

GPHY 868: Geographic Thought and Practice - Place and Space

Fall 2024

Instructor: Julia Christensen

Thursdays 8:30-11am

Land acknowledgement

We respectfully acknowledge that Queen's University is situated on traditional Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee territory—lands within which we are privileged to be able to live, learn, love and grow. To acknowledge enduring Indigenous relationships to this territory is to recognize its longer history, one predating the establishment of the earliest European colonies. It is also to acknowledge this territory's significance for the Indigenous Peoples who lived and continue to live within it and whose practices and spiritualities were and are tied to these lands. Offering a form of land acknowledgment to show respect for the relationships Indigenous peoples have to their ancestral homelands is a traditional protocol that has always been by Indigenous communities for generations since time immemorial.

Acknowledging Indigenous land relations is one way we can recognize that on this campus and in this classroom we are hosted by the Indigenous peoples who have been stewards of this land since time immemorial. It is also to recognize the myriad ways in which we benefit each and every day from the lands on which we live as well as the generations of care and labour that Indigenous peoples continue to provide. However, a land acknowledgement is not something we simply 'perform' before moving on to the regular business of this course. Recognizing enduring Indigenous relations to land, as well as the role that land plays in sustaining each and every one of us in this classroom, is integral to both our independent and collaborative learning—it grounds our understandings and experiences within the sustenance and teachings that Land provides and is a critical practice towards the honouring and fulfillment of our obligations to this territory, to Indigenous peoples, and to the living world.

Course description

How do geographers go about addressing the challenges and problems of the world? How does the wider social, cultural, economic, political, environmental context shape the kinds of issues geographers examine? Why and how do place and space matter to the ways in which various phenomena are produced and reproduced, and why and how do

they matter in the specific ways that geographers interrogate and represent them? How do broad intellectual currents influence the work that is done in geography, and in turn, how does the work of geographers and geography itself influence intellectual currents?

Consistent with current emphasis in critical geography, all geographers, whether explicit or not, are using both theory and politics in their work, along with some implicit or explicit problem statement in framing what they look at and what they are trying to explain. Even the choice of phenomena to examine is a political (and indeed, ethical) choice. Thinking carefully about these issues helps us to understand the relationship between scholarship (geographical or otherwise) and our engagements with/in the world, while at the same time facilitating reflexive and careful consideration of research topics and approaches.

This course is grounded in an overview of the (human) geographical canon, with a deliberate view to the ways in which these canonical works are traceable in the contemporary through diverse areas of geographical inquiry, with a particular emphasis on critical geographies. We also attend to the 'geography of Geography' by engaging with the often overlooked worlds of geographic scholarship outside the Anglo-American hegemony. In particular, we engage two specific areas of theoretical contribution to the field of Geography: Indigenous geographies which, as we explore, do not comprise a newly emerged subfield of Geography but are rather the result of epistemological and ontological orientations toward Land as the terrain for all relations; and, geographical thought and practice from the Global South, which not only advances a more nuanced understanding of the context-specific intersections of race, power, empire and resistance, but underscores the homogenizing gaze of dominant Anglo-American discourse within the discipline. I have also made an effort to include other writing in diverse critical geographies throughout the syllabus.

Students will also have opportunities to focus course content squarely on their own research areas. In-class discussion, seminar leadership and written assignments all permit engagement with students' individual interest areas in the general field of human geography.

Method of Evaluation

Seminar Participation 20%
Weekly Reading Reflections 20%
Literature Review 15%
Term Paper Peer Review 10%
Term Paper 25%

Readings: Students are encouraged to download the readings via the Queen's University Library. In cases where readings are not readily available through the library, I will place a copy on the course website or make them available by email.

Seminar Participation (value 20%); weekly

Discussion is an essential part of student participation and critical thinking. Students must have completed the readings and be prepared to actively engage in class discussion each week. Participation in class discussion includes not only discussion of readings, but also participation in other collaborative in-class exercises.

