

## REFLECTIONS II: PHILOSOPHIES

### **FORM, STYLE AND THE POETICS OF KNOWLEDGE: TURBULENT TIMES AND CONCEPTS IN HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHICAL WRITING**

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This talk explores the relationships between form, style, and philosophies of temporality in geographical writing. We are seeing a significant growth of interest in geographical writing that experiments with form and style. Such writing raises the issue of how social scientists translate unruly experience into authoritative text (Clifford & Marcus, 1986). It also raises the question of what Jacques Ranciere calls the poetics of knowledge: the literary devices through which a discourse gives itself the status of authoritative knowledge; or the ways in which a discourse that lays claim to knowledge arranges a place for itself in a space of tension between scientific, literary, and political authority. Much recent writing on space, place and landscape offers a refreshing stream of work that experiments with form in order to express aspects of life that evade or exceed conventional representation. Experiments with form and style do not necessarily escape, evade, challenge, or subvert authority. But they do offer opportunities to foreground and reflect upon a text's claims to authoritative discourse. Historical geographical writing occupies a distinctive and important place within this field. In this talk, I work through these ideas via a discussion of a project on experimental ways of writing the historical geographies of sand mining in Hong Kong, in order to question the relations between form, affect, and turbulent spatio-temporalities.

#### **40 Years of HPGRG – Looking back and looking forward**

A one-day symposium of the History and Philosophy of Geography Research Group (HPGRG) of the Royal Geographical Society with the Institute of British Geographers (RGS-IBG), Tuesday, 7 September 2021 on Microsoft Teams