

Call for Papers: EWIS - Istanbul, Turkey - 3-5th July 2024

Activist Encounters with Uncertain Futures: Hopeful Reconciliations of Loss from the Margins

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In the socially-contested terrain of the Anthropocene where climate crises hold hope hostage, transnational activism movements offer space for the reconciliation of social and cultural geographies in times of rapid and unforeseeable change. With worsening climate change, the loss and irrevocable deterioration of social, cultural, and environmental landscapes has become increasingly inevitable. How people engage with these notions of loss, and in particular, how hope persists in spite of loss to motivate activism, can contribute to more restorative practices of future-making which engage with (and at times retreat from) fears of an uncertain future. Spaces for hopeful engagement with activism contributes to more expansive notions of 'futurity' which considers grief and loss as opportunities for discovering hope and building more inclusive futures. This workshop offers a space for dialogical encounters with grief, loss, hope, and repair from those operating within activist spheres and whose voices have been marginalised in processes of knowledge production.

International Studies and cognate social scientific disciplines have thus, for many decades, engaged with the connectivities between grief/loss and hope/futurities. Imagining and crafting critical maps to new futures now enables the reconciliation of difficult losses, a difficult encounter with memories of a 'history that hurts' (Hartman 1997: 51). From the grief of activists and marginalised survivors of socio-ecological harms, to their transformation 'from an object bearing grief to being a subject speaking grievance' (Cheng, 2000, p.174), activist-scholarship faces a call to translate theory and grief to the public sphere. This workshop therefore engages with research that examines how activism, grief, and care can allow for the documentation of resistance movements as a felt archive (Salem 2021) and contends with a 'not-yet future between harm and repair' (Walsh 2023). Conversing with questions of future-oriented writing and worldmaking, the workshop ultimately wonders how International Studies can move beyond imagining, theorising, and writing new worlds, to making space for their creation.

We invite submissions from academics, activists, and practitioners in both traditional and narrative-based forms, on topics including but not limited to:

- Activist accounts, frustrations, and coping/survival tactics in difficult times
- Imagining creative reconciliations between activists, academics, practitioners, artists
- Contending and accounting for activism within climate-changed geographies
- Regional activist adaptations to climate change
- Mobilities and migrations in periods of crisis
- Narratives of care and grief in (hopeful) protest and resistance spaces
- Cultural heritage and collective memory
- Co-researching, co-producing, and collectively disseminating activist knowledge
- Creative articulations of hopeful stories in visual, textual, and performance art