a critical cartography summer school

# Redrawing space/s

Hamburg
25.-29.8.2026

keynote:

# Feminist cartographies, feminist futures

by sarah elwood

Wednesday, 26.08.26
6.15 pm - 7.45 pm (CEST)

In Person:
Lecutre Hall ESA Ost 221
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Digital:
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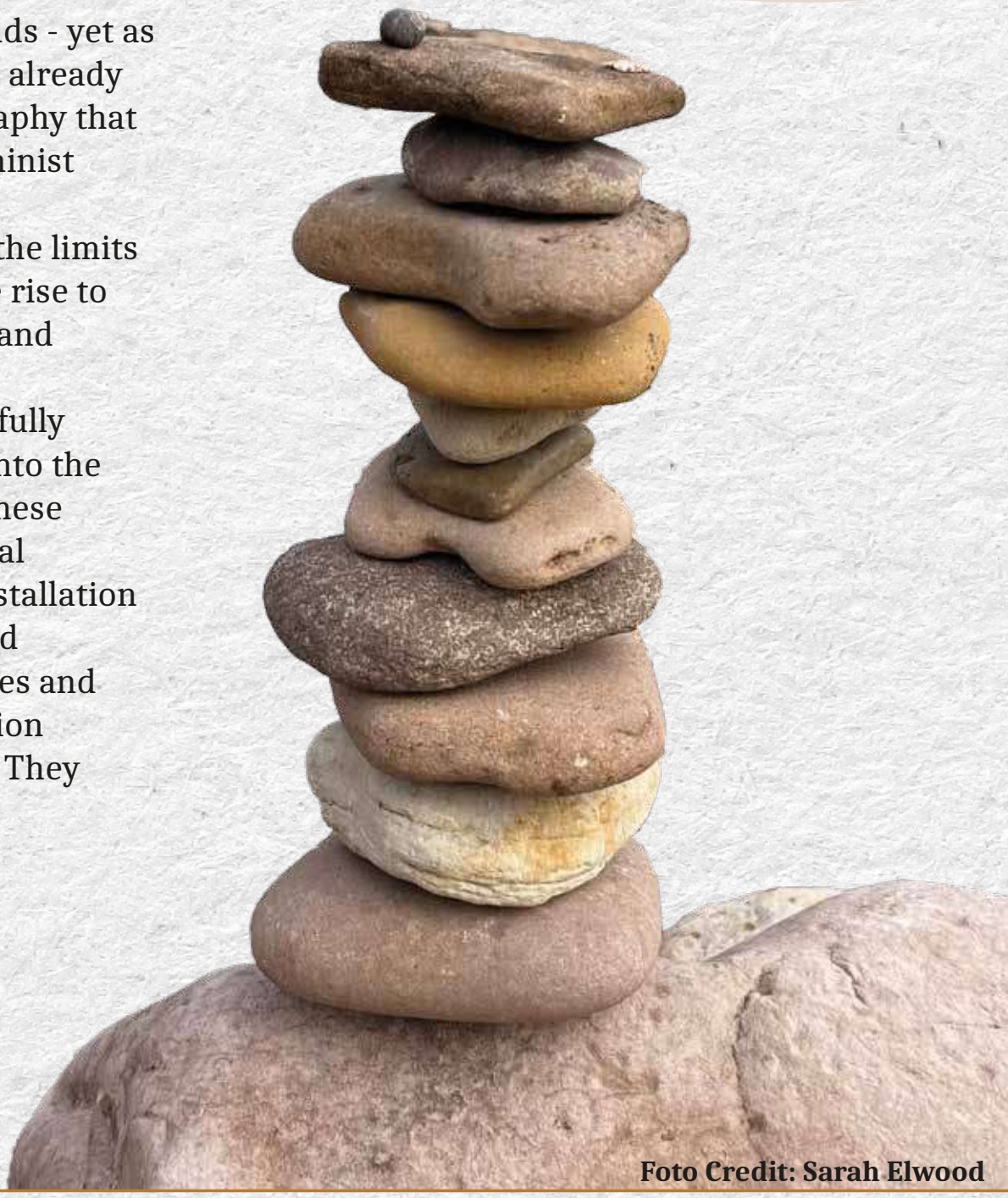
I begin from the premise that ‘critical’ cartographies have always been an intersectional feminist project, thinking and doing cartography at the crossroads of feminist, postcolonial and Marxist critiques of science, vision, and representation; the structural and ideological relations between technology, media, and political economy; and the entanglements of Western cartography in projects of extraction, dispossession and genocide.
Feminist cartographies’ creative innovation and insurgent politics have dramatically transformed the possibilities of cartographic praxis in academic and activist worlds - yet as I will argue here, more is possible, necessary and already underway! This paper traces framings of cartography that originate in Black, Indigenous and decolonial feminist thought, teasing out how these framings center epistemological-political relations that overspill the limits of much antecedent critical cartography, and give rise to profoundly different forms of critique, creativity and ethical relations in cartographic praxis.
We can continue building a capacious and powerfully transformative feminist cartography by leaning into the epistemological-political frameworks on which these traditions are founded, and learning from a radical repertoire of counter-atlas projects, emplaced installation and performance mappings, and digital-embodied cartographies. I argue these feminist cartographies and their attendant data, visual, archival and inscription practices are a vital practice of feminist futuring: They cultivate life-affirming sociospatial relations for structurally oppressed groups for whom the future has never been assured.



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