

Conference: Neue Kulturgeographie XIII
January 28-30, 2016
Graz, Austria

Integrating Geographies:
Geographers and Geographies on the Move

Call for Papers

For the first time since its inception 13 years ago, the conference “Neue Kulturgeographie (NKG)” is transcending borders. This year, the conference will be hosted at an Austrian university, by a department outside of German borders, that nonetheless forms part of the German-speaking scientific community. On the occasion of this transgression, the conference theme “*Integrating Geographies: Geographers and Geographies on the Move*” invites reflection on the dissolution and integration of boundaries within (inter)national academics and academic communities, between the knowledge orders and the traditional divisions of social and natural sciences, and through the blurring of categories as to what comprises the natural, cultural, economic, and socio-technical.

The conference will highlight the spatial and conceptual implications of these new movements in cultural geography, and their relevance for the future of “Neue Kulturgeographie” more specifically. Cultural geographers and geographies are on the move, and as such have the potential to bring about exciting collaborations and new forms of creative approaches in Geography. The conference seeks to ignite debate on this on-going process of *Integrating Geographies*, specifically, addressed through three thematic areas:

- *Geographers on the Move*: The increasing internationalization of academics and academic traditions is tending towards a certain form of “cosmopolitan geography”. English has been adopted as the *lingua franca* for high-profile publications, and researchers are often expected to work, research, and live abroad as part of their academic profile. In light of this globalizing tendency of the academy, what remains of the role of nationally-grounded disciplinary traditions and knowledge practices within German-speaking geography? What impacts does the mobility of ideas and people, ideas and concepts, have on the formation of national academic communities, and on geographic research and teaching?
- *Geographies on the Move*: Since the *cultural turn* there has been a trend of dissolving boundaries between diverse subfields within Human Geography. This disintegration of the “social”, “cultural”, “economic” and “political” subfields raises the question of how geographers should attend to the relationships between diverse spheres in society, both in an analytical and theoretical manner. Which complexities arise from this intradisciplinary interweaving of realms within Human Geography, and with what implications for research and didactics?

- *More-than-human Geographies*: The third boundary-crossing theme addressed relates to the *material turn* in Cultural Geography, and the growing inclusion of non-human actors in current research on diverse geographies. So far, interrogating the traditional dichotomy between human-nonhuman has already led to a greater integration of the socio-material and embodied dimensions within Cultural Geography. The conference “Neue Kulturgeographie” is particularly interested in further contributions from the lens of a more-than-human (cultural) geography, and into the potential of this perspective to produce lively research on various hybrid phenomena (socio-technical systems, affect, animals, food, the built environment, etc.).

In addition to presentations addressing the aforementioned themes, the conference also welcomes contributions from a broad spectrum of approaches within Cultural Geography. We look for presentations that highlight original research, empirical findings, theoretical-conceptual debates, as well as methodological innovations in the field of Cultural Geography.

Please submit abstracts in German or English (approximately 1 pg.) by 10/31/2015 to the following e-mail address: nkg@uni-graz.at.

Participants will be notified of their accepted abstracts by late November 2015. Online registration for the conference will be possible after 12/01/2015.

The conference will begin on Thursday, 1/28/2016 at 6pm, and finish Saturday, 1/30/2016 around 2pm. It will be hosted by the Department of Geography and Regional Sciences, on the campus of the University of Graz. A detailed conference program will be available online beginning December 2015.

Organizational team of the NKG 2016,
Heide Bruckner, Annalisa Colombino, Ulrich Ermann, Renate Renner, Maartje Roelofsen, Marc Seebacher

Additional information will be available in September 2015 at the website: www.kulturgeographie.org. Questions and concerns can be directed to: nkg@uni-graz.at