Zurich Human Geography Colloquium
Program Spring Semester 2022

**Professor Sanjay Srivastava**, British Academy Global Professor, University College London
Urban futures in the post-national city: satellite mapping, the state, capital and 'citizens' in an informal settlement in Delhi
Public lecture: Tue, 1 March, 4-5PM, room Y25-H-38
Workshop: Wed, 2 March, 9-11AM, room Y22-F-68
For details on the workshop please write to julie.ren@geo.uzh.ch before 18 February 2022.

**Professor Kate Derickson**, Associate Professor, Geography, Environment and Society, University of Minnesota
Policing the climate crisis: carceral ecologies and climate futures in Gullah/Geechee Nation and beyond
Public lecture: Thu, 5 May, 4-5PM, room Y25-H-79

**Professor Sarah Holloway**, Loughborough University, UK
Neoliberalism, marketisation and the diverse geographies of private tuition
Public lecture: Tue, 24 May, 4-5PM, Online
Zoom-Link: https://uzh.zoom.us/j/61233164796?pwd=T25PdXVUOVdQlAyZ1NmanZSdJZz09

**Professor Sara Smith**, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Title to be announced...
Public lecture: Tue, 31 May, 4-5PM, room Y25-H-38

All interested are cordially invited! For further information please contact corinne.wyss@geo.uzh.ch
Tue, 1 March 2022 | Prof Sanjay Srivastava

Urban futures in the post-national city: satellite mapping, the state, capital and 'citizens' in an informal settlement in Delhi

The recent ‘digital turn’ in Indian urban planning relates to the idea that technology will overcome structural issues and lead to ‘efficient’ and ‘clean’ governance. This presentation explores contexts where top-down discourses of technologically-as-planning are confronted by the everyday life of a city characterised by deep social and economic hierarchies and aspiration for a decent life. It focuses on the ‘Unauthorised Colony’ of Sonia Vihar in northeast Delhi and a dispute over the non-inclusion of a small lane in a satellite map produced by the Delhi government. Satellite mapping is part of the process of providing official status to localities that are otherwise treated as ‘informal’ and illegal and hence crucial to gaining a foothold in the city. Sonia Vihar’s residents claimed, however, that the maps were intended to deprive them of security of tenure through technological and state chicanery. Through fieldwork among the urban poor, technologists, bureaucracies and land mafias, the presentation explores the actions of the key stakeholders that produce the quotidian politics of urban space. It describes entanglement of technologies, marginality, an apparently ‘neo-liberal’ state and the emerging politics of ‘anti-politics’ that it seeks to deploy in dealing with the urban poor. The presentation also explores the idea of the ‘post-national’ city to engage with local histories of urbanism, states and capital.

Sanjay Srivastava is an anthropologist and his research interests include urbanism, consumer cultures and ethnographies of the state in India. His book 'The Post-National City. Masculinity, Nation, Neighbourhood, Street and the Home in the Indian Urban Imagination' will be published in 2022 by Cambridge University Press.

Thur, 5 May 2022 | Prof Kate Derickson

Policing the climate crisis: carceral ecologies and climate futures in Gullah/Geechee Nation and beyond

Thinking from a decade-long collaboration in Gullah/Geechee Nation in South Carolina, US, this talk brings together literatures on the political economy of urban governance, climate finance and the racial state. Hollowed out by neoliberal restructuring, local governments in the US are increasingly turning to racialized policing to raise revenues, charging officers with issuing numerous tickets for “quality of life” violations and minor driving infractions. Officers overwhelmingly target working class people of color for these kinds of tickets, entangling them in the carceral state, sometimes with deadly consequences. My research with Gullah/Geechee people suggest that these dynamics are also playing out in the realm of natural resource law enforcement and may provide a window into the future of racialized climate governance. I consider the opportunities and challenges this presents for making knowledges for climate futures otherwise.

Kate Derickson is an Associate Professor in the department of Geography, Environment and Society at the University of Minnesota and the Director of the Urban Studies Program. Her research and writing is concerned with political economy and the politics of knowledge production for transformative social change.

Tue, 24 May 2022 | Prof Sarah Holloway

Neoliberalism, marketisation and the diverse geographies of private tuition

This paper considers the booming private tuition market, which in the UK is estimated to be worth £1-2 billion per annum. Neoliberalisation has resulted in marketisation of education in the nursery, school and higher education sector, but little is known about its impact on supplementary education in burgeoning Western markets. This paper provides two routes into these neoliberal geographies. First by focusing on the tuition industry, it explores the market’s uneven regional development, the changing spatiality of its business practices and the implications for workers in this unregulated sector. Secondly by considering families with children who may consume it, it unpicks how the educational playing field foments demand for tuition through global, national and local neighbourhood processes, and the
consequences of this for different social groups. In conclusion, the paper emphasises the moral ambiguity of an industry that provides employment of differing quality, and services that can both promote, but also inhibit, social mobility.

Sarah Holloway is Professor of Human Geography at Loughborough University and a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in the UK. Her research considers social and economic issues affecting children, families and education.

Tue, 31 May 2022 | Prof Sara Smith
Title to be announced
Details will follow...