

Fourth International and Interdisciplinary Conference on Emotional Geographies
1-3 July 2013 at the University of Groningen, The Netherlands

Helen Jarvis – Newcastle University, United Kingdom
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Session proposal

Exploring the emotion of alternative communities: theorizing new forms of communal organisation

Although it is understood that social groups and other forms of communal organisation constitutes one of the ways individuals express a sense of self-identity and belonging, scholars have largely focused on the structural and political dimensions of this communal *sense of self*. Urban researchers in particular, informed by dominant materialist discourses within their disciplines, have been resistant to theorising communal organisation from the unique vantage point of the emotions and memory. By contrast, heritage, visual and digital scholars have been more open to theorizing communal experience and place attachment, often investigating the role of individual and collective memory in establishing and maintaining emotional bonds to people and place. In this session we seek to bring these different disciplines and discussions together.

We seek papers that bring together different theoretical perspectives, methodologies and disciplines to investigate the role of emotion and memory in theorising alternative communities. Defining ‘alternative communities’ in board terms, we encourage papers that theorise and explore the role of emotion and memory as a central and perhaps oft-ignored constituent of our understandings communal space and place experiences. Paper themes could include:

- Alternative housing settlements and notions of home;
- New digital and/or political communities;
- New social movements and governance in the city.

Papers could critically reflect on the relationships between our emotions, place and collective experience and show how human or more-than-human geographies relate to the building and maintenance of alternative communities.

Please send paper abstracts of 250-300 words to d.rogers@uws.edu.au, Helen.jarvis@ncl.ac.uk, and w.steele@griffith.edu.au by January 7th 2013

About the organisers:

Helen Jarvis, PhD, is Reader in Urban Social Geography at Newcastle University, UK. Her research considers common dilemmas of work-life reconciliation viewed through the prism of time-space coordination and 'soft' infrastructures of daily life. Current research shifts attention to the community and alternative paradigms of 'de-growth' through experiments and innovations in collaborative housing and intentional community. For recent publications see: www.ncl.ac.uk/gps/staff/profile/helen.jarvis

Dallas Rogers, PhD, is Post-doctoral Fellow at Urban Research Centre within the School of Social Sciences and Psychology at the University of Western Sydney, Australia. He is an urban policy academic with expertise in housing policy evaluation. His current research interests focus on the intersection between democracy, neoliberalism, and state intervention. For recent publications see: <http://uws.academia.edu/DallasRogers>

Wendy Steele, PhD, is an Australian Research Council (DECRA) Fellow co-located in the Urban Research Program and Griffith Climate Change Response Program at Griffith University, Australia. Her current research focuses on urban governance, cross-border planning and climate justice, resilience and security in cities. Current research draws attention to the idea of the 'climate just' city and the possibility of a 'slow housing' movement. For recent publications see: <http://www.griffith.edu.au/environment-planning-architecture/urban-research-program/staff/dr-wendy-steele>