

Call for Papers

## Geographies of Intersectionality: Methodological Approaches to Socio-Spatial Inequalities

Session at NKG 2025, September 30 – October 2, Augsburg (Germany)

### Session Organizers

Christiane Meyer-Habighorst, University of Zurich, Switzerland

Isabella Stingl, Heidelberg University, Germany

### Session Description

*This session explores methodological approaches to examining the socio-spatial dimensions of intersecting systems of oppression and privilege.*

Feminist geographers, along with scholars from other disciplines, have long emphasized the inherently spatial nature of intersectional dynamics. Gill Valentine (2007) made one of the earliest contributions in geography, highlighting how feminist geography can advance the theorization of intersectionality, particularly by recognizing the spatial dimensions of subject formation. In response to her call to further engage with the spatiality of intersectional inequalities, feminist geographers have made valuable contributions to both the conceptual and empirical development of the geographies of intersectionality (e.g. Mollett & Faria 2018; Rodó-de-Zárate & Baylina 2018; Hopkins 2019; Rodó-Zárate 2024).

Yet, as Peter Hopkins (2018) points out, methodological guidance on studying intersectionality remains scarce. While intersectionality has become a widely used concept in geographical research, questions about what methods to use and how to empirically capture its spatiality remain underexplored. A notable exception is Maria Rodó-Zárate (2023; see also Falconer Al-Hindi & Eaves 2023; Sircar 2022), who highlights the importance of deliberately engaging with the lived and emotional experiences of intersectionality and its spatial character. To make these experiences visible, Rodó-Zárate developed the method of Relief Maps, a (digital) tool designed to capture, analyze, and display the spatial and emotional dimensions of social inequalities from an intersectional perspective (Reliefmaps 2025).

This session seeks to further advance feminist and critical engagements with methodological questions concerning how to study the spatial dimension of intersectionality. Contributions may address, among other things, the following:

- Data collection strategies: What methods effectively capture the complexity of intersecting inequalities in space, and what challenges arise?
- Approaches to data analysis: How can we analytically account for the spatial dimensions of oppression and privilege?
- Emotions and affect as methodological entry points: How do emotions like comfort and discomfort reveal intersectional inequalities, and how can they be methodologically incorporated?
- Positionality and reflexivity: How do researchers' identities shape the study of intersectionality, and how can we critically reflect on power dynamics in the research process?

We welcome contributions that are empirical, conceptual, or methodological in nature. Submissions do not have to focus solely on 'methodological successes'; rather, we aim to create a space for collaborative reflection on effective strategies, as well as challenges and unexpected outcomes when empirically exploring the geographies of intersectionality. Moreover, we are happy to receive contributions in both German and English, and from all career levels.

Please send abstracts (maximum 300 words) to [christiane.meyer-habighorst@geo.uzh.ch](mailto:christiane.meyer-habighorst@geo.uzh.ch), [isabella.stingl@uni-heidelberg.de](mailto:isabella.stingl@uni-heidelberg.de) and [nkg@geo.uni-augsburg.de](mailto:nkg@geo.uni-augsburg.de) by May 30, 2025.

## References

- Falconer Al-Hindi, K., & Eaves, L. E. (2023). Feminist research methods and intersectionality: An introduction to the focus section. *The Professional Geographer*, 75(4), 642-647.
- Hopkins, P. (2018). Feminist geographies and intersectionality. *Gender, Place & Culture*, 25(4), 585-590.
- Mollett, S., & Faria, C. (2018). The spatialities of intersectional thinking: fashioning feminist geographic futures. *Gender, Place & Culture*, 25(4), 565-577.
- Reliefmaps (2025). Relief Maps. Online : <https://reliefmaps.upf.edu/> (07.03.2025).
- Rodó-Zárate, M. (2023). Intersectionality and the Spatiality of Emotions in Feminist Research. *The Professional Geographer*, 75(4), 676-681.
- Rodó-Zárate, M. (2024). Geographical dimensions of intersectionality. In *Overlapping Inequalities in the Welfare State: Strengths and Challenges of Intersectionality Framework* (pp. 21-30). Cham: Springer International Publishing.
- Rodó-de-Zárate, M., & Baylina, M. (2018). Intersectionality in feminist geographies. *Gender, Place & Culture*, 25(4), 547-553.
- Sircar, S. (2022). Emplacing intersectionality: autoethnographic reflections on intersectionality as geographic method. *Gender, Place & Culture*, 29(7), 903-922.
- Valentine, G. (2007). Theorizing and researching intersectionality: A challenge for feminist geography. *The professional geographer*, 59(1), 10-21.