

Geography Days, Tampere University
Keynote lecture, Thursday 3 November at 11:15 (Pinni B1100 auditorium)

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Shockwaves

Abstract: This lecture traces the immediate and diffused effects of violent perturbations to urban life across contexts not commonly brought into relation: those of protracted urban conflict and terrorist attacks in cities otherwise considered peaceful. The notion of atmosphere, conceived by human geographers as a spatial expression of shared felt experiences involving human and nonhuman agencies, is considered here as an epistemological terrain to think through four moments, from protracted urban conflict in the Middle East to urban terrorism in Western Europe. The narration connects the lived experiences of street-level armed clashes in Lebanese cities, the materialities and diffused traumas surrounding one of the biggest non-nuclear explosions in history in the port of Beirut, the war-like experiences of counterterror raids in Paris, and the visceral afterlives of two phosphorous-infused bombs in the centre of Birmingham. Atmosphere as spatialised felt experience is posited as a crucial level of empirical enquiry that displaces accepted analytical boundaries and instead traces connections between protracted armed conflict and ‘one-off’ events of (counter)terrorism.