Session proposal for NGS Konferanse, 26.-27. November 2025

**Contested Grounds: Geographies of Land and Resource Governance**

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Land is becoming increasingly scarce and contested globally. Growing needs for food and energy production, infrastructure development, and urban expansion are intensifying competition over use, access, and control. These pressures are compounded by global goals for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem preservation, while land degradation undermines productive land use, further exacerbating scarcity. Climate change introduces additional uncertainties, reshaping patterns of potential land use and adding uncertainty and a potential for conflict. Together, these dynamics create a contested terrain where diverse actors struggle over increasingly scarce and valuable resources.

This session seeks to explore the multifaceted tensions and negotiations shaping access to and control over land and resources. We welcome submissions addressing competing claims to land and natural resources, struggles over their use, access, control, and governance, as well as broader societal structures, power dynamics, and inequalities that underpin these patterns and conflicts.

Contributions are also invited on the patterns, drivers, and effects of land use and land cover change. Research that bridges environmental, social, economic, and political dimensions or employs multi-methods approaches is particularly encouraged. Submissions may range from conceptual to empirical studies and from area-wide quantitative analyses to qualitative political economy/political ecology guided case studies.

The session is featured by the Political Ecology and Environmental Governance Research Group at NTNU’s Department of Geography and Social Anthropology and the Environment, Sustainability and Governance research group at NTNU’s Department of Sociology and Political Science.

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