Annotated Bibliography Submissions (value 20%); weekly

Students are required to complete weekly annotated bibliography submissions for the required readings for each week. The weekly submission should include:

- i) Your name and correct bibliographic information for the required articles;
- ii) A one-paragraph summary of each article (i.e. central claim, reasoning, methodology, and evidence);
- iii) A one-paragraph critique of each article; and,
- iv) 3-4 questions for discussion in class.

Note: please email your reading reflection to me before class each week and bring a copy with you to class.

Literature Review (value 15%); due Friday, October 11th

Students are required to submit an 8-10 page literature review (double-spaced) on the themes of Weeks 1-4 inclusive at the mid-term point of the course. This assignment will be covered in class during Week 2.

Term Paper Peer Review (value 15%); Draft paper due November 22, peer reviews due November 29th

Peer review will be covered in class prior to the fall break in order to set the foundation for this assignment. On November 22, students will be required to submit a draft version (~10-12 pages) of their term paper to a designated classmate, who will complete a peer review of the paper (2-3 pages double-spaced), due the following Friday November 29th. This peer review will be evaluated for clarity, constructiveness and alignment with the core elements of peer review discussed in class.

Term Paper (value 25%): Due December 12th

The term paper (~12 pages, double-spaced) will be covered in class prior to the fall break, but will use as its starting point a seemingly simple (but yet challenging) question: *how is my research 'geography' and how will it engage with current debates in geographic thought and practice?*

Students are encouraged to meet with me as they develop their paper—as early as possible in the semester, so they can be inspired as much as possible by in-class discussions.

It is up to the individual student how many assigned readings they wish to cite in their paper, but all students are expected to expand upon the syllabus by reviewing and incorporating additional literature (minimum 10 additional readings) to support their reflections and arguments.

Resource Texts: Concepts in Human Geography

In addition to the readings listed below, I encourage you to regularly consult the following dictionaries and encyclopedias, most of which are available as e-books through the Queen's University library, to support your understanding and comprehension of key concepts and debates in the field of human geography:

Castree, Noel, Rob Kitchin, and Alisdair Rogers. A dictionary of human geography. Oxford University Press, USA, 2013.

Clifford, Nicholas, Sarah Holloway, Stephen P. Rice, and Gill Valentine, eds. Key concepts in geography. Sage, 2008.

Douglas, Ian, Richard Huggett, and Chris Perkins, eds. Companion encyclopedia of geography: From the local to the global. Routledge, 2022.

Gregory, Derek, Ron Johnston, Geraldine Pratt, Michael Watts, and Sarah Whatmore, eds. The Dictionary of Human Geography. John Wiley & Sons, 2011.

Kobayashi, Audrey. International encyclopedia of human geography. Elsevier, 2019.

Resource Texts: Graduate Research and Writing in Human Geography

Asante, Lewis Abedi, and Zaid Abubakari. "Pursuing PhD by publication in geography: A collaborative autoethnography of two African doctoral researchers." *Journal of Geography in Higher Education* 45, no. 1 (2021): 87-107.

Burlingame, Katherine. "Where are the storytellers? A quest to (re) enchant geography through writing as method." *Journal of Geography in Higher Education* 43, no. 1 (2019): 56-70.

Dowling, Robyn, Andrew Gorman-Murray, Emma Power, and Karina Luzia. "Critical reflections on doctoral research and supervision in human geography: The 'PhD by publication'." *Journal of Geography in Higher Education* 36, no. 2 (2012): 293-305.

Dufty-Jones, Rae. "The career aspirations and expectations of geography doctoral students: Establishing academic subjectivities within a shifting landscape." *Geographical Research* 56, no. 2 (2018): 126-138.

Dufty-Jones, Rae, and Chris Gibson. "Making space to write 'care-fully': Engaged responses to the institutional politics of research writing." *Progress in Human Geography* 46, no. 2 (2022): 339-358.

