

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

International Conference

Beyond Infrastructure?

**(Un-)built Environments
in the Anthropocene**

University of Vienna, September 22–24, 2025

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

KEYNOTE LECTURE

SEPTEMBER 22, 2025

Aula am Campus (Hof 1, Room 11),
University of Vienna Campus.

Anthropocene landscapes?

Or, a renewed anthropology of
infrastructure for the current times

A logging road, an abandoned plantation, an artisanal mine, an impromptu factory—these are the erratic features of a shifting landscape. Nearby, other plans unfurl: a new highway, a smart city, a Special Economic Zone. Surrounding it all: war, displacement, and environmental degradation. Those images conjure up an Anthropocene landscape, that is, a landscape steeped not just in development fantasies but punctuated by the relentless fluctuations of extractive booms and busts. Some might label it a frontier. Alessandro Rippa explores it as an extended infrastructure space.

In this keynote lecture, he argues that extended infrastructure space unveils our planetary crises in ways the notion of “frontier” cannot quite capture. It prompts a rethinking through the anthropology of infrastructure, multispecies studies, and scholarship that accounts for the geological in our everyday lives. This perspective steers us away from apocalyptic narratives bound to the Anthropocene, challenging the exceptionality ascribed to frontier spaces.

For those who inhabit these terrains—the disparate communities threading their lives through them—regard this space as ordinary, filled with aspirations, plans, and hopes.

By cultivating this renewed anthropology of infrastructure, Rippa invites us to contemplate both everyday space and (deep) time, as well as spatialities and temporalities that are not only human. This keynote lecture traces a journey across the China-Burma borderlands to examine Anthropocene landscapes as extended infrastructure space.

About the speaker

Alessandro Rippa is Associate Professor at the Department of Social Anthropology at the University of Oslo. His research concerns infrastructure, global circulations, and the environment. He is the PI of the ERC Starting Grant project *Amber Worlds: A Geological Anthropology for the Anthropocene* (2023-2028).

17:30	Doors open
18:00–19:30	Keynote by Alessandro Rippa
19:30–21:00	Reception

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

DAY 1

SEPTEMBER 23, 2025

Department of Social and
Cultural Anthropology, Neues
Institutsgebäude (NIG), 4th Floor,
Universitätsstraße 7, 1010 Vienna.

09:00–10:40	Session 1.1: Mediating Spaces, Shifting Digital Lives	Session 1.2: More- than-Human Entanglements	Session 1.3: Geopolitics and Political Ecology
10:40–11:10	Coffee Break		
11:10–12:50	Session 2.1: Ways of Know- ing, Worlds of Being: Epistemolo- gies and On- tologies in Dialogue	Session 2.2: Infrastruc- turing Energy Transitions	Session 2.3: Scaling Infra- structures: From Emissions to Emotions (Part I)
12:50–14:20	Lunch Break		
14:20–16:00	Session 3.1: Adapting in Urban and Ru- ral Environ- ments	Session 3.2: Mining and Infrastruc- ture or The Built Envi- ronment of Extractivism	Session 3.3: Politics of Dis-connection
16:00–16:30	Coffee Break		
16:30–18:10	Session 4.1: Cultural and Food Prac- tices Across (Un-)built Landscapes	Session 4.2: Infrastruc- turing Cli- mate Futures	Session 4.3: Affective and Sentient In- frastructure

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

DAY 2

SEPTEMBER 24, 2025

Department of Social and
Cultural Anthropology, Neues
Institutsgebäude (NIG), 4th Floor,
Universitätsstraße 7, 1010 Vienna.

09:00–10:40	Session 5.1: Dwelling, Housing, and Place Aban- donment	Session 5.2: Beyond Disposal: Governance, Labor, and Environment	Session 5.3: Practicing Mobility, Rethinking Power
10:40–11:10	Coffee Break		
11:10–12:50	Session 6.1: Form and Space of In- frastructure	Session 6.2: Tracing Hy- drosociali- ties: Between Nature, Politics, and Technology	Session 6.3: Tracing Power, Adapting Loss
12:50–14:20	Lunch Break		
14:20–16:00	Session 7.1: Ruins and In- frastructural Life Cycles	Session 7.2: Scaling In- frastruc- tures: From Emissions to Emotions (Part II)	Session 7.3: Building and Imagining Futures

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

DAY 1

SEPTEMBER 23, 2025

09:00 - 10:40

Session 1.1:

Mediating Spaces, Shifting Digital Lives

- The slow death of state infrastructures: On the platformization of street-corner media (Rivka Ribak)
- Seeing 'Digital' in (Non?)Continuity with Offline Life: Theoretical Perspectives For Locating Computer-Based Structures in Ethnographic Practice (Marco Sassaro)
- Can digital technologies help to overcome the limitations in spatial design of urban spaces? (Paulina Dobroć)
- Telecommunications infrastructure shaping everyday life in the European Arctic (Mirva Salminen)
- An Ecology of Publicly-Funded Federated Social Media: Towards Safe Public Communication? (Mira Schienagel)

