

SCHEDULE

MID-TERM CONFERENCE 2025

TUESDAY 22 - THURSDAY 24 APRIL 2025
ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, LONDON

**Royal
Geographical
Society**
with IBG
Postgraduate Forum

Welcome to the RGS-IBG Postgraduate Forum's

Annual Mid-Term Conference 2025

We're delighted to welcome you online and to the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) in London for this year's Mid-Term Conference.

As always, this year's Mid-Term will be a jam-packed one, featuring over 60 research presentation by postgraduate and several exciting plenary events.

Over the course of our three-day Mid-Term, we'll together seek to analyse the most important topics, trends and challenges emerging in Geography—be they empirical, conceptual, theoretical, or methodological.

As in previous years, the Mid-Term conference seeks to offer a snapshot of the exciting research being undertaken by postgraduate researchers on novel topics and in diverse contexts. This year's programme includes a wonderfully broad array of projects, all advancing the boundaries of geography and geographic thought. We warmly encourage you to attend as many sessions as you can across the three days, and to take every opportunity to engage with co-presenters' work by asking questions and offering constructive feedback!

In this programme, you'll find the schedule for the Mid-Term, including full session and workshops details, as well as more information about our plenary activities. Have a thorough look through to work out which sessions and workshop you'd like to attend! You're welcome and find one of the organisers during the event if you have any questions.

Thank you for joining us for this year's Mid-Term. We wish you the best of luck for your talk, and hope you enjoy making the most of the Mid-Term Conference.

Information

Online session format

Online paper sessions will be between 45 and 60 minutes long, depending on the number of presentations. Shorter sessions will include three papers; longer sessions will generally include four papers.

Presentations will be a **maximum of 10 minutes long**, with an additional five minutes for questions.

In-person session format

In-person paper sessions will be between 60 and 85 minutes long, depending on the number of presentations. Shorter sessions will include three papers; longer sessions will generally include four papers.

Presentations will be a **maximum of 15 minutes long**, with an additional five minutes for questions.

Several sessions will run concurrently. You're welcome to attend whichever session you like.

Workshops (in-person only)

We have three workshops running concurrently during Session 2 on Wednesday 23 April.

Delegates are welcome to attend any one of the three workshops and there is no need to register in advance.

Information for presenters

Presentations should be a **maximum of 10 minutes (online) or 15 minutes (in-person)**. The session Chair will give you a prompt when you have five minutes remaining.

Please head to your session venue (or return to the Zoom session, if presenting online) **five minutes before the session** commences to prepare any slides for projection and introduce yourself to the session Chair.

If you are presenting in-person and would like to present slides or other visuals during your talk, please bring these with you on a USB drive. You will not be able to display visuals by connecting your own device to the display.

If you are presenting online and would like to present slides or visuals, please ensure you are familiar with the 'Share your screen' function on Zoom before the conference commences. This is how you will share your slides at the conference.

Catering (in-person only)

We offer a standard and allergen-free lunch option. All lunches are vegetarian as standard. If you notified us of specific allergy or dietary requirements, please select the allergen-free option.

Allergen-free lunches are vegan, gluten-free, nut-free, and dairy-free.

Our catering partner cannot guarantee that lunches will have been prepared in a nut-free kitchen. If you have questions about the menu, please speak to an organiser.

Code of Conduct

All delegates are reminded that they agree to comply with the [Code of Conduct](#) during the online and in-person Mid-Term, including the evening reception.

Evening Reception

from 5.30pm on Wednesday 23 April

The Mid-Term Evening Reception will be hosted at [FiveSixEight](#), at Imperial College Union.

To keep the cost of attendance at the Mid-Term as low as possible for delegates, this reception will be an informal gathering. As such, we do not have a room reserved, but the Union is a large venue with many bars and outside space, so will comfortably accommodate us all.

FiveSixEight offers a range of reasonably priced food and drinks, which delegates are welcome to enjoy on a self-paid basis.

If you would like to attend the Evening Social, you are welcome to do so on the day without pre-booking or prior payment.