Heller, Elizabeth, Julia Christensen, Lindsay Long, Catrina A. Mackenzie, Philip M. Osano, Britta Ricker, Emily Kagan, and Sarah Turner. "Dear diary: Early career geographers collectively reflect on their qualitative field research experiences." *Journal of Geography in Higher Education* 35, no. 01 (2011): 67-83.

Peck, Sarah. "Beyond knowledge exchange: doctoral training, collaborative research and reflective pedagogies in human geography." *Journal of Geography in Higher Education* 47, no. 1 (2023): 29-36.

Week 1: Course introduction - Approaching Geographic Inquiry (September 5)

Required readings (note - each week's readings are listed in recommended order of reading):

Cresswell, Tim. *Geographic thought: a critical introduction*. Chapter 1. John Wiley & Sons, 2024.

Week 2: Space and Spatiality (September 12)

Required readings:

Massey, Doreen. "Politics and space/time." In *Place and the Politics of Identity*, pp. 139-159. Routledge, 2004.

Harvey, David. "Between space and time: reflections on the geographical imagination1." *Annals of the association of American geographers* 80, no. 3 (1990): 418-434.

Soja, Edward W. "Taking space personally." In *The spatial turn*, pp. 27-51. Routledge, 2008.

Philo, Chris. "Foucault's geography." *Environment and planning D: society and space* 10, no. 2 (1992): 137-161.

Optional readings:

Massey, Doreen. "Philosophy and politics of spatiality: some considerations. The Hettner-Lecture in Human Geography." *Geographische Zeitschrift* (1999): 1-12.

Kobayashi, Audrey. "Geography, spatiality, and racialization: the contribution of Edward Said." *The Arab world geographer* 7, no. 1-2 (2004): 79-90.

Hawthorne, Camilla. "Black matters are spatial matters: Black geographies for the twenty-first century." *Geography Compass* 13, no. 11 (2019): e12468.

Week 3: Place and Sense of Place (September 19)

Required readings:

Cresswell, Tim. "Place: encountering geography as philosophy." *Geography* 93, no. 3 (2008): 132-139.

Massey, Doreen. "A global sense of place." In *The cultural geography reader*, pp. 269-275. Routledge, 2008.

Tuan, Yi-Fu. "Space and place: humanistic perspective." In *Philosophy in geography*, pp. 387-427. Dordrecht: Springer Netherlands, 1979.

McKittrick, Katherine. "On plantations, prisons, and a black sense of place." *Social & Cultural Geography* 12, no. 8 (2011): 947-963.

Optional readings:

Bissell, David. "A changing sense of place: Geography and COVID-19." *Geographical Research* 59, no. 2 (2021): 150-159.

Week 4: The Production of Space (September 26)

Required readings:

Lefebvre, Henri. "The production of space (1991)." In *The people, place, and space reader*, pp. 289-293. Routledge, 2014.

Elden, Stuart. "There is a politics of space because space is political." *Radical philosophy review* 10, no. 2 (2007): 101-116.

Soja, Edward W. "The socio-spatial dialectic." *Annals of the Association of American geographers* 70, no. 2 (1980): 207-225.

Mond Havardi, Assaf, and Inbal Ofer. "Introduction: Theorizing the Production of Space in Times of Crisis." *Journal of Urban History* 50, no. 1 (2024): 5-16.

Optional readings:

Valentine, Gill. "Queer bodies and the production of space." *Handbook of lesbian and gay studies* (2002): 145-160.

Week 5: Geography and Empire (October 3)

Required readings:

Smith, Neil. "Geography, empire and social theory." *Progress in Human Geography* 18, no. 4 (1994): 491-500.

Barnes, Trevor J., and James S. Duncan. "Introduction: writing worlds." In *Writing worlds*, pp. 1-17. Routledge, 2013.

Gregory, Derek. "Power, knowledge and geography. The Hettner lecture in human geography." *Geographische Zeitschrift* (1998): 70-93.

