

International and Interdisciplinary Conference on Emotional Geographies
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Riding through space: exploring motion and emotion on the back of a horse.
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Dr Rhys Evans
Hogskulen for Landbruk og Bygdeutvikling, Norway
rhys@hbl.no, www.eqrn.net

Horse owners often share an ironic joke along the lines of “why do we do this?” ‘This’ being getting up early in the morning to muck and tend to one’s horse; spending large amounts of money to keep one’s horse and indeed, keep it well; and riding and practicing in the rain and cold. This is an in-joke because we know why we do it – we love our horses, we love riding our horses. Horsey people recognize that there is an emotional bond between horse and owner, horse and rider which is the key motivation for all of our equestrian activities. Further, horses differ from many other companion animals in that they are for riding or driving, and these are partnered activities which involve trotting, cantering, galloping, tolt, jumping, and other forms of *movement*. Thus, our emotional bonds emerge, at least in part, from the partnered mobilities in which we engage.

Within the literature on human-horse relations there are a number of excellent explorations of the partnership between humans and horses in terms of emotion (Game, Argent, Birke, Schuurman & Evans) and in terms of mobility (Evans & Franklin, MacGeevy, Hurn). This session invites participants to link these two concepts.

Questions to be considered can include (but are not limited to):

- How does movement contribute to the forging of the human-horse partnership?
- How important is (or is *not*) the *feeling of moving* with a horse?
- Are equine geographies *affective* geographies and why?
- Practice and performance.
- What is different (or indeed, similar) between human-horse and other forms of mobilities?
- How do we experience and understand emotions in our equine partners?
- How do they experience and understand emotions in us?
- Are there congruencies and differences between *driving* and *riding*?
- Rhythm, movement and transcendence.
- How do our emotional relationships with our horses *create* or *constitute* new ludic geographies?
- How does equine empathy operate to open new mobile geographies to the handicapped, the infirm and the excluded?
- Anthropomorphism, egomorphism and all its variations.
- How can we account for the role of emotions in equine sport geographies?

The early writing on the human-horse partnership can be viewed as a ‘first generation’ of literature on the relationship. This session offers the opportunity to develop a next generation of nuanced and evidenced understandings of this rapidly expanding sector of human activity.

Please send abstracts to Rhys by January 5th, 2013: rhys@hbl.no