A group will walk over to FiveSixEight together from the conference venue, but you are welcome to make your way independently and meet us there at your convenience.

FiveSixEight is an accessible venue. It caters for most diets—but do check in advance if you have specific needs. You can find more information about FiveSixEight [here](#).

Schedule: Tuesday 22 April (online)

Time	Activity
10.00 – 10.10	Welcome to the Mid-Term Conference 2025
10.10 – 11.15	Keynote Lecture 1 with Dr Tim White (Free University of Berlin)
11.15 – 11.30	Break
11.30 – 12.15	Session 1 Urban and Regional Transformations
12.15 – 13.00	Break
13.00 – 13.45	Session 2 Geographies of Public Space
13.45 – 14.00	Break
14.00 – 15.00	Session 3 Human Dimensions of Environmental Change
15.00 – 15.15	Break
15.15 – 16.30	Session 4 Geographies of Sustainability
16.15 – 16.20	Online conference close

Schedule: Wednesday 23 April (in-person)

Time	Activity (Session / Stream / Title)			Venue
08:30 – 09:00	Arrival and Registration (Coffee served in the Main Hall)			
09:00 – 09:10	Introduction to the in-person Mid-Term Conference 2025			Education Centre
09:10 – 09:20	Welcome Address with Professor Joe Smith (Director, RGS-IBG)			
09:25 – 09:45	Introduction to the Royal Geographical Society (with Institute of British Geographers) with Dr Sarah Evans (Research Collections and Engagement Manager, RGS-IBG)			
10:00 – 11:00	Keynote Lecture 2 TBC			
11:00 – 11:25	Coffee Break			Main Hall
11:30 – 13:00	Session 1	A	Food Geographies	Education Centre
		B	Watery Worlds	Drayson Room
		C	Geographies of Health and Wellbeing	Sunley Room
13:00 – 13:55	Lunch including RGS-IBG drop-ins: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Grants and funding ‘drop-in’ with Dr Julian Martin (Grants Manager, RGS-IBG)Journals and publishing ‘drop-in’ with Dr Catherine Souch (Director of Research, Education and Policy, RGS-IBG)			Main Hall
14:00 – 15:00	Session 2	A	States of precarity: A research workshop	Education Centre
		B	Wellbeing workshop: Mindfulness practices for your PhD	Drayson Room
		C	Critical histories of the RGS-IBG: A guided tour	Main Hall
15:00 – 15:25	Coffee Break			Main Hall
15:30 – 17:00	Session 3	A	Geographies of Energy, Resources and Extraction	Education Centre
		B	Social and Sensory Geographies	Drayson Room
		C	Urban Change and Regional Development	
17:00 – 17:30	Networking			
From 17:30	Evening Reception at FiveSixEight, Imperial College Union			

Schedule: Thursday 24 April (in-person)

Time	Activity (Session / Stream / Title)			Venue
09:30 – 09:55	Arrival and Networking (Coffee served in the Main Hall)			Main Hall
10:00 – 11:15	Session 4	A	More-than-Human Geographies	Education Centre
		B	Geographies of Identity and Culture	Drayson Room
		C	Polluted Geographies	Sunley Room
11:15 – 11:40	Coffee Break			Main Hall
11:45 – 13:00	Session 5	A	Human-Environment Relations	Education Centre
		B	Geographies of Citizenship	Drayson Room
		C	Methodological Advances and Ethical Debates in Geography	Sunley Room
13:00 – 13:55	Lunch and Networking			Main Hall
14:00 – 14:55	Keynote Lecture 3 by Dr Jonathon Turnbull (University of Oxford)			Education Centre
14:55 – 15:00	Conference Close			

