

Geography Department News

Monthly Newsletter
Royal Holloway, University of London

February & March 2012
Number 208

STAFF AND STUDENTS

Congratulations to **Dr. Hayley Leck** who defended her thesis, 'Rising to the Adaptation Challenge? Responding to Global Environmental Change in Ugu and eThekweni Municipality Regions, South Africa' on 9th February with minor amendments. The examiners were Harriet Bulkeley (Durham) and Mark Pelling (King's). **David Simon** was her supervisor and **Alex Loftus** her advisor. Hayley's research was funded by a combination of the University of KwaZulu-Natal's Emma Smith Scholarship and a RHUL fees-only scholarship.

Congratulations to **Dr Anna Bourne** who was awarded her PhD on 1st March for her thesis entitled 'The late Quaternary tephrochronology of the Adriatic region: implications for the synchronisation of marine records'. Her examiners were Dr. William Austin and Prof. Jonathan Holmes. Her Supervisor was **John Lowe**.

Congratulations to **Salma Abassi** who successfully defended her thesis entitled "Women and ICT in Muslim countries: policies, practices and challenges" on 20th February, subject to minor amendments. Her examiners were Janet Momsen (UC Davis and Oxford) and G. Harindranath (RHUL). Her Supervisors were **Tim Unwin & Katie Willis**.

Congratulations to **Katie Denton** who has been awarded her PhD. The external examiners (Professor Kenneth Thomas from UCL and Dr. Dave Smith from Birmingham) have passed the revised version of Katie Denton's PhD dissertation 'An investigation of mid to late Holocene fossil insects from raised bogs in the Irish Midlands.',

describing it as 'outstanding.' **Scott Elias** was her supervisor.

Congratulations to **Dr Dorothea Kleine** who has been promoted to Senior Lecturer.

Congratulations to **Dr Varyl Thorndycraft** who has been promoted to Senior Lecturer.

Congratulations to **Dr Ian Candy** who has been conferred with the title of Reader.

Professor Katie Willis held her Inaugural Lecture on Thursday 8th March. The lecture was entitled 'Migration as Freedom/ Migration for Freedom: Perspectives on Gender and Migration in Latin America and Asia'.

On Saturday 3rd March, **David Simon** took part in a panel discussion, 'Turtles or People - is it that simple?' on the contested conservation plans for the Chagos Archipelago at the Riverside Studios, Hammersmith, between the afternoon and evening performances of Adrian Jackson's new play, *A Few Man Fridays*, about the forcible exile of the Chagossian community to create the giant US military base on Diego Garcia.

Felix Driver examined a PhD thesis by Sarah Longair, entitled 'A gracious temple of learning': the museum and colonial culture in Zanzibar, 1900-1945 (Birkbeck, 2012), supervised by Hilary Sapire and Annie Coombes, 22 March.

Welcome to **Dr Elisa Beilinson** who has joined the department as a visiting post doctoral research assistant from the Centro de Investigaciones Geológicas, La

Article continues on page 2...

NOTICES

Start of Summer Term - Monday, 23rd April



Finalists BBQ - 24th of May 2012.

Msc Quaternary - Glenroy Field Trip - 14 to 25th April.



Race, Rattle & Roll
Geography Staff Event - 11th May 2012

Plata, Argentina. She will be working with **Dr Thomas Stevens** on investigation and luminescence dating of the Punta San Andrés continental fluvial sequences of Mar Del Plata, Argentina.

Amy Cutler has been appointed an Ambassador for Public Engagement in higher education by the National Co-ordinating Centre for Public Engagement. In this role she will attend events developing engagement through networks as well as informing on good practise.

OUTSIDE ENGAGEMENTS

Tim Unwin served as Vice Chair of the ESRC-DFID, Commissioning Panel Joint Scheme for Research on International Development (2011-2012)

Tim Unwin gave a seminar entitled "ICT4D: in whose interests?" for the Centre for Media and Film Studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies on 21st March 2012.

Tim Unwin gave a TechTalk on "Mutli-Stakeholder Partnerships for ICT4D: in whose interests?" for the Global Broadband and Innovations group at USAID in Washington DC on 27th March 2012

Innes Keighren was guest convener of the spring seminar series of the London Group of Historical Geographers, chairing a series of talks during February and March on the theme of "Geographies of Knowledge".

David Simon and **Hayley Leck** were invited participants in the international symposium on 'Urban Transitions in Comparison: Contested pathways of urban climate change responses North and South' at the University of Durham on 22-23 March 2012, where they presented a paper on 'Responding to climate change in the Durban metropolitan area, South Africa'.

