

Environment, Space, and Place Working Group
2023 Call For Papers
Cultural Studies Association

The **Environment, Space, and Place Working Group** of the Cultural Studies Association welcomes submissions for the 21st Annual Meeting of the Cultural Studies Association (U.S). The theme for the 2023 CSA Conference is “Conclusions.”

Towards this year’s theme we identify the current historical moment as one in which decades of grassroots organizing have arisen into international mass movements in the face of perpetual acts of state violence, health crises, environmental degradation, and global poverty. The imperative of *abolition*—calling for the end of the police, the prison, the family, the military, sex slavery, etc.—now firmly recasts the depth and dimensions of claims on liberation across myriad scales of life, from the body to urban space, from regional environments to the world. Abolition re-centers questions of place, place-making, and infrastructure into all contemporary social justice debates and practices. The **ESP Working Group** invites submissions to the 2023 Annual CSA Conference on the dialectic of abolition and place-making to make tangible the corporeal, site-specific, and violently abstract means by which cultural, racial, economic, social, and biological power operates through and by physical and political space.

Ruth Wilson Gilmore names ‘abolition geography’ as “how and to what end people make freedom provisionally, imperatively, as they imagine *home* against the disintegrating grind of partition and repartition through which racial capitalism perpetrates the means of its own valorization.” This description of *freedom as a place* demands attention not only to systemic violence, interpersonal vulnerabilities, and local and global displacements that sustain temporalities of crisis, but also to how place-based politics and identities may function to dismantle oppressive institutions. Conceptions of ‘home’ and ‘place’ remain a highly contested and politically fraught terrain. What formations of community, home, region, or body enact or conceptualize place-making or land-based identities that are at the same time internationalist? What place-based or land-based formations of freedom ascend in the wake of abolitionist movements?

Alongside calls for abolition appears increasingly critical attention to the *infrastructures* at the heart of cultural, political, and environmental crises. Whether in the form of contaminated water pipes or algorithmic manipulation of personal data, infrastructures delegate control to systems and disperse power over environment as a technique of governance. In considering the politics of place and the work of abolition, in what capacity can we critically engage infrastructure in order to advance the lived conditions of the social? How do algorithmic infrastructures (and their rationality) or the materiality of monuments (and their removal) organize space as a means to conduct, challenge, or resist political power? We particularly welcome papers that reckon with abolition and place-making on the terrain of urban space and the body as these categories remain decisive sites and stakes of political struggle in the current conjuncture.

The **Environment, Space, and Place Working Group** highlights and engages scholarly, grassroots, and activist work that illuminates the politics of space in all forms. We readily invite submissions on topics that include but are in no way limited to:

How Race, Class, Gender, Sexuality, Ability intersect with/in Spatial Formations
Theorizations of the Role of Capital, the State, and Social Movements in the Production of Space.
Postcolonial Urban Theory, Indigenous Theory, Decolonization, and Urban Revolution

Artistic, Activist, and Academic Counter-Hegemonic forms of Spatial Analysis
Occupations of the State, State Surveillance, and State control of space
Abolition, Incarceration, Detention, Immigration
Alignments of Sexual and Structural politics
Planetary Urbanization and Settler Colonial Geographies
Liminal, Permeable, Utopian, and Intersectional Geographies
Politics of the Transnational and Transexual Body
Gentrification, Policing, Protest, Urban Development, and Community Building
Social Media, Virtual, Digital, and Subject Formation
Finance, Self-Care, and Neoliberal Cultural Practice
Environmental Action and Environmental Justice
Trauma, Healing, Reconciliation, Resistance, (Re)membering and Forgetting
Monuments, Museums, Statues, and Markets Bio-politics, Orientalism
Representations of the Global North and Global South
Urban Interventions, Strategies, and Tactics
The Spatial Agency of Genre and the Representational Practices of Social Movements
Knowledge Production and the Economies, Cultures, and Spaces of the University
Social Disparities and COVID-19
Bio- and Critical Regionalism

250 word abstracts should be submitted by **January 7th, 2023**.

Submission Process

All proposals should be submitted through *Easy Chair* using the following link: <https://easychair.org/my/conference?conf=csa2023>. Please prepare all materials required to propose your session according to the given directions before you begin electronic submission. All program information—names, presentation titles, and institutional affiliations—will be based on initial conference submissions. Please avoid lengthy presentation and session titles, use normal capitalization and standard fonts, and include your name and affiliations as you would like them to appear on the conference program schedule. For more information about the conference: <https://www.culturalstudiesassociation.org/conference.html>

Questions may be directed to the Chair of the Environment, Space, and Place Working Group, Rich Simpson at rfs1881@gmail.com