Keynote Lecture 1

Tuesday 22 April

TBC

with Dr Tim White

Free University of Berlin

Keynote Lecture 2

Wednesday 23 April

TBC

Keynote Lecture 3

Friday 26 April

Nuclear natures: Synthesising more-than-human and elemental geographies

with Dr Jonathon Turnbull

University of Oxford

Anthropogenic nuclear materials now permeate ecologies globally, causing profound mutations to nature both materially and discursively. But despite their ubiquity, “nuclear natures” come in diverse situated forms, have distinct local geographies, and are made sense of in multiple contrasting ways. This paper offers a critical review of the geographical (and adjacent) literature on nuclear natures, drawing out three salient themes—ecologies, expertise, aesthetics—that help make sense of them across contexts. Drawing more-than-human, elemental, and nuclear geographies into closer conversation, the paper extends the concerns of geography to the intersecting agencies of nuclear materials and life, the knowledge politics that accompany irradiated ecologies, and the importance of aesthetics in shaping how nuclear natures are experienced. In conclusion, it suggests avenues for future enquiry at a time when nuclear matters are firmly back on the geopolitical agenda.

Jonathon Turnbull a cultural, environmental, and urban geographer from Newcastle upon Tyne. Based at the University of Oxford, his research examines how understandings of nature are produced and contested across geographical contexts and why this matters for more-than-human social, political, and economic life. Empirically, he focuses on nuclear natures at Chornobyl and urban rewilding in London and Berlin. He is co-founder of the Digital Ecologies research group and the Ukrainian Environmental Humanities Network, Co-Editor-in-Chief of *Routes: The Journal For Student Geographers*, a Junior Research Fellow at Jesus College, Oxford, and a committee member of the RGS-IBG Animal Geographies Working Group.

Find out more about Jonathon [here](#).

Online Sessions

Session 1	Urban and Regional Transformations Chair: TBC
	An institutional analysis of Small Property Rights Housing in China Hengyu Man Cardiff University, UK
	University-educated youth moving out of salaries and cities: Work, aspirations, and spatial practices of digital nomads in China Xiaoxue Chen University College London, UK
	The new waterfront: community engagement, planning culture & the adaption of public space in Danang port city Ngoc Thao Linh Dang Monash University, Australia
Session 2	Geographies of Public Space Chair: TBC
	Toward the Neuro-Comfortable City: A Multi-Sited Ethnography of 'Neuroinclusive-Designed' Public Spaces in London Charles Josefson King's College London, UK
	Spatial regulations of menstrual experiences in a Kolkata habitation Udita Bose Brunel, University of London, UK
	Unraveling the Determinants of Children's Risky Play: A Systematic Review of Variations Across Countries and Play Settings Elisavet Pasidi Utrecht University, Netherlands

Session 3	Human Dimensions of Environmental Change Chair: TBC
	Between the Taps and the Wells: How Hydrocarbons Shape Water Politics in Algeria Selma Benyovszky University of Reading, UK
	Political Geographies of Electricity Transformations in Kenya - Electric capitalism and the (re) production of difference Majd Jayyousi University of Manchester, UK
	Haunted landscapes: Learning to live with the ghosts left by progress — a pine forest or a graveyard? Ayleen Martínez Wong Universidad de Buenos Aires (University of Buenos Aires), Brazil
	Migration, "Burden-Sharing" and the Politics of Framing Gah-Kai Leung University of Warwick, UK

Session 4	Geographies of Sustainability Chair: TBC
	Driving the Sustainable Last-mile: Emerging practices on Light Electric Freight Vehicles Hanbit Chang TU Eindhoven, The Netherlands
	Gender-Responsive Climate Adaptation and Environmental Justice: Insights from Peri-Urban Agricultural Areas in South-Eastern Nigeria Onyinyechi Ossai University of Nigeria, Nigeria
	A Failed Solution to Drought: Lessons from Chile's Hydric Highway Patricio Cleary D. University of Manchester, UK
	Rebranding animals: producing edibility of alternative protein dog foods Carly Baker Cardiff University, UK
	Mapping stress in submerged aquatic vegetation using remote sensing Amritha Nair University of Worcester, UK

