

“The Exceptional Everyday: Fracturing the International through Space-Making?”

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Workshop Abstract and Scope

Contemporary international affairs are often cast as scenes of exception—climate emergencies, migration and economic crises, and episodes of extreme violence—yet these dynamics are always lived and negotiated through the fabric of people’s everyday lives. Likewise, high-level politics, from the work of international organizations to intergovernmental summits, are typically framed as conceptually and politically apart from the everyday, even though they are materially enacted by carving out, reorganizing, and exceptionalising ordinary spaces and routines. The spaces that populate the study of international relations thus range across multiple scales: from local and national settings understood as distinct yet interconnected, to the intimate realm of the home, where global gendered and economic relations are experienced, and the formal arenas of international and intergovernmental decision-making. How is international space (re)structured and (re)produced in the everyday, while being excavated from the “local” or the “national” in practice? How do notions of the “exceptional” emerge in and mediate these processes?

Focused on how the exceptional becomes diffused in the everyday, this workshop will grapple with specific key concepts, including the international, territory and space-making, to think critically about how these notions emerge and interlock differently in global politics. Therefore, we seek contributions which question and fracture the various configurations that exist between the everyday, space-making, the international and the exception to reveal productive tensions in the conceptual and empirical relationship between these concepts. In doing so, we are not looking to constitute one homogeneous way in which this is (co)created, but how different contexts and dynamics reframe the relationship between these concepts in multiple ways. Seizing on these questions and approaches, this workshop invites contributions that seek to address any or a combination of the following questions:

- Where does the exceptional meet the everyday, and what implication that has for understandings of the international, territorial, space etc.?
- How are spaces (re)structured, (co)produced and maintained in the everyday ?
- Which methodologies allow us to capture this process?
- Which technologies and infrastructures participate in these dynamics?
- How particular practices of space-making disrupt or enforce hierarchies of space and among subjects: periphery/core; margins/center; rural/urban, restructure notions of rule and sovereignty and/or facilitate forms of capitalist extraction?
- How do multi-scale spaces become/are an ‘ensemble of authorities, legalizations and claims’ ?
- We also welcome conceptual and empirical interrogations of spatial entities as geographies of exception (humanitarian, legal, territorial, environmental and economic) and/or illegality.

This workshop will inform the submission of a Journal Special Issue proposal on the same themes. Please submit paper proposals through the EISA submission system following the abstract submissions guidelines published on the website (**deadline February 11 2026**), and also email the workshop conveners.