Session 1.2:

More-than-Human Entanglements

- Fishy borders and sense-making with salmon: politics of pink salmon removal at Njauddâm and Deatnu rivers (Sunna Kokkonen)
- Forest-Water Coordination at Infrastructural Margins: The Making of "Wiener Wasser" as More-than-Human Infrastructural Work (Paul Katterl)
- From Svalbard to Ellesmere Island: A Journey of a Fox in Solitude (Rojda Tuğrul)
- Linear Infrastructures and their More-than-Human Ripple Effects (Zachary Caple & Pierre du Plessis)
- Geopolitics of (un)built environments: from infrastructural (de)territorialisation to the (de)territorialisation of infrastructure (Vesa Väättänen)

Session 1.3:

Geopolitics and Political Ecology

- Facing geopolitical turmoil through planned or promised infrastructures: The case of Canada (Giuseppe Amatulli)
- Chipping away at the monolith: reframing the Valle di Lei cross-border dam (Stella De Luca & Isabella Traeger)
- Conjuring the effects of the unbuilt: the Pucallpa – Cruzeiro do Sul infrastructure project (Pilar Delpino Marimon)
- Forecasting at the End of the World: Polar Shipping and the Production of the Future (Jacob Bolton)
- Polar frontiers, polar orbits: The vertiginous rise of Arctic commercial spaceports (Mia Bennett)

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

DAY 1

SEPTEMBER 23, 2025

11:00 - 12:50

Session 2.1:

Ways of Knowing, Worlds of Being: Epistemologies and Ontologies in Dialogue

- Cosmologies in More-than-Human Research: Bridging STS and Amerindian Perspectivism to Inquire the Natures (That) Cultures Give Rise To (João Fernandez Pereira)
- Ice as an Epistemic Framework: Infrastructural Toxicity and the More-than-Human Turn (Annouchka Bayley, Delfina Fantini van Ditmar, and Jennifer Schooling)
- Ontological infrastructures of extractivism: Supporting (un-)‘sustainable’ commodities for Global Supply Chains (María Soledad Paz)
- Geoengineering in Iceland: Infrastructural Ontology and Moving Beyond the “Natural/Artificial” Divide (Cody Skahan)
- The Apocalyptic Blaze: Reckoning with Fire, Destruction, and Unsettled Futures (Cecilia Vasquez & Aaron Gregory)

Session 2.2:

Infrastructuring Energy Transitions

- ‘Pending’: Navigating renewable energy, futures, and ‘not-yet-built’ wind farms in the Faroe Islands (Róisín Kennelly)
- Between Development and the Green Transition: Towards Sustainable Arctic Infrastructure? (Olga Povoroznyuk)
- The ‘not yet’ of a post-Arctic peninsula (Janike Kampevold Larsen)
- Agricultural Infrastructure and the Transition to Renewable Energy in a Desert Farming Community (Liron Shani)
- You have bats in your ‘spouw’ – Repurposing the Dutch housing infrastructure for the energy transition by constructing with bats (Lucas Brunet)

Session 2.3:

Scaling Infrastructures: From Emissions to Emotions (Part I)

- Adverse incidents and management in northern areas: Case studies from the Norwegian-Barents Sea Region (Erik Henriksen)
- An oasis in the desert. Khorgos: Infrastructure without completeness, environment without borders (Francesco Carota, Sofia Leoni & Michele Bonino)
- Mapping and weighing global terrestrial infrastructures: implications for resource demand (Helmut Haberl, André Baumgart, Jan Streeck, Fridolin Krausmann & Dominik Wiedenhofer)
- Green Infrastructure for Blue Economies: Risk, Matters of Care, and the State (W. Alex Webb, E. Christian Wells, Rebecca Zarger & Maya Trotz)
- In the Land of the Giants: Weird Infrastructure in Canada’s Oil Sands (Clinton Westman)

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SEPTEMBER 23, 2025

14:20 - 16:00

Session 3.1:

Adapting in Urban and Rural Environments

- Heat in the Air: The Role of “Colourless” Infrastructure in Exposure and Adaptation to Urban Heat (Franciszek Chwałczyk)
- Re-imagining Infrastructures: Planning Sustainable Futures for Peripheral Towns (Kasper Albrechtsen & Anne Mette Boye)
- Urban nature as critical infrastructure: examples from Finland (Hannah Strauss-Mazzullo)
- Unsettled at Sea: Offshore Renewable Energy and the Social Life of Infrastructural Experimentation (Marianna Betti)
- The Gift of the Abandoned Frontier: Fireweed and the Rhythms of Recolonization (Rusana Novikova)