David Simon, **Hayley Leck** and **Neelopal Adri** attended the international Planet under

Pressure conference at the ExCel ICC in Docklands from 26-29th March. David chaired a session on Urban governance challenges for sustainability and global environmental change' on 28th, in which Hayley and he presented a paper on 'Too hot to handle? The implications of climate/environmental change for urban governance in Africa'. On 29th, David was also a panellist in the panel discussion session on 'Improving collaborations in global environmental change research: perspectives from the IHDP core projects'.

Caroline Cornish co-hosted a visit to the Economic Botany Collection at Kew Gardens from the Natural History Museum's Centre for Art and Humanities Research on February 22.

Caroline Cornish gave a seminar paper at Cambridge University's Cabinet of Natural History seminar series on February 27 entitled 'Curating science in an age of empire: the Kew Museums of Economic Botany'.

Caroline Cornish gave a seminar paper to Sussex University's Centre for World Environmental History on March 9 entitled 'Mobility, materiality and meaning: a totem pole at Kew's timber museum'.

Leonhardt van Efferink gave an invited lecture about French, German and Anglo-Saxon geopolitical thought to honours program students of Maastricht University.

Leonhardt van Efferink gave an invited talk on British newspaper discourses on Afghanistan in 1842 to staff of the European Studies department of the University of Amsterdam.

Leonhardt van Efferink presented his paper about Critical Discourse Analysis and British newspapers during a conference of the South East Doctoral Training Centre at the University of Reading.

Katherine Brickell organised a 1-day workshop funded by, and held

at, the British Academy on 'Contemporary Challenges in Transitional Vietnam: Insights from Vietnam Studies in the UK'.

Tim Cresswell gave an invited seminar at the University of Exeter (Cornwall Campus) in Penryn on March 15th. His talk was titled 'Producing Territory at Maxwell Street: Tracing the Interplay of Materiality, Representation and Practice in a Changing Landscape'.

Stephen Jones was appointed as a member of the coordination team of the UK Sanitation Community of Practice (SanCoP), an initiative convened by the Water Environment and Development Centre at Loughborough University, the International Water Association and Building Partnerships for Development in Water and Sanitation.

The RESET consortium group had their 2011/2012 progress meeting in the Natural History Museum, London on March 5th. This involved several presentations which reviewed ongoing research by the different working groups and others that synthesized RESET data thereby contributing to the construction and refinement of the "tephra lattice". The meeting was chaired by **John Lowe** and was attended by **Simon Blockley**, **Lauren Davies**, **Mark Hardiman**, **Rupert Housley** and **Christopher Satow**, as well as many colleagues from the various RESET partner institutions.

Rupert Housley gave an invited lecture entitled "Probleme und Fragen bei der Anwendung der Tephrochronologie auf die Datierung archäologischer Fundstätten aus dem Spät-Glazial in Nordeuropa" (Trials and tribulations of applying tephrochronology to Late Glacial archaeological sites in northern Europe) to an audience of the general public in the Landesmuseum Hannover (Lower Saxony, Germany), 8 March 2012.

Article continues on page 3...

A new online series, Land Diagrams (www.landdiagrams.wordpress.com), has been launched by Amy Cutler, publishing 'twinned studies' - two thinkers from different disciplines responding to the same topographical image. The pairings aim to show how diagrams can transmit thought between disciplines. The geographers Mark Monmonier, Martin Dodge and Owain Jones have published on it so far.

The cultural geography cinema PASSENGERFILMS, run out of the department by Amy Cutler, Mia Hunt, Liz Haines and Rupert Griffiths, has curated a season of events with UCL Urban Lab on the theme of urban space. This included feature films, shorts, researcher talks and a book launch on the following themes: Architecture, Time and Urban Planning, Vertical Space, Surveillance, Virtual Space, and Estates. PASSENGERFILMS also celebrated its first birthday with a late licensed night on space and guerrilla street projections.

Dorothea Kleine was invited as a panel member in a plenary session at the 2012 Fair Trade International Symposium. She presented "Fair Tracing and beyond - lessons and ideas for the future of ethical consumption". Liverpool Hope University, April 3, 2012

OVERSEAS ONLY - FIELDWORK/CONFERENCES

Tim Unwin gave a seminar entitled "ICT4D: in whose interests?" in the ICT4D@Penn series at the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Pennsylvania on 29th March 2012

Wouter Geerts gave a presentation at the AAG Annual Meeting in New York entitled 'Is there such a thing as Ethical Business Travel? An insight in the uptake of hotels' sustainability practices by business travellers'.