Harris, Cole. "How did colonialism dispossess? Comments from an edge of empire." *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 94, no. 1 (2004): 165-182.

Optional readings:

Gregory, Derek. "Imaginative geographies." *Progress in human geography* 19, no. 4 (1995): 447-485.

Clayton, Daniel. "Colonizing, settling and the origins of academic geography." *The Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Human Geography* (2011): 50-70.

Cameron, Emilie S. "Securing Indigenous politics: A critique of the vulnerability and adaptation approach to the human dimensions of climate change in the Canadian Arctic." *Global environmental change* 22, no. 1 (2012): 103-114.

Hunt, Dallas, and Shaun A. Stevenson. "Decolonizing geographies of power: Indigenous digital counter-mapping practices on Turtle Island." *Settler Colonial Studies* 7, no. 3 (2017): 372-392.

Week 6: Political economy and uneven development (October 10)

Required readings:

Peet, Richard, and Nigel Thrift. "Political economy and human geography." In *New Models in Geography-Vol 2*, pp. 3-29. Routledge, 2023.

Sheppard, Eric. "Geographical political economy." *Journal of Economic Geography* 11, no. 2 (2011): 319-331.

Smith, Neil. "Gentrification and uneven development." *Economic geography* 58, no. 2 (1982): 139-155.

Massey, Doreen. "Uneven development: Social change and spatial divisions of labor." *Reading economic geography* (2004): 111-124.

Optional readings:

Barnes, Trevor J. "Retheorizing economic geography: from the quantitative revolution to the "cultural turn"." *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 91, no. 3 (2001): 546-565.

Harvey, David. "The geographies of critical geography." *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers* (2006): 409-412.

Bebbington, Anthony. "NGOs and uneven development: geographies of development intervention." *Progress in human geography* 28, no. 6 (2004): 725-745.

Watts, Michael J., and Hans G. Bohle. "The space of vulnerability: the causal structure of hunger and famine." *Progress in human geography* 17, no. 1 (1993): 43-67.

Week 7: Fall Break (October 14-18)

Week 8: Politics of Scale (October 24)

Required readings:

Moore, Adam. "Rethinking scale as a geographical category: from analysis to practice." *Progress in human geography* 32, no. 2 (2008): 203-225.

Swyngedouw, Erik. "Scaled geographies: Nature, place, and the politics of scale." *Scale and geographic inquiry: Nature, society, and method* (2004): 129-153.

Marston, Sallie A., John Paul Jones, and Keith Woodward. "Human Geography without Scale." *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers* 30, no. 4 (2005): 416-32. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3804505>.

Tomiak, Julie. "Unsettling Ottawa: Settler colonialism, Indigenous resistance, and the politics of scale." *Canadian Journal of Urban Research* 25, no. 1 (2016): 8-21.

Optional readings:

Brenner, Neil. "The limits to scale? Methodological reflections on scalar structuration." *Progress in human geography* 25, no. 4 (2001): 591-614.

Jonas, Andrew EG. "Pro scale: further reflections on the 'scale debate' in human geography." *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers* (2006): 399-406.

Leitner, Helga, and Byron Miller. "Scale and the limitations of ontological debate: a commentary on Marston, Jones and Woodward." *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers* 32, no. 1 (2007): 116-125.

Week 9: Feminist Geographies (October 31)

Required readings:

McDowell, Linda. "Space, place and gender relations: Part I. Feminist empiricism and the geography of social relations." *Progress in Human geography* 17, no. 2 (1993): 157-179.

Pratt, Geraldine, and Susan Hanson. "Geography and the construction of difference." *Gender, Place and Culture: a journal of feminist geography* 1, no. 1 (1994): 5-29.

Bondi, Liz. "'Feminism, Postmodernism and Geography: Space for Women?'" In *Space, Gender, Knowledge: Feminist Readings*, pp. 73-81. Routledge, 2016.

Valentine, Gill. "Theorizing and researching intersectionality: A challenge for feminist geography." *The professional geographer* 59, no. 1 (2007): 10-21.

