (Queen's University Belfast)** Scientific masculinities in post-colonial India and Sri Lanka: The correspondence of Arthur C Clarke and J B S Haldane 2. **António Ferraz de Oliveira (University of Groningen)** Eternal sunshine of the imperial mind: H.J. Mackinder's geopolitics, technological futurism, and renewable energy 3. **Corey Johnson (University of North Carolina at Greensboro)** Past, present, and future of Political Geography: Report on a CPG interview project 4. **Michiel van Meeteren & Sophie Bijleveld (Utrecht University)** Inscribing the Dutch imperial geopolitical order: The colonial geography of Louis van Vuuren (1873-1951)	**Geographies of Migration in Times of Crisis** Chair: Milena Komarova (Queen's University Belfast) 1. **Anna Casaglia (Università di Trento)** The Right move? The domestication of climate migration and security in Italian political debates 2. **Claske Dijkema (Bern University of Applied Sciences)** Chained hopes. Perspectives on peace as an everyday experience by migrant women 3. **Patricia Martin (Université de Montréal)** Hospitality, solidarity and care? Theorizing new forms of mutual aid among transnational migrants in Québec/Canada 4. **Olivia Mason (Northumbria University)** Mobility, difference, and cultural heritage among Bedouin in Jordan.
11.20-11.40	Coffee break – Hot drinks and scones provided in the Graduate School, outside room TR6.		

11.40-13.00	**Alternative Geopolitics: Practice and Performance** Chair: Oliver Dunnett (Queen's University Belfast) 1. **Alex Manby (University of Oxford)** Performing independence without statehood: independence day celebrations and claims to sovereignty, legitimacy, and nationhood amongst the Nagas of Nagaland 2. **Stanley D. Brunn (University of Kentucky)** An Alternate World Political Map: Seating Arrangements in the UN General Assembly 3. **Jaume Castan Pinos (University of Southern Denmark)** Building a state from a refugee camp: the anomalous statehood of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) 4. **Fiona McConnell (University of Oxford) & Liam Saddington (University of Cambridge)** "You could start a new country, but you would need to discover new land" Exploring understandings of Statehood and political difference with Primary School Pupils in England	**Electoral Geographies** Chair: Jonathan Harris (King's College London) 1. **Ádám Labáth (Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest)** The role conception of Joe Biden and Donald Trump on the Russian-Ukrainian war during their presidency and the campaign of the US election 2024 2. **Daniel Azevedo (Universidade de Brasília)** Electoral Geography and Political Representation of Marginalized Groups: 2020 Elections of Black representatives in Brazil 3. **Virginie Mamadouh (University of Amsterdam)** Still United in diversity? Celebrating difference in the European Union and the 2024 EP elections (national) campaigns	**Networks of Academic Knowledge, Expertise and Cooperation** Chair: Rebecca Bamford (Queen's University Belfast) 1. **John Barry (Queen's University Belfast)** The role and responsibility of academia in the context of the planetary crisis – or what is to be done? 2. **Sophie Bijleveld & Michiel van Meeteran (Utrecht University)** Ambiguous post-colonialities: (Re)negotiating geography between Universitas Gadjah Mada (Indonesia) and Utrecht University (the Netherlands) 3. **Ellen Carmen Gordon (New York University Madrid)** National studies and the local bureaucrat: Spatial hierarchies of state knowledge and expertise in Ecuador 4. **Thomas Hastings & Erin Sherry (Queen's University Belfast)** The evolution of competing growth plans: Explaining/examining Northern Ireland's (contested) green growth pathways
13.00-14.20	Lunch break – Buffet provided in the Graduate School, outside room TR6.		

