

# GREEN GEOGRAPHIES OF EVALUATION AND DEVALUATION

---

## HYBRID CONFERENCE

University of Leicester

15 May 2023

Lecture Theatre 5

Bennett Building, University Rd,  
Leicester LE1 7RH, UK

**09:00 – 13:00 (GMT) MORNING  
SESSION: Green Geographies of  
E-valuation**

**14:15 – 18:00 (GMT) AFTERNOON  
SESSION: Green Geographies of  
De-valuation**

Lead Organizer: Dr. Alessandro Busà  
Funded by EU Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions  
and University of Leicester  
With BCNUEJ, Boston University

# GREEN GEOGRAPHIES OF EVALUATION AND DEVALUATION

---

## MORNING SESSION: Green Geographies of E-valuation

**09:15 - 09:30**

**Alessandro Busà, University of Leicester: Introduction to the conference**

**Geographies of climate finance and housing retrofit**

**09:30 - 10:15**

**Stefan Bouzarovski, University of Manchester: The financialisation of low-carbon transformations: problematizing mass housing renovation programmes**

**10:15 - 11:00**

**Melissa Garcia Lamarca, Polytechnic of Turin: Plan de choque for whom? Emerging configurations and impacts of green housing renovation in Catalonia**

**11:00 - 11:15: COFFEE BREAK**

**Geographies of green value capture, enclosure and extraction**

**11:15 - 12:00**

**Natacha Bruna, Observatório do Meio Rural: Understanding Green Extractivism: financialization and nature appropriation in Mozambique**

**12:00 - 12:45**

**Zac Taylor, TU Delft: Urbanizing Risk Capital: South Florida Hurricane Insurance and the Making of Singapore's Catastrophe Finance Hub**

**13:00 - 14:00: LUNCH**

# GREEN GEOGRAPHIES OF EVALUATION AND DEVALUATION

---

## AFTERNOON SESSION: Green Geographies of De-valuation

### New geographies of urban obsolescence

14:15 - 15.00

**Benjamin K. Sovacool, Boston University:** Climate justice and elite power in low-carbon transitions

15:00 - 15:45

**Kevin Muldoon-Smith, Northumbria University:** Unravelling fossil fuel based stranded assets in the built environment

### Deindustrialization and “just” transitions, resource exploitation for a green economy

16:00 - 16.45

**Aparajita Banerjee, University College Dublin:** “No windfarms without a just transition”: feelings of injustice evoking negative emotional responses towards wind projects in Irish peatland communities.

16:45 - 17.15 **Closing Keynote speaker**

**Sarah Knuth, Durham University:** Speculative De- and Revaluation in a Climate-Changed Future

17:15 - 17.45 **EXPERTS PANEL: FINAL DISCUSSION**

**Loretta Lees (Director, Initiative on Cities, Boston University)**

**Isabelle Anguelovski (Director, BCNUEJ, ICTA/UAB Barcelona)**

**Matthew Wilde (Anthropologist and Lecturer, University of Leicester)**

## GUESTS AND SPEAKERS

**DR. ALESSANDRO BUSA** is a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the School of Geography, Geology and the Environment of the University of Leicester, UK. His MSCA project "SUSTEUS" explores the socioeconomic impact of environmentally sustainable redevelopment plans on communities housed in social housing estates in EU and US cities. His book titled "The Creative Destruction of New York City" was published by Oxford University Press in 2017.

**STEFAN BOUZAROVSKI** is a Professor of Human Geography at the University of Manchester, where he directs the People and Energy Programme within the Manchester Urban Institute. He is an Associate of the Institute of European Energy and Climate Policy. He also chairs the world's largest network of energy poverty experts, practitioners and policy advocates, titled 'European Energy Poverty: Agenda Co-Creation and Knowledge Innovation', funded by Co-Operation in Science and Technology. He is an internationally leading expert in energy poverty and sustainability policy, having written over 120 scientific publications, three single-author monographs, one co-authored textbook and edited four books on these topics.

**MELISSA GARCIA-LAMARCA** is a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Research Fellow working on the CLIMATEJUSTHOME project at the Polytechnic of Turin, and she is a member of the Beyond Inhabitation Lab (Turin) and the Barcelona Lab for Urban Environmental Justice and Sustainability. Her work untangles the lived experiences of housing financialisation and collective struggles towards housing justice, as well as the financial and real estate related dimensions of urban green inequalities. Melissa is a co-founder and member of the Radical Housing Journal editorial collective, and has over fifteen years of international experience working as a researcher, teacher, project coordinator and consultant in a sustainability workers cooperative.