In-person Sessions

Session 1

Stream A	Food Geographies Chair: Luke Green Venue: Education Centre
	Spoilt for choice? A mixed-methods ethnographic study into the socio-cultural lives of community fridges and the effectiveness of surplus food Leo Webb University of Exeter, UK
	Sowing Community, Harvesting Change: Urban Food Activism and Social Reproduction in London, UK Sarah Vogelsanger, School of Oriental and African Studies / ETH Zurich
	Sources and the Nature of Farmers' Knowledge of Neglected Crops Stephen Uwumbordo Nachibi University of Hull, UK
	UK farmer protests and the barriers to green transitions Tom Carter-Brookes Keele University, UK


Stream B	Watery Worlds Chair: Sadie Rockliffe Venue: Drayson Room
	European Arctic conferences as places of inter-regional geopolitics Emilie Canova University of Cambridge, UK
	Intersectional everyday gendered experiences of water infrastructure in Jaipur city Pooja Kini Birkbeck, University of London, UK
	Glacier algae and the oligotrophic bloom paradox on ice Maddy Lewis University of Bristol, UK

	Great Flood Stories and What They Teach Us Natasha Miro University of Hull, UK
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Stream C	Geographies of Health and Wellbeing Chair: Dominika Dmitrzak Venue: Sunley Room
	How does Commuting Behaviour Affect Subjective Wellbeing (SWB)? Naya Cinantya Drestalita University of Birmingham, UK
	Race, fatness and place in policy making Meghan Grant University of Liverpool, UK
	Tackling ethnic inequalities in organ donation: Constructing communities through addressing inequalities Yasmin Zhuang-Mackie Durham University, UK

Session 2

Workshop A	<p>States of precarity: Research workshop</p> <p>Workshop Leader: TBC Panellists: TBC Venue: Education Centre</p> <p>More info TBC.</p>
Workshop B	<p>Wellbeing Workshop: Stop and breathe: Mindfulness practices for health and wellbeing in your postgraduate journey and beyond</p> <p>Workshop Leader: Dr Esther Anaya-Boig (Imperial College London) Venue: Drayson Room</p> <p>In this session, Esther will go through some of the most common well-being issues for PhD students: stress, anxiety, relationships (including with supervisors), imposter syndrome, burn-out, procrastination, and time management. It is important to understand the mechanisms behind these issues, and how they affect our brains and our bodies. But it is also important to be aware of them and thus, with curiosity and compassion, be able to do something about them. We will have a taster of mindfulness-based practices and nervous system self-regulation tips such as short meditation exercises, posture and movement, breathing techniques and supporting touch.</p> <p>Dr Esther Anaya-Boig started working part-time in the student services division of Imperial College London before completing her PhD in cycling for transport with the Centre for Environmental Policy in 2021, also at Imperial. She is a trained Mindfulness and Yoga teacher. She works with the Chaplaincy Multi-Faith Centre in the Mindfulness Programme, which includes the "PhD sessions", a series of monthly seminars / webinars designed to support PhD students in their doctoral journey and beyond.</p>
Workshop C	<p>Critical histories of the RGS-IBG: a guided tour</p> <p>Workshop Leader: Dr Sarah Evans (RGS-IBG) Venue: meet in the Main Hall</p> <p>During this guided tour of the RGS-IBG, Catherine Souch will speak about the history of the RGS-IBG as the UK's learned society and professional body for geography. She will introduce work the Society is doing to understand more about</p>



its history as an institution that emerged from the structures of British imperialism and colonialism. You can find out more about this work on the [RGS-IBG website](#).

Dr Sarah Evans is Research and Collections Engagement Manager at the RGS-IBG.

Session 3

Stream A	Geographies of Energy, Resources and Extraction Chair: TBC Venue: Education Centre
	A Place Based Understanding Of The Impact Of Small Scale Solar Energy Projects In Nadia, Rural West Bengal Nayani Ghoshal University of Exeter, UK
	Lithium (ion) futures from the position of Uyuni, a lithium mining region in Bolivia Mark Hawkins King's College London, UK
	Making Carbon Markets In China's Cities Xinquan Wu Durham University, UK
	Households and digital technology in a “circular society” Stephen Parkinson University of Nottingham, UK

