

Call for Abstracts for the [18th Swiss Geoscience Meeting](#), 6-7 Nov 2020, Zurich

This panel is part of the stream “[Materials, nature, politics](#)” (07 Nov)

Geographies of waste and toxic pollution

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Waste and toxic pollution are recurrently at the focus of academic interest and political controversies. Frameworks such as environmental justice and environmental racism, now fundamental both in political organizing and academic debates, emerged from movements against toxic waste dumps (Bullard 1990). In recent years, waste and toxicants have again become central concerns in the social sciences (Gabrys, 2011; Moore, 2012). Scholars have analysed dimensions of waste such as the emergence of particular material practices (Crang et al., 2013; Lepawsky & Mather, 2011), accumulation regimes (Inverardi-Ferri, 2018), and discourses (Pickren, 2014). They also used waste as a powerful device to bring to light alternative representations of value, labour, and development (Herod et al., 2014).

Research on toxic environments has examined the effects of toxicants on people’s health (Alaimo, 2010; Guthman and Mansfield, 2012), their mobilities (Davies, 2012), as well as the production and use of counter-expertise on toxicants (Boudia and Jas, 2014) and organised ways of resistance against pollution (Holifield et al., 2009). Scholars have called toxic pollution a form of slow violence (Nixon 2011) and argued that toxic sites are mostly located near low-income communities and disproportionately affect racialized and otherwise deprivileged social groups (Vasudevan 2019; Pulido 2017). In geography, there is a growing interest in people’s daily experiences and what living in toxic sites means to the residents (Balayannis, 2020; Tironi and Rodríguez-Giralt, 2017).

We invite theoretical, empirical, and methodological contributions that deal with issues of waste or toxicities or explore intersections between the two fields. Topics may include but are not limited to issues of toxicities/waste in relation to

- circulation and flows of waste and toxic substances
- formal and informal waste economies and management
- elusiveness and representational challenges of toxic pollution
- labour, waste, and toxicants
- questions of scale in what is increasingly framed as a planetary problem
- activisms and questions of translocal/national responsibility
- everyday and embodied experiences with toxins/waste
- ecologies and landscapes
- methodological approaches

Please send your abstracts (up to 300 words) to alexander.vorbrugg@giub.unibe.ch, maaret.jokela@giub.unibe.ch, and c.inverardi-ferri@qmul.ac.uk by **30 July 2020**.