**NATACHA BRUNA** holds a PhD in Development Studies, from the International Institute of Social Studies (Erasmus University Rotterdam) on the Political Ecology research group. Her research focuses on agrarian change brought up by the intersections of resource grabbing as a result of extractivism and environmental politics. She is currently a researcher in an independent research institution in Mozambique – Observatório do Meio Rural ([www.omrmz.com](http://www.omrmz.com)). Her areas of research include land and resource grabbing, agrarian political economy, political ecology and extractivism.

**ZAC TAYLOR** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Management in the Built Environment at Delft University of Technology. Their research advances critical and practical knowledge that bridges climate finance with the place-specific challenges of urban climate action. Zac co-convenes the Urban Climate Finance Network, and is the Co-PI of Red&Blue, a transdisciplinary research initiative focused on integrated real estate-finance climate risk governance strategies for the Dutch urban delta. Their research has been featured in the New York Times and Economist, among other venues, and published in journals such as Environment and Planning A and the Annals of the American Association of Geographers.

**Dr. BENJAMIN K. SOVACOOOL** is Professor of Earth and Environment at Boston University in the United States, as well as Professor of Energy Policy at the Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU) at the University of Sussex Business School in the United Kingdom. He is also University Distinguished Professor of Business & Social Sciences at Aarhus University in Denmark. Professor Sovacool works as a researcher and consultant on issues pertaining to energy policy, energy justice, energy security, climate change mitigation, and climate change adaptation. More specifically, his research focuses on renewable energy and energy efficiency, the politics of large-scale energy infrastructure, the ethics and morality of energy decisions, designing public policy to improve energy security and access to electricity, and building adaptive capacity to the consequences of climate change.

## GUESTS AND SPEAKERS

**KEVIN MULDON SMITH** is an Associate Professor in Urban and Built Environment Adaptation and Investment in the Department of Architecture and Built Environment at Northumbria University. My research focuses on adaptation and investment in the built environment. Kevin investigates how new demand and legislative drivers are stranding property assets and how this threat can be countered through methods of urban adaptation and building based adaptive reuse.

Dr. **APARAJITA BANERJEE** is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at University College Dublin's College of Business. She holds a Ph.D. in Environmental and Energy Policy from Michigan Technological University, USA. Her research explores how environmental and energy policies affect, ameliorate or exacerbate social inequalities based on class, race, gender, power, and spatial differences between people

**SARAH KNUTH** is an assistant professor in the Department of Geography at Durham University. Her research investigates the contemporary intersection of neoliberal urban and infrastructural development strategy; emerging programs for green economic development, clean energy transition, and climate change resilience; and ongoing transformations in the global financial system.

**LORETTA LEES** is an urban geographer and urbanist who is internationally known for her research on gentrification, urban regeneration, global urbanism, urban policy, urban public space, architecture, and urban social theory. Before moving to Boston University to serve as Faculty Director of the Initiative on Cities, she was professor of Human Geography at Leicester University and before that King's College London in the UK. Loretta was elected as a fellow of Academia Europaea (MAE) in 2022; the UK Higher Education Academy (FHEA) 2018, Academy of Social Science (FAcSS) 2013, and Royal Society for the Arts (FRSA) 2012. Loretta has published 14 books, with 2 further books in press (The Planetary Centrifugation Reader, Routledge; Concise Encyclopedia of Human Geography, Edward Elgar)

**ISABELLE ANGUELOVSKI** is the director of BCNUEJ, an ICREA Research Professor, a Senior Researcher and Principal Investigator at ICTA and coordinator of the research group Healthy Cities and Environmental Justice at IMIM. She graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Political Studies from Science Po Lille and a Master's in International Development at the Université de Paris 1 Sorbonne, pursued a Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Management at Harvard University and obtained a PhD in Urban Studies and Planning from MIT before returning to Europe in 2011 with a Marie Curie International Incoming Fellowship. As part of collaborative and individual international research projects, she studies how environmental injustice is materialized and contested.

**MATTHEW WILDE** is a Lecturer in Human Geography at the School of Geography, Geology & The Environment, of the University of Leicester. Matthew trained in anthropology and received his PhD from the London School of Economics in 2013. Prior to taking up a permanent role at the University of Leicester in 2018, he held research and teaching positions with the Institute of Latin American Studies, the University of Sussex and the LSE. Matt has conducted extensive ethnographic fieldwork in Venezuela since 2008 and the UK since 2015. His work has appeared in a range of scholarly publications including Anthropology Today, Bulletin of Latin American Research, Critique of Anthropology, Cultural Anthropology, Ethnos, Latin American Perspectives and the Radical Housing Journal. Beyond his academic work, Matt has written op-ed pieces for Counterpunch, The Guardian and Public Books.