

Call for Papers: Making the Slow University Inclusive
Royal Geographical Society 2017, London, 29th August 1st December

The Slow Movement has taken root in universities. Within Geography, scholars have written about its application in daily academic life, measuring academic success and undertaking research (Mountz et al., 2015; Kuus, 2015). Academics are stepping back, applying the brakes, and rethinking about work-life balance and their mental health. They are becoming 'Slow Professors' (Berg and Seeber, 2016).

The desire for reducing the rush associated with research and teaching has developed amidst an atmosphere of acceleration in universities. For many, impact agendas and audit exercises have created a culture of competition and precarious employment arrangements that are not conducive to the patience and depth required for quality research. As universities increase their intake, others feel overworked and unable to cope with the teaching and administrative demands placed upon them. Others find themselves distracted and unable to focus on a single task or switch off as emails allow 24/7 communication at the touch of a button.

While the Slow Movement has been embraced by academics, its benefits are widely applicable to others in the university. Student anxiety, stress and visits to campus welfare services are on the rise. Undergraduates and early career researchers find themselves rushing to build outstanding CVs, undertake work experience or paid employment to finance their studies, yet their inclusion in the Slow Movement has not yet been discussed.

This session invites contributions from staff, teaching assistants, administrators and students who are finding ways to slow down. We are interested in the ways the Slow Movement can be combined with teaching, research and the demands of the academic workday. We are particularly interested in papers that discuss the systematic inequality and obstacles that staff and students of varying identities face in relation to stress, and over-exertion and the how the Slow Movement can tackle these problems.

Session format: I propose 3-4 papers of around 20-25 minutes, depending upon the number of submissions received. Please send your abstracts of no more than 200 words to Joe Thorogood, (joseph.thorogood.13@ucl.ac.uk) by February 5th 2017.

Alison Mountz, A.B., 2015. For Slow Scholarship: A Feminist Politics of Resistance through Collective Action in the Neoliberal University. *ACME Int. E-J. Crit. Geogr.*

Berg, M., Seeber, B., 2016. *Slow Professor: Challenging the Culture of Speed in the Academy*. University of Toronto Press.

Kuus, M., 2015. For Slow Research. *Int. J. Urban Reg. Res.* 39, 838-840.