Harriet Hawkins presented a paper "The Baroque Geographies

of Pippilotti Rist", in a session she co-organised on Baroque Geographies at the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers

Harriet Hawkins was an invited participant on a panel on the Geographies of Curation at the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers

Harriet Hawkins organised a panel on Art, Science and The Environment as the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers.

Stephen Jones attended the 6th World Water Forum in Marseille from 12th-14th March.

Tim Unwin, Dorothea Kleine, Yingqin Zheng, Sammia Poveda, Tony Roberts, Caitlin Bentley, Paolo Brunello and Endrit Kromidha all attended ICTD2012 in Atlanta, USA, the key conference in Information and Communication Technologies for Development and successor conference to London ICTD2010 at RHUL. Members of the UNESCO Chair/Centre in ICT4D offered several open sessions. Tim, supported by Caitlin, chaired a session on "Mobiles, social media and democracy", Yingqin and Dorothea teamed up with the HDCA Thematic Group on Design and Technology to offer an interactive panel discussion on the capabilities approach and ICT4D (7 panel members, including Yingqin and Dorothea, with Tony fielding questions). Caitlin and Tony co-organised a session on Openness and Development. Sammia designed 4 posters and co-ordinated the staffing of the UNESCO Chair/ICT4D Centre stand, which was in prime position and attracted many enquiries about ongoing research and the MSc PSD (ICT4D specialism). March 12-15, 2012.

Dorothea Kleine gave a talk on "Technologies of Choice? ICTs, Development and the capabilities approach" at the University of Nairobi, as an outlook toward her forthcoming book. March 28, 2012

Dorothea Kleine gave a talk on "ICT and Sustainable Development" at the Aga Khan University, Nairobi Campus, where she met a cross-faculty group of academics engaged in e-learning and e-health. After introducing the ICT4D Centre, she had the opportunity to discuss potential areas of collaboration. March 29, 2012

Dorothea Kleine visited the University of Nairobi's I-Hub, met with staff and observed a 1-day Hackathon at this hotspot of entrepreneurial IT activity in East Africa.

Mustafa Dikeç gave two talks in Gothenburg, Sweden. The first talk was part of a one-day conference on urban unrest in Europe, and the second was part of the "Revolution" lecture series of the Clandestino Institut. He also gave a talk at LSE's seminar series in Cities, Space and development.

PUBLICATIONS

Unwin, T. (2012) What makes successful ICT for education partnerships? UNESCO Bangkok ICT in Education Newsletter, 16/2/2012, <http://www.unescobkk.org/education/ict/online-resources/databases/ict-in-education-database/item/article/what-makes-successful-ict-in-education-partnerships/>

David Simon (2012) To and through the UK: Holocaust refugee ethnographies of escape, education, internment and careers in development, Contemporary Social Science: *Journal of the Academy of Social Sciences* 7(1): 21-36.

Keighren, Innes M. "Fieldwork in the archive". In *Fieldwork for human geography*, edited by Richard S. Phillips and Jennifer Johns. London: SAGE, 2012.

Article continues on page 4...

Brickell, K. (2012). Host Employed Photography: Visual Critiques on Tourism Development in Hue, *Central Vietnam. Tourism Geographies* 14(1): 98-116.

Brickell, K. (2012). 'Mapping' and 'Doing' Critical Geographies of Home. *Progress in Human Geography* 36(2): 225-244.

Cresswell, T (2012) 'Ergin Cavusoglu and the Art of Betweenness' in Rugg, J. and Martin, C. (eds) *Spatialities: The Geographies of Art and Architecture* (Intellect, London) 69-84

Újvári, G., Varga, A., Ramos, F.C., Kovács, J., Németh, T., **Stevens, T.**, 2012. Evaluating the use of clay mineralogy, Sr-Nd isotopes and zircon U-Pb ages in tracking dust provenance: An example from loess of the Carpathian Basin. *Chemical Geology* 304-305, 83-96.

Marković, S.B., Hambach, U., **Stevens, T.**, Basarin, B., O'Hara-Dhand, K., Gavrilo, M.M., Gavrilov, M.B., Smalley, I., Teofanov, N., 2012. Relating the astronomical timescale to the loess-paleosol sequences in Vojvodina, Northern Serbia. In *Climate Change: Inferences from Paleoclimate and Regional Aspects*. Berger, A, Mesinger, F.; Sijacki, D., (Eds.), Springer-Verlag, Vienna. 244 p. ISBN 978-3-7091-0972-4.

Stevens, T., Kirkham, A., Evans, G., 2011. Quaternary sea levels: recent evidence from Abu Dhabi. *Tribulus* 19, 98-99.

