

CUES at the American Association of Geographers conference on March 18th 2026

Please find below the schedule for the [UCSC Center for Critical Urban and Environmental Studies](#) (CUES) two sessions at this year's American Association of Geographers (AAG) conference in San Francisco — both of which will be on Wednesday, March 18th.

In addition to our two panels, CNS is also sponsoring a CUES social gathering and co-organizing a Radical History Walking Tour of Alcatraz Island. You do not need to be an AAG member or participant to attend either the social gathering or the walking tour. We hope you'll join us for one or both of these events!

PANEL 1 The Santa Cruz School of Political Ecology: Past and Futures 1 — Institutional Histories

Wednesday, March 18 | 12:50 – 2:10 PM | Continental 9, Ballroom Level, Hilton Union Square

Critical urban-environmental research and activism has grown in recent decades, shaped by climate crisis, urbanization, and growing inequality, and often carried out in close dialogue with political struggles within and beyond universities. The University of California, Santa Cruz, has long been associated with such work, from its founding of the journal *Capitalism Nature Socialism* (CNS) to its new Center for Critical Urban and Environmental Studies (CUES). Since UCSC's founding, its faculty have been scholars of the deep entanglements of ecological and social crises and advocates for transdisciplinary, multi-spatial approaches that move beyond technical fixes and inherited categories to confront root causes and advance radical systemic transformation. This discussion reflects on the institutional history of this work.

Panelists:

- Miriam Greenberg, University of California, Santa Cruz
- Brandi Summers, Columbia University
- Julie Guthman, University of California, Santa Cruz
- Erin McElroy, University of Washington

Discussant:

Michael Goldman, University of Minnesota Twin Cities

PANEL 2 The Santa Cruz School of Political Ecology: Past and Futures 2 — New Directions

Wednesday, March 18 | 2:30 – 3:50 PM | Continental 9, Ballroom Level, Hilton Union Square

This paper session (and planned subsequent special issue of *Capitalism Nature Socialism*) seeks to extend UCSC's critical urban and environmental traditions into new places and realms of inquiry, and deepen its engagement with present-day struggles and possibilities.

Presenters:

- Stefan Yong, UC Santa Cruz: "Accumulation Crisis and the Accumulation of Crises: James O'Connor (founding Editor in Chief of Capitalism Nature Socialism published by Taylor and Francis) Between Political Economy and Political Ecology"
- Titas Dutta, Michigan State University: "Green Fortress, Gendered Frontiers: A Critique of Protected Area Displacement in India"
- Henry McLaughlin, University of California, Santa Cruz: "Between Salinas Valley and Silicon Valley: An Urban Political Ecology of Santa Cruz"
- Ritwika Basu, Durham University: "Everyday Antifascism: Moral and Spatial Infrastructures of Resistance in India's Labor Geographies"

Discussant:

Kai Bosworth, Virginia Commonwealth University

CUES SOCIAL EVENT

Wednesday, March 18 | 5:00 PM

Join us for an informal gathering of CUES friends, collaborators, and panel participants to continue the day's conversations in a relaxed setting. This is a great opportunity to connect across institutions, meet new colleagues, and build community around shared commitments

Golden Gate Tap Room, 449 Powell Street, San Francisco

CUES will provide food. RSVP for the social [here](#). Location might change.

RADICAL HISTORY WALKING TOUR OF ALCATRAZ ISLAND

Thursday, March 19 | 9:20 a.m.

Artist, writer, and curator [Martabel Wasserman](#) will facilitate this [group tour of Alcatraz](#) and special lecture on the histories of people's struggles and representations of Alcatraz with participants from CUES and affiliates, in partnership with [Left in the Bay](#) and in conjunction with the AAG meeting.

Ferry departs from Pier 33 at 9:20 AM. CUES will sponsor up to 20 tickets for University of California affiliates who RSVP [here](#) by February 17: