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## Zurich Human Geography Colloquium

### Program Spring Semester 2023

**Prof Paul Chatterton**, School of Geography, University of Leeds, UK  
**How do we save the city? A guide for emergency action**

**Public lecture: Tue, 25 April, 4-5pm, Room Y25-H-38**  
**Workshop: Tue, 25 April, 10-12pm, Room Y25-H-38**

(For details and to register for the workshop, please write to [xavier.balaguerrasillo@geo.uzh.ch](mailto:xavier.balaguerrasillo@geo.uzh.ch))

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**Prof Julie MacLeavy**, School of Geographical Sciences, University of Bristol, UK  
**Austerity: ending or never ending?**

**Public lecture: Tue, 30 May, 4-5pm, Room Y25-H-38**  
**Workshop: Wed, 31 May, 9-12pm, Room Y25-L-40**

Title: "Care work, gender inequality and technological advancement" based on: Mac Leavy Julie 2020: Care work, gender inequality and technological advancement in the age of COVID-19. Gender, Work & Organization 28(1): 138-154. <https://doi.org/10.1111/gwao.12534>.

(Please register via e-mail to: [Karin.schwiter@geo.uzh.ch](mailto:Karin.schwiter@geo.uzh.ch))

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**Prof Sara Smith**, Professor of Geography, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

**The Cene Scene: Centering Indigenous and Black Environmental Visions**

**Public lecture: Tue, 6 June, 4-5PM, Room Y25-H-79**  
**Workshop: Mon, 5 June, all day, Karl der Grosse, Kirchgasse 13, 8001 Zürich, Erkerzimmer**

(For details and to register for the workshop, please write to [shona.loong@geo.uzh.ch](mailto:shona.loong@geo.uzh.ch) before 26 May)

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Tue, 25 April 2023 | **Prof Paul Chatterton**

### **How do we save the city? A guide for emergency action**

In this talk Paul will present his new book and his strategic approach called 'learn-act-build' that can tackle the triple (climate, nature, social) emergencies. He will introduce some of the emergency moves and players needed to align the 'evidence-action' gap and create decisive and urgent transformatory action.

**Paul Chatterton** is Professor of Urban Futures at the University of Leeds, teaching, acting and researching on climate and social emergencies. Over the last 20 years he has teamed up with activists and campaigners to: stop fossil fuel use, set up housing cooperatives and community research companies, support climate camps and self managed social centres and campaign for migrant rights and against military arms sales. He has published over 50 peer reviewed articles and chapters and written 10 books including *Low Impact Living*, *Unlocking Sustainable Cities* and *How to Save the City*.

Tue, 30 May 2023 | **Prof Julie MacLeavy**

### **Austerity: ending or never ending?**

The European Union and many of its member states responded to the post-2008 economic crisis by implementing austerity measures. Spending cuts, tax increases, or a combination of both, were introduced to reduce budget deficits, with this being presented as necessary to ensure longer-term economic growth. In government pronouncements, austerity was framed as a fiscal policy – disconnected from the longer process of neoliberalization that has entailed a dramatic reduction in social programmes, cuts to public sector employment and the expansion of privatization – and enabling the 'end of austerity' to be declared when the spending cuts or tax increases stop. Positioning austerity as a core motif of the neoliberal era, this paper will detail how it continues, even after its proclaimed end, and despite recent and significant government spending. The focus is on the institutional and personal legacies of fiscal consolidation that through the coronavirus pandemic have placed groups of workers at increased financial risk and exacerbated pre-existing patterns of inequality. The paper will consider competing ways in which the present moment is being framed to draw out a discussion of where austerity is headed, how it has changed, and what sorts of legacies are not only apparent but also becoming entrenched.

**Julie MacLeavy** is a Professor of Economic Geography at the University of Bristol, UK and co-editor of the journal *Geoforum*. Her research interests span the following themes: work; welfare; care; austerity; gender; class; neoliberalism; inequality; urban change.



Tue, 6 June 2023 | Prof Sara Smith

## The Cene Scene: Centering Indigenous and Black Environmental Visions

For a decade, geography has been grappling with a proliferation of cenes: the Anthropocene, the Capitalocene, the Plantationocene. Through the theorization of each of these cenes, human impact on global ecologies is defined in epochs, paying particular attention to industrialization, the expansion of global capitalism, or changes in agriculture and land use practices. Cenes are segmented time, but time is also segmented through knowledge production that assigns people and places to different temporalities, through the demographic politics that extend some futures and cut others short, and through imperial infrastructures that intensify and naturalize disparities between colonizer and colonized. We argue that *cenes* themselves perpetuate a settler time, obscuring violence through the use of abstract epochs while denying Indigenous and Black ontologies and histories. As Kyle Whyte and others have shown, climate change discourse perpetuates its own colonial epistemologies. We ask: who gets to theorize global time and history, and who is “ethnographically detained”? Cene arguments are meant to generate a political orientation toward the world, reflected then in environmental policy. We contend that the politics around energy transition and a Green New Deal still centers whiteness, denying Indigenous and Black sovereignty and thus entrenches colonial capitalist practices on marginalized communities for yet another generation. To move beyond the cenes, we center Indigenous and Black Studies accounting of environments and history, letting these narratives ground our understanding of our histories and futures.

**Sara Smith** is Professor of Geography at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. She is a feminist political geographer interested in the relationship between territory, bodies, and the everyday. Her research seeks to understand how politics and geopolitics are constituted through intimate acts of love, friendship, and birth. She has worked in Ladakh, India, on questions of marriage and family planning, and is now engaged in a project on how Ladakhi college students think about Ladakh, themselves, belonging, and the future. She also pursues these issues as they emerge in the US and global context, through developing work on race, biopolitics, and the future. She is the author of *Intimate Geopolitics: Love, Marriage, Territory, and the Future on India’s Northern Threshold*, *Political Geography: A critical introduction*, and co-editor of *Feminist Geography Unbound: Discomfort, Bodies, and Prefigured Futures*