

## Departmental News Letters

Newsletter: april 2008, No. 175

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### Staff and Students

Welcome to **Helen Le Voi**, who will work with Dorothea Kleine on the socio-economic and human-computer-interaction design aspects of the EPSRC Fair Tracing Project whilst Maria Montero, research assistant, is on maternity leave.

**Justin Spinney**, having completed his PhD on 'Cycling the city' within the Social and Cultural Geography research group in November 2007, has now been appointed as Research Fellow in the ESRC funded Research Group on Values, Lifestyles and the Environment (RESOLVE) at the University of Surrey, from March 2008 until September 2010.

**Katie Willis** was examiner for a PhD submitted by Anastasia Bermúdez Torres at Queen Mary, University of London. The thesis was entitled 'Political Transnationalism, Gender and Peace-Building Among Colombian Migrants in the UK and Spain' and the external examiner was Dr Davide Pero' from the University of Nottingham.

Congratulations to **Tim Cresswell**, who has been appointed as a Visiting Professor in Mobility Studies, part of a new initiative supported by a number of Swiss Universities, which will involve him teaching in Switzerland during the first term of 2008-9.

### Outside Engagements

**Tim Unwin** participated in the "Baltic Futures" symposium held at UCL SSEES on 18th April, during which he chaired the session on "Environmental Future" and was a panellist in the final plenary.

**Tim Unwin** participated in the UN "Windsor Health Dialogues: Confronting the diseases of poverty" held at St. George's House, Windsor Castle, on 7th and 8th May 2008

**David Simon** attended the launch of the Let Them Return campaign for Chagos Islanders, chaired by Lord Eric Avebury at the House of Lords on 8th April. Following several court rulings in their favour (now being appealed to the Law Lords by the FCO), the campaign seeks to build support for the islanders to be permitted to return to the outer islands of the Chagos archipelago in the Indian Ocean from which they were expelled by the British government some 40 years ago ahead of the construction of the strategic US air base on Diego Garcia, the archipelago's largest island.

**David Simon** attended the British Academy panel presentation by leading FBA archaeologists on Preserving Cultural Heritage at the British on 21st April.

**David Simon** attended the Commonwealth Foundation briefing on Climate Change and Cities at the Commonwealth Secretariat in Marlborough House, London, on 23 April.

**Tim Cresswell** was a guest on the "Ideas" programme on the Canadian Broadcasting Company. He was a panellist with two other guests in front of an invited audience in Calgary,

Canada. The show will be broadcast on May 5th and available as a podcast shortly after that. The theme was home and homelessness.

**Ruth Payne** presented at the British Academy on Saturday 26th April at a workshop on African Childhood in Transition her paper entitled: 'Emerging Adulthood: Growing up in child-headed households in Zambia'.

**Tim Unwin** presented a Seminar: 'The 4 in ICT4D: making computer science relevant in a development context', at the Department of Computer Science, University of Swansea, 29 April 2008.

**Clive Gamble** together with Libby Worth and Helen Nicholson from the Department of Drama, organised and led the second AHRC On-the-Go workshop at the Heathrow Academy. Within the theme of layerings and memory participants from a wide range of disciplines explored the newly opened Terminal Five with the aim of combining practice based research into our understanding of this landscape of mobility. Other RHUL geographers attending the workshop were Amanda Rogers, Hannah Macpherson and Toby Butler.

**Ed Derbyshire** attended a meeting of the Natural Sciences Committee of the U.K. National Commission for UNESCO in London on 18 February.

**Ed Derbyshire** contributed to the Second Workshop of the UK Dust Network on Health Consequences of Exposure to Natural Mineral Particles (funded by NERC) held in Cambridge on 14 March.

**Ed Derbyshire** attended a meeting of the Intergovernmental Science Programme Leaders Working Group of the UK National Commission for UNESCO in London on 19 March.

**Ed Derbyshire** attended meetings of the Council of the Geological Society in London, and of its constituent committees, between 31 March and 9 April.

#### Publications

Tanu Priya Uteng and **Tim Cresswell** (eds), 2008, *Gendered Mobilities*, Ashgate.

Peter Merriman; George Reville, **Tim Cresswell**, Hayden Lorimer, David Matless, Gillian Rose. John Wylie, 2008, 'Landscape, Mobility, Practice', *Social and Cultural Geography*, 9/2: pp191-212.