Stream B	Social and Sensory Geographies Chair: AbdulQadeer Fayaz-Khan Venue: Drayson Room
	Memories of COVID-19: Pandemic Commemoration in Wales Bethan Hier Swansea University, UK
	Muscle memory and the embodied governance of situational awareness Tom Lewis University of Birmingham, UK
	From Destruction to Reconstruction: The Dynamics of Reconciliation in Rwandan Villages Megan Rosemary Taylor University of Nottingham, UK
	London's violence reduction strategies and the case of Tower Hamlets: The role of governance structures in policy development and implementation Gulnar Hasnain University College London, UK

Stream C	Urban Change and Regional Development Chair: Luke Green Venue: Sunley Room
	Processes involved in regional differentiation: A scoping review Dominika Dmitrzak Newcastle University, UK
	Sexual Geographies and the Gentrified City: An exploration of the gentrification of historical red-light districts in London's Kings Cross Katelyn Owens University of Kent, UK
	State policy versus speculative urban development: infill development in the Greater Accra Metropolitan Area (GAMA), Ghana Dzifa Adimle Puplampu University of Hull, UK
	Following the Digital in Children's Everyday Lives: Affective Platform Urbanism and Digital Finance Literacy in Shenzhen Yuxin Gao University of Birmingham, UK

Session 4

Stream A	More-than-Human Geographies Chair: Leo Webb Venue: Education Centre
	Forging relations: metal craft as a way of engaging with the more-than-human environment Camille Straatman University of Bristol, UK
	Environmental governance in the service of scale: Investigating the challenges of waste management in industrial livestock production in Ontario Angelica Ramoutar University of Western Ontario, Canada
	How pet dogs became problems: Problematization and discourse constructions of pet dogs in China Yihan Yan University of Manchester, UK
Stream B	Geographies of Identity and Culture Chair: TBC Venue: Drayson Room
	The Production of Mixed Identity in the British Music Industry Rafael Mendes-Browne University of Leeds, UK
	The geographies of religion in England and Wales, 2001-2021 AbdulQadeer Fayaz-Khan Queen's University Belfast, UK
	Social Identity of Highly Skilled Returnees: A Spatial and Capital Perspective Wanlu Chi Loughborough University, UK

Stream C	Polluted Geographies Chair: TBC Venue: Sunley Room
	Plastic Toxicity and the Queering of Bodies Jay Sinclair Durham University, UK
	Anthropocene (toxi)cities: heavy metals, invasive aliens, and bordering practices in an urban river Molly Desorgher University of Leicester, UK
	Let's talk clean air: Emerging themes from a summer spent interviewing activists, campaigners, advocates and complainers Kathryn Miller Lancaster University, UK

Session 5

Stream A	Human-Environment Relations Chair: TBC Venue: Education Centre
	Everyday practices of urban environmentalism: Role of activists in shaping urban lake governance in Udaipur, India Kritika Singh University of Birmingham, UK
	Wildfire in the United Kingdom: understanding knowledge politics in an emergent fire-prone landscape Oliver Bignell University of Manchester, UK
	Geography curriculum in the age of the Capitalocene Tasneem Walji University of York, UK

Stream B	Geographies of Citizenship Chair: TBC Venue: Drasyon Room
	Bisap Débats: Performing Citizenship and Reshaping Urban Spaces in Senegal Charden Pouo Moutsouka University of Oxford, UK
	Conceptualising The Sociolinguistics of Scale within Citizen Reporting Systems Dhimas Bayu Anindito University College London, UK
	Governing Road Safety: Citizenship, Speed and Road User Responsibility in Wales Anna Pennington Aberystwyth University, UK

Stream C	Methodological Advances and Ethical Debates in Geography Chair: Luke Green Venue: Sunley Room
	Masculinity on the move: reflections on walking interviews as biographical method Sophie Lively Newcastle University, UK
	Escaping the Constraint of the Red Tape: Navigating Institutional and Everyday Ethics in Scholar-Activist Carceral Research Caitlin MacKinlay Durham University, UK
	Preparatory Participation: Embodied Methodologies for Inclusive Blue Space Research Sadie Rockliffe University of Brighton, UK