

~ Association of American Geographers (AAG), Chicago, April 21-25, 2015 ~

Co-Producing a Heuristic Conceptualization of Curation

Organizers:

Melanie Fasche - University of Toronto
Harriet Hawkins - Royal Holloway, University of London
Brian J. Hrats - University of Southampton
Priya Vadi - Royal Holloway, University of London

Session Abstract:

The notion of curation is attracting increasing levels of interest and engagement from scholars across geography. Recent conference sessions (AAG 2013; RGS-IBG 2014) have witnessed vibrant debates and raised a multiplicity of perspectives on curation; from cultural geographers taking up curatorial practices as part of their research, to economic and social geographers examining how curation is linked to the creation of value and distinction in physical and virtual spaces. The richness of the discussion has also, however, pointed to a series of critical conceptual issues that need to be addressed going forward if the notion of curation is to avoid collapsing into a simple catch-all term for cultural, social, and economic practices of sorting, selecting, and displaying. Therefore these panels seek to continue the discussion while engaging geographers from across the discipline to think specifically about how we can grasp the notion of curation more systematically. And by extension how different perspectives from across geography and beyond may inform each other and be integrated into a heuristic conceptualization of curation.

Drawing on diverse disciplinary, conceptual, empirical and geographical perspectives panelists in this session will address the following and related questions:

- Where does curation take place (physical, temporary, virtual spaces) and how do specific spatial dynamics influence the form and function of curatorial practices?
- What is being curated? Objects, people, the self, city spaces, atmospheres, services, experiences etc.
- Who are the curators? Professional curation and everyday acts of curation, role of skills, techniques and training
- How is curation practiced? Curation as a critical spatial, social and activist practice, curation as research practice
- What is curational power? Taste-making, value making, institutional curation

Session One Chair:

Harriet Hawkins - Royal Holloway, University of London

Session One Panelists:

Alison L. Bain - York University
Melanie Fasche - University of Toronto
Brian J. Hrats - University of Southampton
Andrew Leyshon - University of Nottingham
Jenny Sjöholm - Uppsala University
Nicola Thomas - University of Exeter

Session Two Chair:

Brian J. Hracs - University of Southampton

Session Two Panelists:

Richard Baxter - Queen Mary University of London

Jeff Boggs - Brock University

Karenjit Clare - Loughborough University

Pacey Foster - University of Massachusetts

Atle Hauge - Eastern Norway Research Institute

Gwen Macgregor - University of Toronto

Adelheid Mers - Art Institute of Chicago

Sue Potts - Liverpool John Moores University

Josephine V. Rekers - Lund University

Session Three Chair:

Melanie Fasche - University of Toronto

Session Three Panelists:

Taylor Brydges - Uppsala University

Nehal El-Hadi - University of Toronto

Johan Jansson - Uppsala University

Mariangela Lavanga - Erasmus University Rotterdam

Wil A. Ruggiero - Art Institute of Chicago

Heather Anne Smith - UNC Charlotte Urban Institute

Elyse Stanes - University of Wollongong

Lech Suwala - Humboldt University / Ritsumeikan University

Gibran Villalobos - Art Institute of Chicago