

Recreation 'betwixt and between'

Session Type: Oral presentation

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There is a continuum from 'virgin' nature to 'denatured' urban, within which we can locate spaces variously known as urban proximate, peri-urban, urban-rural fringe and others. These spaces are under pressure from urban expansion and are facing increasing recreational demand. Additionally, the diversity of ecosystems and often highly complex systems of governance may offer challenging conditions for management. Yet it is argued they can offer distinctive opportunities for recreation unavailable in 'urban' or 'wilderness' environments. Such opportunities may demand permanent infrastructure or occasional occupation for events or festivals and may be highly visible or even concealed from public view. This session addresses the conceptualisation of spaces of nature that fall betwixt and between the 'urban' and the 'wilderness' and the implications for recreation participation and management. It seeks to explore the personal, social, cultural and ecological factors which affect human-nature relationships in these spaces and the activities and performances that shape experiences. This session invites papers which address the following sub-themes:

- Contested definitions of natural spaces and the distinctiveness of the urban proximate.
- Conceptualising the social construction of spaces of nature.
- Urban proximate spaces as a resource for recreation.
- Urban proximate spaces as a location for deviance.
- Experiential dimensions of urban proximate recreation.
- Managing leisure in urban proximate spaces.
- Managing social-ecological systems for recreation.
- Governance, protection and development of urban-proximate spaces.