Nik Heynen

University of Georgia

Monday, February 28: 12:00 – 1:00 pm ET
Virtual via Zoom: Click here for link to Zoom meeting

The Longue Durée of Abolition: Abolishing Hunger and Racial Terror in New Orleans and Beyond

This paper is about the ongoing struggle for anti-hunger politics in the face of the racial terror that it produces in New Orleans. Thinking through the Black Geographic logics of diasporic connection and solidarity, I will explore abolition geography as a way to sketch historical connections, starting with the Haitian Revolution, that brought abolition to the Western Hemisphere. Using these connections as a base, I will continue to think about the ways that struggles for abolition are still present today in New Orleans. As a way in, I will invoke the figure of John Brown and think out loud about how a politics of menace offer white folks an inroad to abolitionist geographies.

Nik Heynen is a Distinguished Research Professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Georgia and a Visiting Scholar in Food Studies at Spelman College. His research interests include abolition geography/ecology and social movement theory with specific interests in environmental and food politics. His main research foci relate to the analysis of how social power relations, including class, race and gender are inscribed in the transformation of nature/space.

Ostrom Workshop
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