

POLLEN 2024: Call for panel abstracts

Meaty Futures: Political ecologies of meat and meat alternatives

Chairs: Arve Hansen and Sango Mahanty

Abstract:

Globally, more than 80 billion animals are slaughtered each year to meet the growing demand for meat. The average consumer now eats twice as much meat as they did in the 1960s. This meatification of diets is enabled by a globally connected meat complex (Weis 2013), with spatially differentiated production/consumption systems and entrenched inequalities. Meatification is a Green Revolution 2.0, ramping up long-standing environmental and justice questions while introducing new challenges for land justice, animal welfare, toxicity, zoonotic disease and climate change. Alternative proteins such as plant-based and lab grown meat are key alternatives to meatification as we know it, but bring their own dilemmas. As such, meat is a crucial window into the political ecology of contemporary food systems.

This panel will advance the recent wave of research on meat, broadly defined, to assess the scope for more plural and just alternatives. Key themes include:

- 'Meat as method' - what novel insights can be gained through meat as a lens into the political ecology of food systems?
- The geographies of meat and meat alternatives - how do production/consumption systems operate across social and political-economic settings?
- What prospects and challenges exist for alternatives to current meat production and consumption?

Please submit your abstracts to arve.hansen@sum.uio.no and sango.mahanty@anu.edu.au by **25 November 2023**.

Details for POLLEN 2024 are available [here](#). This panel will be held live at the Lund venue, with scope for hybrid participation if needed.