



6th International Conference for Carceral Geography

Conference Theme: Carcerality, Borders and Mobility

Organised by the Carceral Geography Working Group

Universität Trier, Germany

15-16 September, 2026

[Conference website](#)

Call for Papers: The 6th International Conference for Carceral Geography invites papers exploring carcerality, borders and mobility, themes that have long animated this interdisciplinary field, as well as theoretical work, including on carceral space, abolition, anti-colonial, post- and decoloniality, queer and feminist theory, social reproduction, and political economy.

Spaces of incarceration and confinement seem to epitomise the spatialities of enclosure, discipline and spatial control but as carceral geographers have argued (Moran et al., 2012; Turner and Peters, 2018), mobility, immobility, porosity and relationality constitute carceral enclosure. Rhythms of everyday life in incarceration are punctuated by the control of space and time: eating, work schedules, time outside, and lockdowns, a condition made more acute during the COVID-19 pandemic (Schliehe et al., 2022). Criminal justice systems move people between pre-trial and post-conviction confinement, sometimes confining people far from families and support networks (Piacentini 2004; Esposito, de Lellis, De Cordova and Briozzo, 2025). A range of non-criminal asylums and encampments utilize similar spatial controls but through therapeutic and humanitarian frames, prompting scholars to critique the paternalism of a care/control continuum (Pallister-Wilkins, 2022). Indeed, recent research on immigration enforcement shows frequent transfers between distant detention centres, a practice long known to impact detainees' legal proceedings

(Hiemstra, 2019). Deportation requires a transportation infrastructure to forcibly remove people from a territory (Walters, 2018). In a range of ways, carceral institutions manage, rather than prohibit, mobility. Showing how sovereign, embodied and affective registers of power operate in relation to law—and its suspension—carceral geography has contributed to political, legal and social geographers' theorisations of disciplinary, biopolitical and sovereign power.

The proliferation of new configurations of bordering, migration control and carcerality have driven recent research, taking theorisations of carceral power to a range of other sites. The first American immigration detention centre repurposed a hotel for the purpose, while the UK has recently relied on hotels for emergency asylum accommodation (Burridge, 2023). Scenes of leisure mobility converge with forced mobility in Greece, Malta and Italy, with islands coming to serve as spaces of confinement (Mainwaring and Stierl, 2025; Spathopoulou, 2023). States like the US, UK, EU member states and Australia attempt to deter future migration through spectacles of detention, family separation and deportation and mass advertising campaigns (Coddington and Williams, 2022). Meanwhile, some of these same states have outsourced detention and confinement to other states (Giannacopoulos and Loughnan, 2020; Morris, 2023) and the private sector (Darling, 2022; Yin, 2023) and externalised migration and border management to transit and developing states (Collins and Minca, 2024; Dastyari, Nethery and Hirsch, 2023; Missbach and Hoffstaedter, 2020). These border and mobility regimes multiply labour in important ways, as well, through the use of under-paid labour in detention (Conlon and Hiemstra, 2025), incentive payments in refugee camps (Brankamp, De Jong, Mackinder and Devenney, 2023), voluntary labour to earn status (Tazzioli, 2022), and austerity economies (Avgeri, 2024).

All of these actions draw and are grounded upon colonial and settler colonial practices and western imaginaries that facilitate imperial projects, occupation, dispossession, segregation and attempts to counter the anti-colonial refusals and resistance from Indigenous peoples and racialised populations on unceded lands (McQuire 2024, Watego, 2021; Tauri and Cuneen, 2017; Agozino 2018; Palombo, 2019). The 5th ICCG was held in Melbourne, Australia, and keynotes and papers centered Indigenous sovereignty and the ongoing

refusal of the carceral violence of settler colonialism. This introduced the intersections of current anti-asylum policies with the settler colonial project (Grewcock, 2014; Giannacopoulos and Loughnan, 2020; McKinnon, 2020; Perera and Pugliese, 2021). Indeed, bordered mobilities have been a keyway for colonizers to manage and control populations including labour shortages and surplus (Banivanua Mar, 2007). Apartheid states routinely control movement through documentation, work permits, identify verification, checkpoints, arbitrary arrest, and policing to produce racially stratified space (Griffiths, 2025). As nationalist politics have turned against asylum-seekers, refugees and migrants in recent years, colonial carcerality continues to haunt contemporary politics in important ways (Aliverti, Carvalho, Chamberlen, and Sozzo, 2023; Mountz, 2020). Australia's Pacific Solution pioneered the externalisation and outsourcing of detention (Dastyari, Nethery and Hirsch, 2022; Morris, 2023), a model that has inspired Italy's recent agreement with Albania, the UK's agreement with Rwanda (now ended) and the US's export of detainees to Ecuador in 2025. Thus, carceral border policies are also mobile, moving and transforming in new contexts.

To draw together these diverse threads of research, we invite empirical, theoretical and methodological papers from researchers at all career stages. We welcome abstracts for individual papers and proposals for organised themed sessions, workshops and exhibitions.

Session Formats: Sessions will last 90 minutes and include the following formats:

- **Paper sessions** of four 15 minute presentations and Q&A.
- **Panel sessions** exploring a theoretical intervention, debate, monograph, or recent events.
- **Workshops** featuring interactive activities (such as creative methods), non-traditional session formats, film screenings, etc.
- **Exhibitions** of visual and creative work displayed in common areas at the conference.

How to submit an abstract for an individual paper: [Use the form here to submit your abstract and keywords by Friday, 27 March, 2026.](#)

How to propose an organised themed session or exhibition: [Use the form here to submit your proposal by Friday, 27 March, 2026.](#) The form asks organisers to include a session title, keywords, and full abstracts, titles and presenters for all presenters. We assume that session organisers have contacted all presenters and all will be available to attend the conference.

The Organising Committee will then review proposals and aim to inform submitters whether they have been accepted to the conference in early May 2026. Due to space constraints, we will select papers and organise sessions and apologize in advance that we cannot accept all papers.

Conference Website:

<https://carceralgeographies.co.uk/carcerality-borders-and-mobility/>

Cost of attendance: Universität Trier are generously supporting this conference, and the conference has no required registration fee. Voluntary registration fees from previous conferences are being used to support bursaries. Attendees with conference funding are again requested to pay a nominal registration fee to support future events.

Bursaries: Bursaries are available to CGWG members without financial support for attending the conference to present their work. Priority will be given to ECR scholars. A maximum of 350 EURO will be paid to presenters travelling from within Europe/UK and 500 EURO from outside. Bursaries can be used to support accommodation and/or travel costs (i.e. standard class rail, air, bus tickets) and will be paid upon submission of relevant receipts after the conference. **To apply for a bursary, select “yes” to the question in the abstract/proposal submission form and fill in the relevant information.**

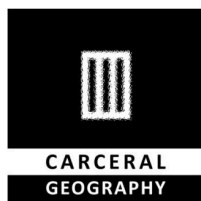
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