



Political Geography  
Specialty Group

## 2012 PRECONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Vassar College, Poughkeepsie  
NY, Feb 22-23 2012

### Wednesday, February 22

4:30 – 5:00

#### Check-In

**\$20 registration fee for faculty and postdocs, receipts provided; no fee for grads**

[300 Rockefeller Hall, Vassar College]

5:00 – 5:10

**Welcome and introductions** (Mat Coleman, Joe Nevins, Reece Jones)

5:15 – 7:00

#### Keynote

Christian Parenti

#### **Climate Change and the Geography of Violence**

*The era of climate war is upon us. Extreme weather brought on by global warming is unleashing cascades of unrest and violence across the globe, from Africa to Asia to the Americas. In Tropic of Chaos, award-winning journalist and sociologist Christian Parenti reports from the front lines of this gathering social and environmental catastrophe. Combining historical research and academically informed theory with on-the-ground reporting, Parenti shows how environmental crisis is already colliding with the twin legacies of cold war militarism and unbridled free market economics to cause fragile nations to disintegrate into failed states. He critiques the way the countries of the Global North have responded to this dangerous new world: rather than adapt by defusing tensions and embracing cleaner forms of energy, these governments are responding with greater repression, surveillance, and a program of border militarization and permanent counterinsurgency.*

7:30

Group dinner, on-site

# Thursday, February 23

9:00 – 10:30

## Session I: Climate and Arctic Politics

307 Rockefeller Hall

Chair: Corey Johnson

### **Climatic Changes and Sustainable Security**

Seyed Hadi Zarghani

Department of Geography, Ferdowsi University of Mashhad

### **Climate Change Adaptation, Resilience, and the Politics of Catastrophe in Jamaica**

Kevin Grove

Department of Geography, Dartmouth College

### **Engineering the North American Waterscape: The High Modernist Mapping of Continental Water Transfer Projects**

Benjamin Forest and Patrick Forest

Department of Geography McGill University

### **The 800-Pound Polar Bear in the Room: Sovereignty as a Leading Theme in Canadian Arctic Policies**

Alan Grove

Department of Geography, University of British Columbia

### **SAR Coverage Issues in the NW Passage and Solutions**

David Schwartz

Department of Geography, California State University at Long Beach

10:30 – 10:45

Coffee break [coffee and muffins]

10:45 – 12:15

## Session II: Border Enforcement

307 Rockefeller Hall

Chair: Sara Koopman

### **Ungoverned and Uncivilized: Border Walls and the Discourse of Security**

Reece Jones

Department of Geography, University of Hawai'i

**Security in the Americas: Border Enforcement in Latin America**

Anne-Laure Amilhat Szary  
Institut de Géographie Alpine, Université Joseph Fourier

**Organized Crime, Illicit Geographies and the Spatiality of Illegal Behavior**

Peter D. A. Wood  
Department of Geography, Florida State University

**Captive Bodies: The Topology of Kidnapping on the U.S. Mexico Border**

Jeremy Slack  
School of Geography and Development, University of Arizona

12:15 – 1:30

Lunch on your own [locations TBA]

1:30-2:45

**Session III: Migration**

Different room: 212 Rockefeller Hall

Chair: Joe Nevins

**Europe's Security Strategy and the Securitization of Migration: A Better World for Whom?**

Nannette Abrahams  
Department of Human Geography, University of Frankfurt

**Police, Immigrants, and Immobilization: The Role of Traffic Enforcement in Immigration Enforcement in the U.S. South**

Mat Coleman  
Department of Geography, The Ohio State University

**Fragmented Migration: New Forms of Mobility at a Time of Restriction**

Michael Collyer  
Department of Geography, University of Sussex

2:45 – 3:00

Afternoon break [coffee and small snacks]

3:00 – 4:30

**Session IV: War and Violence**

212 Rockefeller Hall

Chair: Mat Coleman

**Kill or Capture? Apprehending the Battlefield through Interfaces of Control**

Richard Nisa

Department of Geography, Rutgers University

**'Race', Space, War, and Tropicality in Colombia**

Sara Koopman

Department of Geography, University of British Columbia

**It Could Be And Could Have Been Otherwise: Repoliticizing Mexico City's '68**

Nicholas Jon Crane

Department of Geography, The Ohio State University

**Special Authorities as States of Exception**

Daniel Rogers,

Department of Geography, CUNY Hunter College

4:30 – 4:45

Late afternoon break [water and snacks]

4:45 – 6:00

**Session V: Geopolitics, Geoeconomics and Resources**

212 Rockefeller Hall

Chair: Reece Jones

**Methodological Implications of Studying Think Tanks as Geopolitical Actors**

Ievgenii Rovnyi

Department of Human Geography, Goethe University of Frankfurt am

**Willing the Metaregion into Existence: Strategy, Ideology, and Discourse around the Black Sea Region**

Corey Johnson

Department of Geography, University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Ulrich Ermann

Leibniz Institut for Regional Geography

**Purifying the Neighboring Economic Spaces of the EU: EU Harmonization Policies in the Republic of Georgia**

Rachel Naylor

Department of Human Geography, University of Frankfurt

6:00-6:15

**Wrap Up** (Mat Coleman, Joe Nevins, Reece Jones)