Session 3.2:

Mining and Infrastructure, or The Built Environment of Extractivism

- (Un)built Arctic Deep Sea: Imagining Mineral Extraction (Marta Gentilucci)
- Cryospheric Challenges: A Comparative Look at Arctic and Alpine Infrastructural Environments (Peter Schweitzer)
- Thinking infrastructurally about mining practices in Shukruti (Marije Nieuwland)
- (Un)Gardening: Reframing Mining Landscapes and Infrastructures (Anna-Lena Müller)
- Dis-continuing coal mining infrastructures with more-than-human mobilities (Eva Kotašková)

Session 3.3:

Politics of Dis-connection

- “Unpaved Arteries”: The Social Consequences of Roads in Nome, Alaska (Alex Griffin)
- Phantom Infrastructure? Environment, Politics and Futures of Unfinished Bay Bridge in Taiwanese Contested Archipelagic Borderlands of Kinmen (Chengyu Yang)
- The Broken Promise of Connection: Solitary Road and the Unfinished Infrastructures of the Anthropocene (Tarja Salmela)
- (Un)built roads and waterways in the Alps: economic interests and demanding materiality (Margareth Lanzinger)
- Transborder Roads and Mobility Control: The Borderwork of Infrastructure across the Eastern Indo-Nepal Border (Mélanie Vandenhelesken)

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

DAY 1

SEPTEMBER 23, 2025

16:30 - 18:10

Session 4.1:

Cultural and Food Practices Across (Un-)built Landscapes

- A field can be a wall (Lucas Rinzema & Jim van der Steege)
- Biodiversity by Design: Experimenting with Agricultural Infrastructures (Pieter Lagerwaard)
- Fish, Feathers, and the Limits of the Law: The Rampart Dam Controversy and U.S.-Canada Industrial Politics in an Age of Transition, ca. 1950-1965 (Andreas Mentrup-Womelsdorf)
- Patchy Deliveries and Seasonal Foodscapes: Provisioning of the Chukotkan Regional Hub, Russian Arctic (Elena Davydova)
- Dynamics of Built and Unbuilt Infrastructure through Cultural Extensions (Michael D. Fischer & Sally A. Applin)

Session 4.2:

Infrastructuring Climate Futures

- Biomass Energy, Work and Nature Restoration: The Forest as an Infrastructure to Reshape the Landscape in Times of Climatic Emergence. The Case of Vall de Lord (Paolo Macrì Antkiewicz)
- Future-oriented imaginaries of island life, environment, and infrastructure in Finland (Erika Takahashi & Kirsi Sonck-Rautio)
- Infrastructures of Risk Management (Felix Ansmann)
- Planning for Doomsday: The Ike Dike that Isn't Yet (Nataya Friedan)

Session 4.3:

Affective and Sentient Infrastructure

- Listening as Intangible Infrastructure: Countering Over-generational Amnesia in Arctic Environments (Kimmo Hokkanen)
- "For the Love of Nabucco!": Affective Excess for an Unbuilt Fossil Gas Pipeline Project (Bilge Firat)
- 'I Hear the Sea': Local Lived Experiences of Disaster Mitigation Infrastructure in Northeast Tōhoku (Jesse Bia)
- Speculative Connectivities: Caring for the Future across the Strait of Messina (Sabrina Stallone)
- Walking-with cracks: un-making infrastructures for imagining otherwise (Kate Monson)

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

DAY 2

SEPTEMBER 24, 2025

09:00 - 10:40

Session 5.1:

Dwelling, Housing, and Place Abandonment

- Detachedwhere: Inhabiting Finnish Wilderness Cabins to Reimagine Infrastructures (Mari-Sohvi Miettinen)
- Abandoned places considered from a Heideggerian framework (Diana Paula Fuhr)
- Unbecoming beasts: The agency of unbuilt infrastructures across time and space (Beril Ocaklı, Gretchen Bakke & Timothy Moss)
- (Un)building Sanitary Infrastructures: Composting Toilets for Living in a Damaged World (Natalia Picaroni Sobrado)
- Urban infrastructure, the housing right, and everyday life in Brazilian favelas (Isabelle Chagas)

Session 5.2:

Beyond Disposal: Governance, Labor, and Environment

- Unbuilt Futures, Paper Realities: Waste infrastructure and bureaucratic aspirations in a small Indian city (Aishwarya Mukhopadhyay)
- Women Informal Waste Collectors' Adaptation Experience to Jatibarang Landfill Infrastructure (Alberta Prabarini, Nabilah Rifdha Elmira & Reza Arlianda)
- Backwater Urbanism: Amphibious infrastructures and the politics of opacity in Kochi, India (Matt Barlow)
- Technopolitics of Infrastructure Transitions: Managing Water and Waste in Southern Belize (E. Christian Wells & W. Alex Webb)
- Unbuilt Landfills: Social and Geographical Influences on Waste Management in Remote Alaskan Villages (Kaori Ishii, Go Iwahana & Kumiko Nakano)

