

## Call for Papers: AAG Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, April 10–14

### A Geography of the Edge: Frontiers in the Contemporary Moment

Co-Organizers:

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Frontiers are socially produced spaces. As Anna Tsing puts it, they are ‘conjured’ into being through anti-local and extra-local powers. The frontier as a concept, debate, field site, and object of study has a long and storied history in Geography (See, for example, Holditch 1899; Hills 1906; Browne 1929; Foweraker 1981; Blomley 2003; Hecht 2005; Redclift 2006; Barney 2009; Moore 2015; Peluso and Vandergeest 2011; Ballvé 2012; Watts 2012; RGS-IBG 2013; Hecht 2016; Klinger 2017, *inter alia*), but the term has received comparatively little attention relative to the discipline’s other spatial keywords—region, location, scale, place, territory, etc. Leaving aside the question of international “borders,” the proposed session seeks papers that examine the spatiality of frontiers from critical perspectives and in the present moment.

In particular, this paper and panel series proposes to explore how contemporary frontiers are produced by and how they continue to shape contemporary societies. The basic premise here is that all frontiers are the real-and-or-imagined “edges” of something for someone, but this call for papers purposefully leaves open the question as to what exactly the frontier in question is the “edge of.” Paper topics could range from state power to resource extraction; from expansionist cultural projects, to urbanization, and much more. Through a collection of papers, the sessions aim to answer the questions: How should we conceptualize today’s frontiers? How are these frontiers being created? How do they work and what work do they do?

Relevant topics include but are not limited to:

- The spatial limits of state power and competing forms of authority
- Frontiers as spaces where illicit networks thrive
- Primitive accumulation as a process of frontier state formation
- The far-flung relational geographies of planetary urbanization and the metabolic rift
- Frontiers as spaces left to die: the political ecology of sacrifice zones and surplus populations
- The cultural politics of frontiers as spaces of exception
- Frontiers as racialized and/or gendered spaces
- Frontiers as fugitive spaces of political possibility and experimentation
- Resource frontiers, agrarian struggles, and economies of violence

While contributions could focus on any of these topics, this call seeks papers that directly engage—i.e. more than a passing mention or framing—with the notion of frontiers in relation to contemporary contexts and practices. Toward that end, contributions in the forms of papers, state of the (sub)field reviews, discussion pieces, case studies, and works in progress are all welcome.

## Logistics

Please submit a brief abstract or description of your proposed contribution to Teo Ballvé ([tballve@colgate.edu](mailto:tballve@colgate.edu)) and Julie Klinger ([jklinger@bu.edu](mailto:jklinger@bu.edu)) by October 10, 2017. Decisions will be finalized by October 15, 2017.

**Specialty Group Co-Sponsors:** Political Geography, Cultural and Political Ecology, Cultural Geography, Development Geographies, Socialist and Critical Geography

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