

Early Career Perspectives in Carceral Geography

▪ Wednesday 16 March 2022 ▪ 14:00-16:00 UTC (UK time) ▪

Online seminar series, showcasing the work of early career researchers in carceral geography.

Carceral Seas themed session

Research presentations:

- **The Mediterranean as a carceral seascape**
Maurice Stierl Lecturer, Sheffield University
- **The making of carceral seas in migration governance: Australia's at-sea detentions and coerced mobilities**
Andonea Jon Dickson Lecturer, University of London
Institute in Paris
- **Carceral Labour? Offshore work relations, conflicts and local participation in Ghana's oil and gas industry**
Austin Dziwornu Ablo Senior Lecturer, University of Ghana

Free Zoom event, open to researchers at all career stages.

Please register at: bit.ly/33ojvx6

Early Career Perspectives in Carceral Geography: Abstracts and researcher biographies

Wednesday 16 March 2022, 14:00pm-16:00pm UTC

The Mediterranean as a carceral seascape

Maurice Stierl – Lecturer, Department of Politics and International Relations, Sheffield University, UK

Abstract: Increasingly restrictive EU migration policies have dramatically reshaped the Mediterranean borderzone over recent years, multiplying infrastructures, technologies, and spaces of confinement. Interrogating the Mediterranean Sea as a carceral space generates insights into an ever-growing panoply of carceral but mobile forms of governance seeking to discipline and police unauthorised and precarious human movements, both at sea and on land. At the same time, unruly migrant mobilities and struggles at sea continue to expose the often-conflictual processes at work in the production of the Mediterranean carceral seascape.

Biography: Dr Maurice Stierl is a Lecturer in International Relations in the Department of Politics and International Relations at the University of Sheffield. He has also taught at the University of Warwick and the University of California, Davis. His research focuses on migration struggles in contemporary Europe and (northern) Africa and is broadly situated in the fields of International Political Sociology, Political Geography, and Migration, Citizenship and Border Studies. His book 'Migrant Resistance in Contemporary Europe' was published by Routledge in 2019.

The making of carceral seas in migration governance: Australia's at-sea detentions and coerced mobilities

Andonea Jon Dickson – Lecturer, Department of International Relations, University of London Institute in Paris, France

Abstract: Over the past four decades, maritime geographies have become prominent sites of policing and containing human migration. While there is important scholarly work on these contested liquid geographies charting the changing techniques of migration control, what continues to demand attention is the containment that is achieved through systemically keeping migrants mobile at sea. This paper explores maritime migration governance in Australia, examining the coerced mobilities that follow interdictions at sea and their carceral nature. Dickson interrogates the High Court case, *CPCF v Minister for Immigration and Border Protection*, which addresses the extended detention of 157 Tamil asylum seekers at sea in June 2014. Through analysing the language used in this case, such as the conclusion by the majority that "to detain" a migrant at sea mandates a concomitant duty "to take" that migrants somewhere else, she highlights how coerced mobility has become central to Australia's strategy of migration governance and the indefinite detention at sea that this has come to legitimate. This reveals the carcerality of migration governance in Australia's maritime geographies.

Biography: Dr Andonea Jon Dickson is a Lecturer in the Department of International Relations at the University of London Institute in Paris. Her research focuses on migration politics, specifically interrogating the strategies of containment and exclusion that emerge in maritime geographies. Andonea recently completed her PhD at Queen Mary University of London with a thesis that examines the entanglement of the sea in methods of migration control in the Mediterranean and the proliferation of carceral practices in mobility control at sea.

Carceral Labour? Offshore work relations, conflicts and local participation in Ghana's oil and gas industry

Austin Dziwornu Ablo – Senior Lecturer, Department of Geography and Resource Development, University of Ghana

Abstract: Local participation is crucial for linking the oil and gas industry to broader economies. Direct employment in the oil and gas industry, albeit often on a limited scale remains critical for the transfer of expertise and know-how in many developing economies. Focusing on the social construction of carcerality – a set of spaces, practices and relationships, the paper examines the carceralities of non-prison places such as offshore oil and gas infrastructures. With emphasis on oil rigs and Floating, Production, Storage and Offloading (FPSOs) vessels, the paper shows that carceral techniques operate to limit the potentiality of career progress. Offshore labour practices and relations show the new kinds of carceral spaces being created through offshore extraction, and sheds light on how these carceral spaces depotentialize the labour force and reinforce global political economic inequalities.

Biography: Dr Austin Dziwornu Ablo obtained his Bachelor of Arts in Geography and Resource Development from the University of Ghana, and earned a MPhil and PhD in Development Geography from the University of Bergen, Norway in 2012 and 2016. He is a Senior Lecturer at the Department of Geography and Resource Development, University of Ghana and a Visiting Scholar at the Center for Humanities, Washington University in St Louis. He was a Postdoctoral Fellow at the School of Geosciences, University of South Florida in 2017. His research focuses on urban studies, natural resource governance, energy, entrepreneurship, and development.