Session 5.3:

Practicing Mobility, Rethinking Power

- Infrastructural Sovereignty and the Social Life of Transport: Ethnographic Insights from Northern Manitoba, Canada (Philipp Budka)
- Moving around the north: Migration in Greenland and the Faroe Islands (Timothy Heleniak)
- Thinking Infrastructure: Local Perspectives on the Fehmarnbelt Tunnel (Ute Hablesreiter)
- Unexceptional Infrastructures and the Changing Intimacies of Travel in the Arctic (Sophie Elixhauser & Susan Vanek)
- Walking against the grain of infrastructure: Gender and infrastructural subversion in Karachi (Aseela Haque)

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

DAY 2

SEPTEMBER 24, 2025

11:10 - 12:50

Session 6.1:

Form and Space of Infrastructure

- When Infrastructure Becomes Architecture: Crisis, Cosmopolitics and Latent Forms (María Páez González & Brendon Carlin)
- 'Defence Before Beauty'? Infrastructure and the operational landscape of Fylingdales early warning station (Richard Brook & Luca Csepley-Knorr)
- Cracks in the Glass Wall. From Connection to Collision with the More-Than-Human World (Noemi Quagliati)
- Vernacular architecture in the Anthropocene: Resilience, adaptation and abandonment in the Himalayas (Hubert Feiglstorfer & Calum Blaikie)
- Indigenous architecture in South Asia (India) and the blend of cultural with the spatial (Subhadra Mitra Channa)

Session 6.2:

Tracing Hydrosocialities: Between Nature, Politics, and Technology

- From Reservoir to Farm: A story of human(e) infrastructures (Francesca Romana Dell'Aglio)
- Infrastructural Landscapes: Everyday Life, Maintenance, and Water Supply Management (Anna Lehr Mueser)
- Making Watershed Worlds: Environmental Infrastructure and Watershed-based Management in Cleveland, Ohio (Magnus Olav Nyaas Ravnå)
- 'Amorphous' infrastructure and 'slow' resistance to long-proposed hydropower dams and water diversions in Southeast Asia's Salween River Basin (Zali Fung)

Session 6.3:

Tracing Power, Adapting Loss

- Future Audition: in the Offing (Julian Weaver)
- Landscape of Atomic Optimism (Peter Williams)
- The Materiality of Deletion and Infrastructural Flow: Assemblages of Nucleic Acid Testing Booths in Post-Pandemic China (Xu Li & Yuan Yuan)
- Fort Churchill: Social Adaptation to Military Infrastructure and its Loss (Roland M. Sawatzky & Matthew S. Wiseman)

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

DAY 2

SEPTEMBER 24, 2025

14:20 - 16:00

Session 7.1:

Ruins and Infrastructural Life Cycles

- From Fish Nets to Feedback Loops: Circular Transitions and the Temporal Dimensions of Infrastructure in Norwegian Aquaculture (Rasa Zuzeviciute)
- From gravel pits to wetlands: biodiversity refuges on infrastructural ruins (Ander Achotegui-Castells & Maria Coma-Santasusana)
- From Polluters to Climate Solutionists: Leveraging Teesside's Industrial Heritage for a Green Industrial Transition (Jay Sinclair)
- Opportunity's aftermath (Evelina Gambino)
- Ruderal Futures: Scrap Metal, Infrastructural Decay, and Precarious Ecologies in Post-Soviet Georgia (Esma Berikishvili)

Session 7.2:

Scaling Infrastructures: From Emissions to Emotions (Part II)

- Migrant and Tourist Infrastructures on Land and at Sea: Nature Tourism in the North of Iceland (Magda Kopańska)
- A critical reframing of extrastatecraft infrastructuralisation in the Strait of Sicily (Isabella Traeger)
- Bubbles of the Earth. Place, Accident and the Counter-plan in Bangkok (Andrew Johnson & Daena Funahashi)
- Chemical Infrastructures of the Anthropocene (Lenka Veselá)

Session 7.3:

Building and Imagining Futures

- The Panama Canal as speculative 'green infrastructure': calculating carbon-negative futures (Áron Rossman-Kiss)
- Futurity and aspiration: imaginations of crisis response and future directions for humanitarian engagement in fiction and art (Bram J. Jansen)
- From global trends to local realities: A multi-scale scenario-building methodology for community infrastructure planning (Nikita Strelkovskii, et al.)
- Imagining (and Imaging) the Planet: Earth Observation Infrastructures and Anthropological Opportunities (Michael Anranter)
- Infrastructuring the Good Life in Divtasvuodna/Tysfjord, Northern Norway (Èva Cossette-Laneville)

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