Optional readings:

de Leeuw, Sarah, and Vanessa Sloan Morgan. "Narrating New Spaces: Theories and practices of storytelling in feminist geographies." In *Routledge Handbook of Gender and Feminist Geographies*, pp. 519-530. Routledge, 2020.

Johnston, Lynda. "Intersectional feminist and queer geographies: A view from 'down-under'." *Gender, place & culture* 25, no. 4 (2018): 554-564.

Duplan, Karine, and Sophie Cranston. "Towards geographies of privileged migration: An intersectional perspective." *Progress in Human Geography* 47, no. 2 (2023): 333-347.

Week 10: Urban Geographies (November 7)

Required readings:

Roy, Ananya. "What is urban about critical urban theory?." *Urban Geography* 37, no. 6 (2016): 810-823.

Attoh, Kafui A. "What kind of right is the right to the city?." *Progress in human geography* 35, no. 5 (2011): 669-685.

Merrifield, Andy. "The urban question under planetary urbanization." *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 37, no. 3 (2013): 909-922.

Ogunyankin, Grace Adeniyi. "'The city of our dream': Owambe urbanism and low-income women's resistance in Ibadan, Nigeria." *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 43, no. 3 (2019): 423-441.

Optional readings:

Brenner, Neil. "Debating planetary urbanization: For an engaged pluralism." *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 36, no. 3 (2018): 570-590.

Oswin, Natalie. "Planetary urbanization: A view from outside." *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 36, no. 3 (2018): 540-546.

Caldeira, Teresa PR. "Peripheral urbanization: Autoconstruction, transversal logics, and politics in cities of the global south." *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 35, no. 1 (2017): 3-20.

Sheppard, Eric, Vinay Gidwani, Michael Goldman, Helga Leitner, Ananya Roy, and Anant Maringanti. "Introduction: Urban revolutions in the age of global urbanism." *Urban Studies* 52, no. 11 (2015): 1947-1961.

Okoye, Victoria Ogoegbunam. "Fakery and fabrications in Kumasi's "modern" market." *Journal of African Cultural Studies* 33, no. 3 (2021): 370-376.

Week 11: Racial Capitalism (November 14)

Required readings:

Strauss, Kendra. "Labour geography III: Precarity, racial capitalisms and infrastructure." *Progress in Human Geography* 44, no. 6 (2020): 1212-1224.

Cowen, Deborah, and Nemoy Lewis. "Anti-blackness and urban geopolitical economy." *Society and Space* (2016).

Dorries, Heather, David Hugill, and Julie Tomiak. "Racial capitalism and the production of settler colonial cities." *Geoforum* 132 (2022): 263-270.

Pulido, Laura. "Flint, environmental racism, and racial capitalism." *Capitalism Nature Socialism* 27, no. 3 (2016): 1-16.

McCreary, Tyler, and Richard Milligan. "The limits of liberal recognition: Racial capitalism, settler colonialism, and environmental governance in Vancouver and Atlanta." *Antipode* 53, no. 3 (2021): 724-744.

Optional readings:

Saldanha, Arun. "A date with destiny: Racial capitalism and the beginnings of the Anthropocene." *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 38, no. 1 (2020): 12-34.

Anthias, Penelope, and Kiran Asher. "Indigenous Natures and the Anthropocene: Racial Capitalism, Violent Materialities, and the Colonial Politics of Representation." *Antipode* (2024).

Vasudevan, Pavithra, and Sara Smith. "The domestic geopolitics of racial capitalism." *Environment and Planning C: Politics and Space* 38, no. 7-8 (2020): 1160-1179.

Dantzler, Prentiss A. "The urban process under racial capitalism: Race, anti-Blackness, and capital accumulation." *Journal of Race, Ethnicity and the City* 2, no. 2 (2021): 113-134.

Pulido, Laura. "Geographies of race and ethnicity II: Environmental racism, racial capitalism and state-sanctioned violence." *Progress in human geography* 41, no. 4 (2017): 524-533.

Week 12: Indigenous Geographies (November 21)

Required readings:

Smiles, Niyokamigaabaw Deondre. "Reflections on the (continued and future) importance of Indigenous geographies." *Dialogues in Human Geography* (2023): 20438206231179229.

Hunt, Sarah. "Ontologies of Indigeneity: The politics of embodying a concept." *Cultural geographies* 21, no. 1 (2014): 27-32.

Howitt, R. (2020). Unsettling the taken (for granted). *Progress in Human Geography*, 44(2), 193-215.

Daigle, Michelle. "Awawanenitakik: The spatial politics of recognition and relational geographies of Indigenous self-determination." *The Canadian Geographer/Le Géographe Canadien* 60, no. 2 (2016): 259-269.

Richmond, Chantelle AM, and Katie Big-Canoe. "The geographies of Indigenous health." In *Routledge handbook of health geography*, pp. 179-188. Routledge, 2018.

Optional readings:

Cameron, Emilie, Sarah De Leeuw, and Caroline Desbiens. "Indigeneity and ontology." *cultural geographies* 21, no. 1 (2014): 19-26.

De Leeuw, Sarah, and Sarah Hunt. "Unsettling decolonizing geographies." *Geography compass* 12, no. 7 (2018): e12376.

Coombes, Brad, Nicole Gombay, Jay T. Johnson, and Wendy S. Shaw. "The challenges of and from Indigenous geographies." *A companion to social geography* (2011): 472-489.

Herman, R. D. K. "Reflections on the importance of indigenous geography." *American Indian Culture and Research Journal* 32, no. 3 (2008).

Moreton-Robinson, Aileen. "Incommensurable sovereignties: Indigenous ontology matters." In *Routledge handbook of critical indigenous studies*, pp. 257-268. Routledge, 2020.

Robertson, Sean. "'Thinking of the land in that way': Indigenous sovereignty and the spatial politics of attentiveness at Skwel'kwel'welt." *Social & Cultural Geography* 18, no. 2 (2017): 178-200.

Week 13: Decolonial and 'other' geographies (November 28)

Required readings:

Coulthard, Glen Sean. "Once Were Maoists: Third World Currents in Fourth World Anti-Colonialism, Vancouver, 1967–1975." In *Routledge Handbook of Critical Indigenous Studies*, pp. 378-391. Routledge, 2020.

Daigle, Michelle, and Margaret Marietta Ramírez. "Decolonial geographies." *Keywords in radical geography: Antipode at 50* (2019): 78-84.

Oswin, Natalie. "An other geography." *Dialogues in human geography* 10, no. 1 (2020): 9-18.

Trotz, D. Alissa. "Rethinking Caribbean transnational connections: Conceptual itineraries." *Global Networks* 6, no. 1 (2006): 41-59.

McKittrick, Katherine. "'Their Blood Is There, and They Can't Throw It Out': Honouring Black Canadian Geographies." *Topia: Canadian Journal of Cultural Studies* 7 (2002): 27-37.

Optional readings:

Hunt/Tłaliłila'ogwa, Sarah, and May Farrales. "Against abstraction: Reclaiming and reorienting to embodied collective knowledges of solidarity." *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* (2024): 02637758241239158.

Sidaway, James D. "Beyond the decolonial: Critical Muslim geographies." *Dialogues in Human Geography* 13, no. 3 (2023): 337-358.

Elden, Stuart. "Land, terrain, territory." *Progress in human geography* 34, no. 6 (2010): 799-817.

Curley, Andrew, and Sara Smith. "The cene scene: Who gets to theorize global time and how do we center indigenous and black futurities?." *Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space* 7, no. 1 (2024): 166-188.

Kinkaid, Eden. "Whose geography, whose future? Queering geography's disciplinary reproduction." *Dialogues in Human Geography* (2023): 20438206221144839.