

## Call for Papers

# Post-Extractive Visualities

*The Annual Conference of the Centre for Visual Arts and Culture (CVAC)*

15–16 June 2026

Durham University, Durham, UK

The Centre for Visual Arts and Culture (CVAC) invites paper submissions for *Post-Extractive Visualities*, a two-day interdisciplinary conference exploring how visual practices shape, contest, document, and imagine extractive worlds. As extraction continues to transform ecologies, cultures, landscapes, and relations, new visual methods and critical frameworks are needed to understand both extractive pasts and post-extractive imaginaries.

This conference embraces creative, cross-disciplinary, and multisensory approaches. We particularly welcome work that challenges conventional visual vocabularies of extraction, experiments with alternative modes of sensing and representation, or explores how visibility itself can act as an extractive force.

**Themes may include, but are not limited to:**

- **Landscapes, Time, and Post-Extractive Regions**  
Regeneration, ruins, rewilding, slowed or accelerated temporalities, 200-year landscapes, historic mining regions, alternative periodisations of extraction and remediation.
- **Visual Cultures of Extraction**  
Extractive aesthetics; visualities of embodied extraction, documenting traces; photography, drone imaging, and AI-mediated landscapes; industrial heritage; visual data mining; ethics of documentation and curation.
- **Beyond Extraction / Non-Extractivist Visualities**  
What non-extractive artistic, curatorial, or research methods look like; sustainable practices; ethics of care; restorative visual approaches; practices of reparation.
- **Materiality and Infrastructure**  
Soils and subsurface environments; art and extractive tools; archives (geological, scientific, historical); toxic and post-industrial materials; multispecies entanglements.
- **Mining Archives and Community Memory**  
Local knowledge networks; community-led documentation; non-human archives; co-designed research.
- **Technologies of Seeing**  
Visual technologies as extractive, colonial, or critical tools—VR, games, sensors, datasets, AI, photogrammetry, and imaging infrastructures.

We also encourage submissions that relate to regional contexts (e.g., Killhope, Beamish, The Auckland Project, Raby, environmental humanities centres), but this is not a requirement.

## Formats

We welcome proposals for a wide range of contributions, including but not limited to:

- Traditional papers
- Pre-circulated papers for discussion
- Roundtables (cross-disciplinary especially encouraged)
- Artistic or photographic work
- Interviews or “in-conversation” formats
- Object-handling sessions
- Games or VR experiences
- Posters or micro-exhibitions
- Multisensory or participatory activities
- Hands-on workshops (e.g., pigment making, photo-processes, technology “take-downs”)

## Submission Details

Please submit:

- **A 300-word abstract for your submission which includes a brief description of how it relates to the conference theme**
- **A paper/activity title**
- **Please indicate how long you need for this activity. While papers will be limited to 20 minutes in length, we are open to expanding this time for other types of contributions.**

## Deadline: 13 February 2026

Further details on programme, venue, and registration will be announced through the Centre for Visual Arts and Culture. For any questions or concerns, please get in touch with us at [CVAC@durham.ac.uk](mailto:CVAC@durham.ac.uk).