

## Call for Papers

19<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference  
The International Association for the Study of Environment, Space, and Place

Christopher Newport University  
Newport News, VA  
April 26-28, 2024

Conference Theme

### ***Homecoming:*** **Explorations across Land, Sea, and Space**

*Homecoming* is typically understood as involving celebration and joy. It implies a journey or rite of passage, as when we have been away for a long time and return to friends and family. It also implies a spatial and temporal event. One moves across one space to another space. There is an adventure, voyage, exploration. One thinks of Odysseus's journey, the astronaut, the seasonal migrations of birds, the cyclical peregrinations of indigenous populations. But one might also think of the work-trip, the vacation, or the spiritual event. What is this liminal space-time act? If we are not already home, then where are we? And where will we be after? Do we ever arrive? What is the home that is yet to come?

It becomes clear that to reconsider the event of *homecoming* is simultaneously to rethink the concept of *home*. What is home? Is it a natural place, a cultural space, a physical dwelling, a political territory, a feeling, an imaginary or artistic representation? Humans are not the only beings with homes. Plants, animals, and rivers migrate, nest, and/or occupy homelands. Who or what, then, has a home? Moreover, we live in an age when a vast portion of the population is referred to as *homeless*, unhoused, or as living in temporary spaces. Indeed, the event of *making a home* often involves taking away someone or something else's home (e.g., colonial, environmental, juridical, and economic [de]territorialization). What does it mean, then, to *take* a home, *give* a home, or *share* a home? Is it ever possible to *come home* without violence?

This interdisciplinary conference seeks to explore a wide range of questions related to this theme of *homecoming*. We invite papers from any discipline dealing with this theme. Potential topics include, but are not limited to:

- Hero's Journey
- Nautical Voyage
- Road Trip
- Outer Space Colonization
- Animal Migration
- Immigration/Emigration
- Home, Gender, Sexuality, and/or Race
- Mythical Homes
- Tent Cities and Transient Homes
- Hospitality and Tourism Studies
- Work/Home Spaces
- Public/Private Homes
- Homecoming and Schools/Sport
- Postcolonialism and Decolonization
- Homelessness and Unhoused
- Natural/Environmental Homes
- Artistic Representations of Home
- Habitat Loss
- Borderlands
- Human/Nature Interface
- Territory Conflict
- Ex-patriotism
- Urban Planning
- Subsidized Housing
- Redlining
- Exile and Eviction

Please send abstracts (Word or PDF) of 300 words or less by Feb. 7, 2024 to: [paddockt1@southernct.edu](mailto:paddockt1@southernct.edu)

Please send any other questions to the local contact: [joe.balay@cnu.edu](mailto:joe.balay@cnu.edu)