



Call for Papers

Nordia Geographical Publications Yearbook 2019

Theme Issue: Energy and Nomos – Spatial (Dis)Order and (Post)Fossil Times

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The Geographical Society of Northern Finland and the Geography Research Unit at the University of Oulu are inviting contributors to the Nordia Geographical Publications Series 25th Yearbook coming out in late 2019.

The Greek word *nomos* is usually taken to mean a law, or convention governing human conduct. Bringing the term *nomos* together with the ubiquitous and deceptively familiar energy (from the Greek *ergon* = work and *energeia* = activity), this Nordia Yearbook encourages the questioning of energy, especially in relation to spatial (dis)order. The age of the fossil fuels is approaching its end in the face of the looming prospect of carbon-fuelled collapse of the socio-ecological order. The recent International Panel on Climate Change report (2018) stressed the need to limit the global warming to 1.5 C compared to pre-industrial time. This goal is only achievable with immediate fossil fuel phase-out. The world is facing a transformation of the energy infrastructure and consequently a transformation of all modalities of socio-technical systems, economic practice, political processes, cultural norms and behaviour. The thorough transformation of the energy infrastructure will also mean the transformation of the dynamic materiality of space and the spatial order. These developments call for combining the reconceptualization of energy from a perspective of transformation and the rethinking/remapping of its consequences for spatial (dis)order, or *nomos*.

During the past decade, there has been an explosion of critical and inventive work on energy from diverse perspectives: philosophy (Salminen & Vadén 2010; 2015; 2018), political theory (Mitchell 2011), international relations (Balmaceda 2018), environmental history (Malm 2016), energy humanities (LeMenager 2014; Szeman & Boyer 2017; Wilson et al 2017), anthropology (Strauss et al 2013) and, of course, human geography (Bridge et al 2013; Clark & Yusoff 2014; Gibson-Graham 2014; Calvert 2015; Huber 2015; Haarstad & Wanvik 2016). This Nordia theme issue channels some of this energetic inquiry into thinking the dynamics of socio-spatial order. For example, we tend to take for granted ideas like “the space of flows” or “geopolitics of flows” without attention to their material underpinnings and the consequent fragility of such orderings/fluidities. From the perspective of energy, the flows themselves appear vulnerable, and the emerging spatial (dis)order calls for a sustained research effort. Examples of engagement with the question of spatial order include the “geographies of the *nomos*” (Legg et al 2011) inspired by the work of Carl Schmitt and especially his *Der Nomos der Erde* (1950). Schmitt’s recognition of the key aspects of *nomos* as appropriation, distribution and production (Schmitt 1993) is a key insight that can be used to think of fossil energy as *nomos* or the matrix of modern politics. According to Schmitt, these aspects form the preconditions of every concrete social, economic and political order. As a necessary extension to the domain

of struggle it is fruitful to challenge the idea of the single, planetary Euro- or American centric nomos by identifying the multiplicity of (local, regional) *nomoi*, as well as the possibility of *anomos* (disorder) not only as a threat but also as a condition for autonomy (Luisetti et. Al. 2015). The strands of energy and spatial order already come together in key contributions such as in Mitchell's *Carbon Democracy* (2011) and in Boyer's (2016) efforts to cultivate revolutionary infrastructure as a precondition for transition away from catastrophogenic practices. However, more work remains to be done in this vein.

We invite scholars, practitioners and activists across the spectrum to make this *Nordia Yearbook* a space for investigating post-fossil changes of energy regimes and consequent spatial (dis)orders, or the other way around: how spatial (dis)orders can enable or inhibit post-fossil transformations. We also invite contributions that engage with the possibilities unlocked with the escape from the petrocultural trap, i.e. the dependency of social imaginaries on oil.

The themes can include but are not restricted to fossil energy impasse, energy (geo)politics, energy transitions and their multiple consequences, climate change mitigation, relationship between energy and capital accumulation, the cultural aspects of fossil fuel dependency, or technological aspects of revolutionary infrastructural change. Contributors are encouraged to reflect on their theme and on their own praxis from the perspectives of energy and spatial (dis)order.

We consider this open access and not-for-profit platform ideal for developing new ideas and research themes and for reconsidering existing, hitherto underexplored branches of research. The contributions can take the form of original research articles (ca 5000-9000 words) or shorter essays (ca 2000-4000 words), reviewed by two anonymous referees before publishing.

Please note the following when submitting your manuscript to the 2019 NGP Yearbook:

- Abstracts and manuscripts are sent to the editors (heikki.sirvio@oulu.fi) in .doc or .docx -format
- The initial title and abstract deadline is 31.3.2019.
- The final deadline for manuscript submission is 31.8.2019.
- Writing language is English. The author is responsible for proof-reading the manuscript.
- Please follow the instructions on formatting the text, tables and figures and bibliography that are available from the editor or from the website of the Geographical Society of Northern Finland at: <https://wiki.oulu.fi/display/psms/Nordia+julkaisut%2C+Nordia+publications>

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