14.20-15.40	**Everyday Bordering** Chair: Merav Amir (Queen's University Belfast) 1. **Merrill Hopper (King's College London)** Brickless Walls: The performance of territorial difference in everyday objects 2. **Milena Komarova (Queen's University Belfast)** (Re)Examining Urban Borders: (Re)Producing Political Boundaries in Belfast 3. **Catriona Gold (University College London)** From 'red scare' to 'law and order': nested scales of local, domestic and international security at the US Passport Office 4. **Bonato Michela (University of Padova, DiSSGeA)** Deframing the European Cultural Routes as a Cultural Infrastructure: Geopolitical Entanglements	**Activism Beyond Binary** Chair: Shona Loong (University of Zurich) 1. **Anil Sindhwani (Durham University)** Working on the Farm: Community Development and Accommodative Resistance 2. **Sofia Negri (Queen Mary University of London)** Embracing complexity and nuance: Tensions and Debates in Platform Labour Regulation 3. **Fraser Curry (King's College London)** Scholar-activism in, with, and against the state? Reflections from research on the political geographies of debt and social housing allocation in England 4. **Caolan Barr (University of British Columbia)** Decolonizing Housing Justice: Unpacking Solidarity across Difference	
15.40-16.00	Coffee break – Hot drinks and biscuits provided in the Graduate School, outside room TR6.		
16.00-17.00	***Environment and Politics C* Keynote:** Chair: Fiona McConnell (University of Oxford) **Anna Secor (Durham University)** Difference and the Politics of Feeling	In the US and the UK today, politics is motivated and played out through collective political feelings. Political forms such as right-wing populism, left progressivism, and liberalism work by distributing attachment and intensity – by aggregating rallying points, provocations to outrage, sites of exhilaration or enjoyment, and modes of political performance. This talk addresses the need for concepts and critical tools to confront how 'structures of feeling' (Raymond Williams, Marxism and Literature, 1977) organise and differentiate the political field within these two Western democratic societies today. Working in the blur between affect studies and ideology critique, I bring difference to the fore of the politics of feeling by emphasising the multiplicity of structures of feeling, exploring their unevenness and holes, and examining how they not only operate differentially but actively produce difference and relations of domination. This talk is based on the book manuscript, The Politics of Feeling: Populism, Progressivism, Liberalism (Goldsmiths Press, 2025), co-authored with Prof Ben Anderson (Durham University).	
17.00-18.00	**Drinks Reception**	Reception sponsored by the Royal Geographical Society Political Geography Research Group and Northern Ireland Branch	
18.30-late	Conference dinner in India Gate restaurant, Great Victoria Street (Individual billing)		

FRIDAY 23RD AUGUST			
Venue/Time	Canada Room (Lanyon Building)	TR6 (Graduate School)	Room 01/052 (Lanyon Building)
9.30 - 10.00	Day 2 Registration		
10.00-11.20	**Boundaries, Borders and Belonging (1)** Chair: Patricia Martin (Université de Montréal) 1. **Camille Dabestani (University Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne)** Macroregional imaginaries of French Caribbean Territories: Similarity and Difference in political geography of in-between and multi-belonging 2. **Paula Devine, Erin Early, Martina McKnight and Dirk Schubotz (Queen's University Belfast)** Place and belonging in Northern Ireland: Evidence from ARK's Public Attitude Surveys 3. **Marco Antonsich (Loughborough University)** On the intersections between race and nation - an empirical study	**Geopolitics and Practices of Warfare (1)** Chair: Oren Yiftachel (Ben-Gurion University) 1. **Takashi Yamazaki (Osaka Metropolitan University)** Universalistic ethics under colonial militarization: The exercise of 'violence' by black soldiers in pre-reversion Okinawa (1945-72) 2. **Jeffrey Whyte (Lancaster University)** The Politics of Psychological War 3. **Matthew Robinson (Queen's University Belfast)** Critically resituating the British state's use of torture in 1970s and 1980s Northern Ireland 4. **Judith Verweijen (University of Utrecht)** Researching geographies of violence and the fluid spatial, temporal and professional boundaries of "the field"	**Territories, Identities and Geographies of Resistance (1)** Chair: Ronit Berger Hobson (Queen's University Belfast) 1. **Maria Chiara Franceschelli (Scuola Normale Superiore)** Against the Wasteland. Reclaiming Fairness in the Russian Periphery. 2. **Marcin Skupiński (University of Warsaw)** Experiencing "special war": ecocide and environmental necropolitics in North-East Syria. 3. **Géza Barta (ELTE Eötvös Loránd University)** Navigating Identities: (Re)scaling Resistance and Territorial Attachment in Polish Upper Silesia 4. **Amaël Cattaruzza (Institut Français de Géopolitique)** Thinking Digital Sovereignty in Context: A Case Study in the Balkans
11.20-11.40	Coffee break – Hot drinks and scones provided in the Graduate School, outside room TR6.		
11.40-13.00	**Boundaries, Borders and Belonging (2)** Chair: Marco Antonsich (Loughborough University) 1. **Tiantong Gu (National University of Singapore)**	**Geopolitics and Practices of Warfare (2)** Chair: Jeffrey Whyte (Lancaster University) 1. **Yee-Chin Teo (National University of Singapore)** Negotiated Sovereignty: Surfacing	**Territories, Identities and Geographies of Resistance (2)** Chair: Nuala Johnson (Queen's University Belfast) 1. **Celine Allaverdian (Université de Montréal /Université de Paris Saclay**