Burbidge, C.I., Richter, D., Sanderson, D.C.W., **Housley, R.A.**, (2012) Chapter 2 - Luminescence analysis (OSL and TL) from Karabai I, in: *Karabai I: a Palaeolithic site in Eastern Crimea*. (Eds. A.I. Yevtushenko and V.P. Chabai), p. 23-36, *Archaeological Almanac* 26, Donetsk: Donbass

Kleine, D., Light, A., and Montero, M. (2012), Signifiers of the life we value? - Human Development, Technologies and

"Fair" Trade, *The Journal of Information Technology for Development*, 18 (1); 42-60

Harvey, D. **Hawkins, H** and Thomas, N. (2012) 'Thinking Creative Clusters beyond the city: People, Places and Networks'. *Geoforum*, 43,3 529-539.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Simon Blockley successfully applied to the Outreach Research Fund for an extra £1500 to support the Monday night series, and extend our work with key state schools.

Katherine Brickell and **Katie Willis** have been successful in their application with Mary Cobbett and the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) for an ESRC CASE award. The doctorate will start this September entitled 'Empowering Girls to Claim Rights? Non-Formal Education and the "Stop the Violence" Campaign in Kenya'

Tim Cresswell is a co-investigator on a successful SSHRC (Canada) grant worth 2.5 million Canadian Dollars. The title of the project is On the Move: Employment-Related Geographical Mobility in the Canadian Context. It is led by Barbara Neis, Professor of Sociology at Memorial University of Newfoundland in St John's.

Harriet Hawkins, together with a Consortium of Swiss Scientists and the organisation Swiss Artists-in-Labs has been awarded 100,000 Swiss Francs (£65,000) by the Swiss National Science Foundation for the project "State of the Art: Science and Art in Practice". The focus of the project is the development of a series of community based contemporary art works and the assessment of their impact and value for science communication.

VISITORS -MEETINGS IN THE DEPARTMENT

Dr Anna Bird, Royal Holloway, CQR presented the QUISS Seminar on 1st February entitled 'The use

of single grain analysis to determine Chinese Loess sources'.

Dr. Victoria Herridge, Department of Palaeontology, Natural History Museum presented the CQR Seminar on 8th February entitled "Mediterranean dwarf elephants: systematics, evolution and implications for geochronology".

Claire Gallant, Royal Holloway University of London presented the QUISS Seminar on 7th March entitled 'Evidence for rapid climate variability in terrestrial sediment sequences, southern Spain.'

Simon Reid-Henry, Queen Mary, University of London presented the PDS Group Seminar on 6th February entitled 'Humanitarian Disenchantments: On the Making (and Breaking) of Humanitarian Space'.

Diana Mitlin, Institute for Development Policy & Management IDPM, University of Manchester presented the Geography Department Seminar on 22nd February entitled 'Finance, Power and Community Savings: Understanding Approaches to Urban Poverty Reduction'.

Ilse Oosterlaken (Centre for Ethics in Technology, TU Delft, The Netherlands; visiting researcher at the ICT4D Centre) presented the ICT4D Seminar on 29th February entitled 'ICT4D, value sensitive design and the capabilities approach'.

On 25th February the Department took part in the College's Science Open Day. Thank you to:-

Simon Armitage - Department's co-ordinator.

Robyn Christie, Alex Rowell, Lauren Davies and Elaine Turton on the Bog Bodies.

Simon and Stella Blockley for their extraordinary performances with the skulls (human, ursine and hippo) and stone tools.

Article continues on page 5...

Jay Mistry, Celine Tschirhart and Claudia Lopes for bringing a little piece of the Amazon to Egham.

Caroline Cornish and Innes Keighren for their exhibition on the historical geographies of quinine.

Adrian Palmer and Win Tun for their technical support and **Jenny Kynaston** for her work on the posters, badges and pictures.

Dr Jan-Pieter Buylaert (Aarhus University, Denmark/Danish Technical University) visited **Dr Thomas Stevens** on the 28th March to discuss their collaborative work on dating loess and other sediment sequences using post-IR IRSL techniques.

ANY OTHER NEWS

New York Field Trip 2012



Leonhardt van Efferink publishes interviews with geographers **Stuart Elden** (Durham), **John Morrissey** (Galway) and **Alistair Fraser** (Maynooth) on his website www.exploringgeopolitics.org.

Dr Thomas Stevens coordinated a bilateral ERASMUS agreement with Szeged University Department of Geology and Palaeontology. This involves staff mobility for teaching and research between the departments.

Harriet Hawkins has been invited to join the AHRC Peer Review College, she will serve on the College from April 2012 until April 2016.