

*Call for Papers: IGC Cologne 2012, 26th – 30th August*

## **Financialisation, marketisation and the environment: Towards ‘alternative’ economic geographies of finance?**

*Session Organisers: Tim Heinemann (HCU Hamburg), Jane Pollard (Newcastle University) and Hans-Martin Zademach (KU Eichstätt-Ingolstadt)*

The global financial crisis sparked a renewed interest of geographers and other social scientist into the nature and the socio-spatial relationships of financial systems. So far, the growing body of literature on finance and financialisation has however paid only little attention to environmental and social concerns. But practices of financialisation and marketisation create serious consequences for the natural and social environment: The markets for CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions and derivatives for natural resources or the privatisation of water, waste and sewage management in municipalities are striking examples. Likewise, the provision of health and other social services is increasingly run by private / publically listed corporations, which are subject to external scrutiny through financial analysts, investors and traders. That is, the provision of environmental goods and social services has become narrowly tied to the forces of financial markets, their logics and marketised modes of governance. Against the backdrop of the financial crisis, these new modes of governance have been brought in question – a questioning, that has both an empirical component (how do these modes of governance work in varying political economic contexts, [how] can they be reformed?) and a normative one (are there alternatives?) and is thus offering fruitful avenues for context- and scale-sensitive geographical work. By means of following these avenues, the session aims to advance the discussions about ‘alternatives’ to concurrent capitalist relations and mainstream practices of finance.

Possible topics for papers might include, but are not limited to:

- Financialisation / marketisation and the environment
- Financialisation / marketisation and daily life
- Financialisation and social exclusion
- Responses to financialisation
- Business ethics in the financial industry
- Moral geographies and social banking
- Ethical / sustainable investments funds
- Geographies of ‘alternative’ economic and financial practices (Islamic banking, micro / sustainable / social finance, LETS etc.)
- Links between capitalist and alternative spaces of finance

Anyone interested in presenting a paper in this session is invited to submit an abstract of up to 250 words to Tim Heinemann ([tim.heinemann@hcu-hamburg.de](mailto:tim.heinemann@hcu-hamburg.de)), Jane Pollard ([jane.pollard@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:jane.pollard@ncl.ac.uk)) and Hans-Martin Zademach ([zademach@ku-eichstaett.de](mailto:zademach@ku-eichstaett.de)) and/or the online registration form at [www.igc2012.org](http://www.igc2012.org) by 15th December 2011.