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CfP for session on "The political geographies of ecologies in translation" at the RGS-IBG Annual International Conference 2022 (UK/Online)



Announcement published by [David Edwards](#) on Monday, March 7, 2022

Type: Call for Papers

Location: United Kingdom

Subject Fields:

Anthropology, Environmental History / Studies, Geography, History of Science, Medicine, and Technology, Languages

With apologies for cross-posting, please see below for a CfP on 'ecologies in translation'. We hope for participation from a wide range of disciplines and welcome online and in-person presentations. The deadline for expressions of interest is March 18.

CfP for sponsored session on "The political geographies of ecologies in translation" at the RGS-IBG Annual International Conference 2022 (Newcastle University, UK, and online, 30 August - 2 September)

Session sponsorship: Political Geography Research Group (PolGRG) of the RGS-IBG.

Format: Hybrid; online and in-person presenters are both welcome.

Co-convenors: David Edwards, PhD Candidate, University of Glasgow; Deborah Dixon, Professor of Geography, University of Glasgow.

As ecological concepts are translated across different languages, including through the efforts of a translational ecology (Schlesinger, 2010), certain notions of ecology have also become foundational to the study of translation (Lynes, 2012). Such appeals to ecology can often be seen as appeals to specificity and concrete action amidst the universalising tendencies of the Anthropocene. Anna Tsing's borrowing of ecologies 'patch' concept to label "acts of translation across varied social and political spaces" (Tsing, 2015: 62), for example, finds expression in her subsequent proposal for a 'patchy Anthropocene' (Tsing et al.,

2019) intended as a reflexive framework for thinking across site and planetary scales. In translation studies, Michael Cronin's recent proposal for an 'eco-translation' (2017) relies on a political ecology of translation intended to foreground the means rather than the ends of translation, which builds on and engages with his previous use of the term 'translation ecologies' (Cronin, 2003) and its use among Chinese scholars interested in using scientific concepts of ecology to analyse the field of translation studies (e.g. Xu, 2009). For Cronin, overcoming the "tyranny of ends over means" in translation by foregrounding the place, resilience and relatedness of translation is to resist its implication in extractive circulations that conceal the exploitation of human and nonhuman entities sustaining colonial and capitalist formations, and to identify the ways in which translation can function as a 'renewable' form of exchange (Cronin, 2017: 3).

Notwithstanding their affordances, the circulation of ecologies as the basis for translation thinking and practice visible in such approaches raises once more the question of how translation works as a complex, deeply political mode of knowledge production. That is, what are the ecologies animating, and animated by, translation?

We invite papers that focus on the translation of ecologies (however these terms are defined), in any region or time period, their political geographies, and/or the possibilities for 'geographies beyond recovery' that they inspire. We also encourage submissions that reflect on the history and politics of the mobilisation of political, post-humanist, scientific or other ecologies as foundations for thinking about translation. Papers may choose alternative framings through which to approach the topic of the translation of ecologies, whether drawing on notions of transformation (Benjamin, 1997; Lefevere, 2016), transfiguration (Gaonkar and Povinelli, 2003), transculturation (Pratt, 2007), or anything else.

To express interest in participating, please send your name, institution, presentation title and an abstract of no more than 250 words to d.edwards.2@research.gla.ac.uk and deborah.dixon@glasgow.ac.uk by the 18th of March 2022. Please also express whether you would present in-person or online; we plan a hybrid session to accommodate both preferences.

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