



NOVE PERSPEKTIVE V
 HUMANISTIKI IN DRUŽBOSLOVJU
 NEW PERSPECTIVES IN HUMANITIES
 AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Environment, Space, Society

Sites of Power, Crisis, and Everyday Life

Call for Papers — Doctoral Conference, Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana

Environment, space, and society can no longer be understood as separate domains of inquiry. The physical landscapes we inhabit, the built environments we produce, and the social worlds we organize are increasingly intertwined in ways that demand new analytical approaches. Climate change, urban restructuring, the housing crisis, environmental injustice, displacement, as well as environmental and spatial policies are not merely technical or ecological problems — at their core, they are questions of power, identity, inequality, and the conditions under which human and non-human life is enabled or constrained.

This panel invites contributions that critically examine the relationships between environment, space, and society as formations emerging through mutual co-constitution. Rather than treating space as a neutral backdrop to social life, or the environment as an external constraint on human action, we ask how spaces, places and environments are actively produced, contested, governed, and experienced. Who has the right to space? Which environments are protected, and which are sacrificed? How are landscapes, territories, and urban forms shaped by capital, policy, and culture — and how communities and bodies push back?

The panel is especially interested in the tension between space as a site of possibility and space as a domain of control. Contemporary environments invite visions of sustainability, community, and dwelling; yet they are also structured by enclosure, extraction, speculation, displacement, as well as uneven (and unjust) development. The question is therefore not simply what spaces and places represent or contain, but what kinds of life they make possible, what forms of power they (re)produce, and under what political, economic, social and ecological conditions they are produced and transformed.

We invite theoretically informed and empirically grounded papers from sociology, geography, anthropology, urban studies, history, cultural studies, political ecology, science and technology studies, architecture, law, and related fields. Contributions from PhD students and early-career scholars are particularly welcome.

Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

- the social production of environment, place, space, territory, and landscape;
- urban restructuring, revitalization, gentrification, and the right to the city;
- environmental justice, sacrifice zones, and unequal exposure to environmental harm;
- housing, home, and the politics of dwelling;
- nature, wilderness, and the cultural construction of the non-human;
- land use, processes of enclosure, and struggles over common resources;
- migration, displacement, place attachment, and processes of spatial inclusion and exclusion;
- memory, cultural heritage, localism and the contested meanings of place;
- infrastructures of everyday life: water, energy, transport, waste;
- smart cities, digital governance, and the datafication of urban spaces;
- new urban–rural dynamics, rural transformation, post-industrial landscapes, and regional inequalities;
- bodies, health, and the embodied effects of environmental inequality;
- green transition, sustainability discourses, and their contradictions;
- colonial and postcolonial geographies of land and environment;
- resistance, activism, and grassroots spatial practices;
- methodological approaches to the study of space, environment, and society.

By bringing together critical, theoretical, and empirical perspectives, the panel asks how the entanglement of environment, space, and society illuminates broader transformations of contemporary life. What happens when space becomes commodified — and what happens when it becomes a common good? How do societies, communities, bodies, and non-human actors inhabit, imagine, and transform their environments? What forms of knowledge, practice, and imagination emerge at the intersections of environmental crisis, spatial consumption, and social inequality — and where new modes of coexistence are being explored?

We invite contributions that not only document or lament these transformations, but ones that use space and environment as central sites for analysing and theorizing contemporary relations of power, culture, inequality, and other conditions of collective life. Contributions that are critical and diagnostic, but also speculative, reconstructive, or attentive to practices of care, restoration, and resilience, are especially welcome.