

Environmental sustainability study group sponsored session

Material geographies in environmental and resource management

Convenor: Nicholas Gill (University of Wollongong)

In 2006 Bakker and Bridge¹ outlined their vision of a theoretically reinvigorated environmental or resource geography. They call for research that ‘address[es] the analytical significance of concrete differences in the material world and the way these enable and constrain the social relations necessary for resource production’, be it of minerals, animals, biodiversity, water, various incarnations of land, or biotechnology.

This session and the associated workshop seek to respond to this call for research that addresses materiality in society and nature, examines their co-production, and the enabling and constraining processes, properties, and histories that are part of, and result from, such co-production. Moreover it seeks to assess the implications of such co-production in areas such the shaping of space and nature, the production of knowledge about resources and environment, for the creation and production of commodities, for environmental governance, and for responses to broader issues such as sustainability and climate change.

Papers are invited that address these or related themes and in which authors aim to contribute to the further development of critical resource and environmental geographies. At a post-conference workshop papers from the sessions will be further developed in conjunction with Dr. Gavin Bridge who will be a guest of the Environmental Sustainability Study Group. Attendance at the workshop will be open, but if necessary, and depending on numbers, the inclusion of papers may be on a competitive basis. Our aim is to produce an edited collection of papers from the sessions.

All contributors to the writing workshop will need to submit a draft paper to other participants by a date earlier in 2009 (to be set). All participants would be expected to read the other papers, to not divulge any of the contents, to be prepared to be constructively critical and supportive at the writing workshop, and to be prepared to finalise their paper for publication in a timely manner. They should also read the paper by Bakker and Bridge as listed below. The workshop aims are to get the papers closer to publication quality, to integrate the papers around the theme of the publication, and to provide material for the editors’ introduction to the publication.

¹ Bakker, K. and G. Bridge (2006). “Material worlds? Resource geographies and the ‘matter of nature’.” Progress in Human Geography 30(1): 5-27.