

Dimensions of Political Ecology (DOPE+) Conference

February 22 – 24, 2024

University of Kentucky | Lexington, Kentucky, USA

The University of Kentucky Political Ecology Working Group invites you to participate in the Thirteenth Annual Dimensions of Political Ecology Conference (DOPE), to be held from Thursday, February 22nd to Sunday, February 24th, 2024, in Lexington, Kentucky, USA.

Since its origin in 2009, DOPE has been centered around decolonial, feminist, and critical scholarship and activism. DOPE has always engaged scholars and activists from a wide range of backgrounds, whether they identify as political ecologists or not. As we navigate the crises of racial capitalism and settler colonialism, it is essential that we continue to bring together folks working on multiple ecologies: queer, feminist, Indigenous, Black, more-than-human, etc. Therefore, we are calling this year's conference DOPE+, with the explicit intention of bringing together diverse scholars, activists, and community members to share methods, ideas, art, and activism with one another. This year's conference will continue DOPE's long tradition of creating a space for participants to foster praxes of radical care, abundance, reciprocity, and interculturality.

Call for Organized Sessions

We invite you to contribute to the intellectual vitality and continued success of the conference by organizing a session for DOPE+ 2024. An organized session is an excellent opportunity to present a group of similarly focused presentations on a wide variety of topics and in a wide variety of formats. The conference is open to any topical, theoretical, or methodological framework that brings together scholarship on the ecological dimensions of political, social, and economic research, as well as the social aspects of natural sciences. A session may take many forms: panel, roundtable, workshop, or another form as appropriate and should be no more than 100 minutes in length. We are also offering the option for sessions to take place in-person, hybrid, or online. Graduate students and junior faculty are particularly invited to organize sessions. **Proposals are especially welcome from historically underrepresented groups and on topics relating to this year's theme, *Creating From Crisis*.**

About this year's theme, *Creating From Crisis*

For over a decade, DOPE has been cultivated by the energy, support, resources, critiques, contexts, and insurgent ideas brought into this space by participants at home in Kentucky as well as those from all over the world. Yet, the conference has also been altered by countless interwoven layers of global and local crises.

The last few years have challenged the organizing collective itself to find ways to "create from crisis" and build alternative forms of intellectual engagement and creative community collaboration. This has also meant engaging with how these opportunities can perpetuate crises through increased COVID transmission, carbon emissions, and student labor burnout.



The newly reconsidered DOPE+ is an acknowledgement of the ever-increasing tensions between harm and recovery, scarcity and abundance, embrace and relinquishment. It foregrounds the desire to curate student-led and community-facing opportunities for knowledge exchange and more-than-human connection, grounded in the possibilities held by political ecology.

We find ourselves in what seems to be an era of crises, where one set of needs are constantly being placed in direct competition with another. These contradictions, and their naming as “crisis” threaten to invoke numbness in the face of a seemingly terminal future, or fear-based, reactionary responses - a salvific model of ecological control that is tied to the same impulses as the actions that led us to collapse in the first place. “The politics of cure, like the ecology of restoration, is a double-edged sword” (Ray and Sibaro).

Crisis is not a temporary state that is addressed and resolved upon in its every new arrival. Nor is it some final horizon that we must desperately scramble to avoid. Crises are neither behind us nor ahead of us - rather, they are always already here. To create from crisis requires us to inhabit crisis time and actively acknowledge that things are always already ending and already adapting all around us. To accept precarity as the permanent condition of our time involves an understanding of our individual and collective vulnerability (Tsing). Yet, with crisis also comes rethinking, hope, solidarity, abolition, resistance, mutual aid, creative community practice, and radical care.

How do we understand, live with, experience, exploit, navigate, resist, and research crises and our responses to them? How does political ecology help us “embrace the ethical and practical demands posed by the multiple endings that condition our experience of the everyday” (Ensor) and *create from crisis*?

Guidelines and Suggestions for Session Organizers

1. Fill out this [Google Form](#) with information about the title of the session, type of session, names, affiliation and e-mail address of up to three organizers, session abstract (300-word limit), keywords, and other relevant information. We ask that you be as detailed as possible and complete this information by no later than **November 3, 2023**.
2. When planning, remember that each session should be no more than 100 minutes long. While we welcome conventional paper sessions, we also encourage organizers to consider poster sessions, workshops, roundtables, lightning talks, or other session styles.
3. [Register](#) for the conference by the priority registration deadline, **December 15, 2023**.
4. Each DOPE+ participant may present in one session and also serve as a discussant or panelist in ONE additional session. We ask that participants limit themselves to two conference activities.
5. Following the **November 3** deadline, DOPE+ organizers will announce a call for papers. Abstract submitters will then have the opportunity to view and select the organized session(s) that they wish to submit their proposals to. We will reach out to session organizers by **December 15** with the abstract proposals pertaining to your session. We are happy to assist you in any way as you organize your sessions, so please reach out with any questions at ukpewg@gmail.com.



Possible Session Formats

Paper session: Authors orally present the findings of a prepared paper or project. A paper session typically includes 4 to 5 presentations of 15-20 minutes each, including time for questions. Chair(s) should allow enough time for general questions and open discussion following the presentations.

Poster session: The presentation of research in the form of a poster illustrating their methods and outcomes. Poster sessions are more inclusive than paper sessions and generally involve a less structured format. They also provide many more opportunities for discussion and networking.

Roundtable: A roundtable is an invitation-based session. These sessions focus on a specific topic, or scholarly work, and feature a selection of scholars (established and emerging) who engage in a discussion.

Workshop: Workshops are subject-focused sessions that provide participants the opportunity to gain knowledge and learn skills together. This can range from professional development topics, such as teaching strategies, to timely theoretical topics. Presenters of workshops can lead participants through different interactive activities, including discussions, hands-on-activities, simulations, demonstrations, and the exploration and application of models. Workshops can either be led by a single presenter or have multiple presenters providing different perspectives on the same topic.

Lightning talk symposium: Lightning talks are non-traditional short-form talks (similar to a three-minute thesis) in which each speaker gets five minutes and must use a limited number of PowerPoint slides.

•Sessions of any other kind with a clear, specific and coherent rationale are welcome.

Registration

Priority registration is now open at <https://forms.as.uky.edu/dope-registration-2024> and will close on **December 15, 2023**.

Please send any questions you may have to the DOPE+ Organizers at ukpewg@gmail.com.

Follow us on Twitter at [@DOPEUKY](https://twitter.com/DOPEUKY) or on Facebook as the [University of Kentucky Political Ecology Working Group](https://www.facebook.com/UniversityofKentuckyPoliticalEcologyWorkingGroup). We also encourage you to visit our website: www.politialecology.org

