

Fourth International and Interdisciplinary Conference on Emotional Geographies
1-3 July 2013 at the University of Groningen, The Netherlands

Emotional geographies of the coast. Living with the sea, tides, and vulnerable coastlines in the climate change era.

Convenors: Owain Jones and Bettina Van Hoven

The coast is where the land stops and the seas and oceans start. An obvious point - but one of great significance for terrestrial beings for whom water is an alien element. This presents human (and non-human) communities with all manner of fundamental physical, social, cultural and economic challenges and opportunities. Coasts are powerfully affective margins because they are where we confront the enigma that is the oceans. Those with high (macro) tidal ranges, and/or those vulnerable to erosion, inundation and facing climate change induced sea level rise, are mobile, and turbulent and subject to a series of rhythmic and novel changes on time scales that range between the hourly, the monthly the seasonal and beyond. Emotions are fluidly mobile. They flow through and over us, can wash us away - can flood and ebb in the body and in collectives of bodies like a tide in complex rhythms - become turbulent, then calm.- or even a storm surge they can unsettle a body. The emotive registers of coastal experiences are multiple, ranging from the joys of holiday making to the profound dread of losing ones' home(land) through coastal erosion. Between these 'extremes' are a whole host of emotionally charged practices which include terrestrial and marine based recreation, on and offshore power generation schemes, coastal management consultations and decision making. As sites of emotional epiphany (tidal) coasts have long been the focus of artistic muse in terms of literature, sculpture, painting and performance.

This session seeks to explore any of the topics related to emotional geographies of the coast mentioned above.

Please send abstracts of approx 300 words to Owain (ojones@GLOS.AC.UK) and Bettina (b.van.hoven@rug.nl) by January 11th 2013.