

Beyond the « world-object »: questioning the place of temporalities within  
nuclear geographies

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## DESCRIPTION

Reflecting on the terms of post-modern societies' passage from the local to the global, Michel Serres points in 1974 to the responsibility of few so-called "world-objects", understood as tools whose one of the dimensions is comparable to that of the world, among which he identifies nuclear technology. Long duration of the decay of radionuclides present in the residues of nuclear industries and global scope of high-altitude nuclear tests: are the spatial and temporal scales of nuclear technologies so obviously incommensurable? This relationship is actually not that evident.

The ongoing revival of nuclear geographies has shown that interactions between space and nuclear technologies take place at all scales, from the human body to the world, including the home, the zone or the community. Impalpable, invisible and insensible, radioactivity has created "nuclear landscapes" whose limits can't be grasped, while producing very concrete materialities.

Despite its epistemological renewal, this literature as not yet questioned the role of temporalities in shaping the relationships between nuclear technologies and space. Time is, however, an implicit component of all research on nuclear geographies. The production of exclusion zones around nuclear sites is informed by the length of exposure to radioactivity. Constructions of nuclear wastes' disposal are framed by the issue of intergenerational justice. The mapping of emergency planning zones around nuclear power plants are based on models bridging time and space in case of accident. Debates on the heritagization of decommissioned nuclear sites raise questions about which legacies to preserve or to erase. Finally, strategies used by the nuclear industry to strengthen its local social acceptance interrogates its capacities to anchors itself through time in specific spatial settings.

This session invites researchers working on nuclear/space relations to document and formalize the place of temporalities within these interactions. At the same time, while nuclear industry has historically mobilized social sciences for its development, this session will also question the use of geographical knowledge by the atomic complex.

We particularly welcome proposals relating to these seven themes (without being restricted to them):

- Post-nuclear trajectories of spaces after the dismantling of nuclear sites
- The heritagization processes of nuclear territories
- The production of risk zoning around nuclear sites

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- The Evolution of nuclear industry's spatial representations
- Nuclear wastes' disposal and the issues of intergenerational justice and memory management
- Spatial consequences of nuclear policy reversals
- The place of geographers and geographical knowledge in the nuclear industry

## MODALITIES

- **Abstract submission opens:** 16 november 2021 - 11 January 2022
- **Abstract acceptance announcement:** 21 January 2022
- **Conference dates :** 18 - 22 July 2022 (Paris)
- **Abstract must be submitted here :** <https://www.ugiparis2022.org/en/communications-submission/29>
- **Langages :** English or French
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