	Questions of Nature: Constructing Singapore's Geopolitical Discourse 2. **Steven Farquhar (Queen's University Belfast)** 'Contested more-than-human territorialities and conservation biopolitics at Copeland Bird Observatory, Ireland' 3. **Karst Berkenbosch (KU Leuven)** Bottom-up geopolitics: Everyday geopolitics during the Anglo-French fishing row 4. **Lola Aubry (University of Luxembourg) & Anne-Laure Amilhat Szary (Université Grenoble Alpes)** Multispecies encounters: when borders meet and broaden	Indigenous Geopolitics within Settler Colonialism 2. **Merav Amir (Queen's University Belfast)** Beyond Redemption: Frontier Violence and Israel's War on Gaza 3. **Sarah Ahmad (Banaras Hindu University)** Beyond Conflict: The Essence of Hazratbal Shrine in Kashmir's Collective Identity 4. **Oren Yiftachel (Ben-Gurion University)** Triality: The Political Geography of Apartheid in Israel/Palestine and the war on Gaza	**/GRET)** Cultivation under fire: exploring the question of "resistance agriculture"... 2. **Aida Kapetanovic (Scuola Normale Superiore)** The River Guardians: Resisting Hydropower in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia 3. **Francesco Ventura (Università degli Studi di Firenze)** Subaltern Geopolitics on the walls: The case of 'Orso' in the streets of Florence 4. **Cansu Sonmez (Independent)** Infrastructural Colonialism on the Periphery: A comparative perspective from Italy and Turkey
13.00-14.20	Lunch break: No lunch provided. There are convenient lunch spots on-campus and on University Road, Botanic Avenue & Stranmillis Road, such as:	The Junction (Main Site Tower, opposite Graduate School) Umi Falafel (Botanic Avenue) Aleksander's Bakery (University Street) Queen's University Catholic Chaplaincy (University Road) Stran-wiches (Stranmillis Road)	
14.20-15.40	**Camp Geographies of the Balkan Route** Chair: Anna Casaglia (Università di Trento) 1. **Claudio Minca (University of Bologna)** Trieste endgame and the politics of the ban along the Balkan Route 2. **Valeria Raimondi (University of Bologna)** Life and Labour in Refugee Camps in mainland Greece 3. **Dragan Umek (University of Trieste)** The rise and fall of refugee counter-geographies in Northern Serbia 4. **Yolanda Weima (University of Bologna)** The Geopolitics and Biopolitics of Opening and Closing Camps in the Balkan Route	**Position Matters! The Maldives, between China and India** Chair: Satish Kumar (Queen's University Belfast) 1. **Claudio Melli (Università di Milano-Bicocca)** Linking islands through sport: a new model of governance in the Indian ocean geopolitical chess game 2. **Valeria Pecorelli (Iulm University, Milan)** Missing the wicket? India, cricket, and its complex relations with the Maldives 3. **Elena dell'Agnese (Università di Milano-Bicocca)** Stadium diplomacy and the "geopolitical landscape" of the Maldives: asymmetries of power in the Indian Ocean	**Spatial Organization at the Regional and Planetary Scales** Chair: Virginie Mamadouh (University of Amsterdam) 1. **Aude Gery (Geode) & Guilhem Marotte (Institut Français de Géopolitique)** Cartography can also be used to explain and understand the development and application of international law: Revisiting cartographic tools to deal with international law 2. **Shintaro Hamanaka (Institute of Developing Economies)** The world map of overlapping regions: Social Psychology explanation on exclusionary regions

		4. **Stefano Malatesta (Università di Milano-Bicocca)** Indian Ocean Small Island States and the "Blue Growth". Big players' rivalries and Maldivian food policies	3. **Alexander B Murphy (University of Oregon)** Geography, Difference, and the 'Global South' Trope 4. **June Wang & Chao Yao (City University Hong Kong)** Putting the place in flow restructures: Networks, assembled positionalities and the Special Economic Zone development
15.40-16.00	Coffee break – Hot drinks and biscuits provided in the Graduate School, outside room TR6.		
16.00-17.00	**RGS Political Geography Research Group Roundtable** Chair: Olivia Mason (Northumbria University) 1. **Merrill Hopper (King's College London)** 2. **Anil Sindhwani (Durham University)** 3. **Dean Phelan (University College Dublin)** 4. **Kara E. Dempsey (UNC-Appalachian State University)** Teaching and researching violence, censorship, and difference	This event aims to provide an opportunity to discuss, share experiences, and challenge the way we teach and research within our current geopolitically violent times. Spaces of teaching and research are sites where critical political discussions can emerge and different views be discussed but they can also be sites of censorship and closure. We reflect on how we are navigating geopolitical violence, censorship and difference when teaching or researching political geography to. In times of increasing censorship, how could we ensure that silenced and marginalised voices remain central to our research? How can we mainstream topics of teaching that are frequently censored? How do we deal with difference or opposing views in our teaching and research spaces? This panel will be a place of learning from one another and thinking together to produce conversations on how we can better teach and research violence, censorship, and difference.	
17.00	Announcement of *Geopolitics* PGR Prize winner and Formal Close		

SATURDAY 24TH AUGUST	
9.00-12.00	Optional: "Troubles" Bus Tour Tour guide: Dominic Bryan (Queen's University Belfast) Pickup from Queen's University Belfast Students' Union at 9am, drop-off at Europa Bus Station at 11.40, final drop-off at Queen's at 12pm. The tour is free of charge, but there will be an opportunity for a voluntary donation to thank our tour guide to be made in cash. There will be space to stow baggage on the bus.