Topographies Seminar Series Presents:

"Peatlands through the lens: Tracking ecological change through community science"

Abstract:
Seasonal changes in peatland vegetation can shape how these ecosystems absorb and release carbon, yet documenting these changes across diverse landscapes remains a challenge. PeatColours brings together ecological research and community (citizen) science to explore when, how and why peatland vegetation changes through the year. This talk places the project within my broader research on wetland resilience, before exploring how repeat photographs can reveal seasonal patterns and differences across peatland types. Drawing on an international network, including a growing project in Québec, I will discuss the scientific opportunities and practical challenges of building a shared photographic record of peatlands. I will also consider how participation in environmental monitoring can create opportunities for people to observe and engage with these changing landscapes.



Biography:
Scott J. Davidson is an Assistant Professor in the Département des sciences biologiques at Université du Québec à Montréal, where he leads the Wetland Resilience Research Group and co-holds the Québec research chair CARCLIQUE focused on understanding wetlands in Québec as nature-based climate solutions. His research examines how wetlands respond to environmental change and what these responses mean for carbon storage and greenhouse gas exchange. Working across temperate, boreal and Arctic landscapes, he studies the effects of wildfire, land use and permafrost thaw, alongside seasonal changes in vegetation. He leads PeatColours, an international community science project that uses repeat photography to track wetland vegetation change. Originally from Scotland, he completed his PhD at the University of Sheffield, UK and previously held a lectureship in ecosystem resilience at the University of Plymouth, UK.

Wednesday, November 25th, 2026
2:30pm - 4:00pm, Loeb A220
Carleton University
In-Person, All Welcome

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The Geography and Environmental Studies Departmental Seminar Series is committed to accessibility for persons with disabilities. Please send requests for accommodation to Nika.Linseman@Carleton.ca