**Graça Brightwell**, 'We love to eat Dinda Zefa's Brazilian Beans'. *The Guardian* (26.4.08)

**Derbyshire, E.** 2007. International Workshop "Lower Latitude Loess—Dust Transport Past and Present", 5–10 March 2006, Lanzarote (Islas Canarias), Spain. *Quaternary Perspectives* 16 (2): 139-140.

**Derbyshire, E.**, E. de Mulder, Nield, T. 2007. The International Year of Planet Earth (2007-2009): the triennium begins. *Episodes* 30 (2): 131-132.

#### REVIEWS

**Geoghegan, H.**, (2008) Book review: Ham radio's technical culture. By K. Haring. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press. 2007. xvii + 220 pp. £18.95. cloth. ISBN: 0262083558 in Cultural Geographies 15, pp. 284-285

**Ho, E.L.** (2008) Book review of 'Transnational Migration and Work in Asia', edited by Kevin Hewison and Ken Young, in Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography, 29(1), 110-113.

#### Grants and Awards

**Nick Branch** received a grant of £90K from the Irish Heritage Council to support collaborative archaeological research in Ireland, with Archaeological Development Services.

**Tim Unwin** and **Dorothea Kleine** are partners in a successful network bid under the EU's Edulink programme, which will combine ICT4D's existing Delphe funded African partnership with a similar scheme based in Finland and Scandinavia. RHUL are due to receive £95K from a total EU grant applied for of c.£360k.

**Nick Branch** and **Varyl Thorndycraft** have won an Archaeoscape contract with the Environment Agency, for research on flood relief management near Oxford, worth £8,500.

**Bertie Mandelblatt**, one of our recently-completed PhD students, has won a Stanford Visiting Scholarship worth \$2,500 to do research on French political economy at Stanford prior to taking up her SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowship in Montreal.

**Mary Dengler**, **Vandana Desai** and **Alex Loftus** were successful in securing an ESRC 1+3 Case Studentship 2008 in collaboration with WaterAid London (Ms. Samantha French) and its Mali Regional Office (Mr. Nicolas Sidibe). The research entails improving water governance and reforms that have been initiated globally and have impact at the local level to meet the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for Water and Sanitation. This studentship will be particularly focussing on the West African country of Mali and the region of Koulikoro.

**Ed Derbyshire** has been awarded a Royal Society grant of £1050 to attend the 33rd International Geological Congress in Oslo, Norway, in August 2008, in his capacity as UK National Delegate.

#### Fieldwork-Conferences-Overseas

**Tim Unwin** presented the Keynote Lecture: 'An academic in the realms of ICT4D practice', at the IPID workshop, UNESCO, Paris, 25 April 2008

**Varyl Thorndycraft** was at the European Geosciences Union conference in Vienna (13-18th April) and gave two talks and a poster presentation. *European Geosciences Union. April 13-18th 2008, Vienna, Austria.*

*Thorndycraft, V.R. The Geomorphic response of fluvial systems to climatic variability and human impact. Geophysical Research Abstracts Vol. 10. EGU2008-A-01505. European Geosciences Union. April 13-18th 2008, Vienna, Austria.*

*Thorndycraft, V.R. and Thompson, D. Google Earth, virtual fieldwork and quantitative methods in geomorphology. Geophysical Research Abstracts Vol. 10. EGU2008-A-01510. European Geosciences Union. April 13-18th 2008, Vienna, Austria*

*Thorndycraft, V.R. et al. A long-term perspective on flood response to climatic variability and human impact: Evidence from Spanish palaeoflood records. Geophysical Research Abstracts Vol. 10. EGU2008-A-08815. Poster presentation*

**Tim Cresswell** attended the annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers in Boston. He gave a paper concerning his research in Maxwell Street, Chicago and was discussant in a session on carnival as well as session on "Transport meets Mobilities".

**Tim Cresswell** conducted "fieldwork" (i.e. visited archives) in DeKalb, Illinois and Chicago for his work on the Maxwell Street Market.

**Tara Woodyer** presented a paper entitled 'Playful Geographies: configuring imaginative spaces of play' in a session on 'Geographies of Play' at the Annual AAG Conference in Boston, MA in the US on 16th April.

**Katie Willis** presented a paper entitled 'Healing work in Oaxaca City, Mexico' at the AAG Conference in Boston.

**Dorothea Kleine** presented a paper titled "'Like Mixing Water and Oil ": State ICT Policies and Microentrepreneurs in Chile" at the Association of American Geographers' Annual Meeting in Boston, April 19

**Felix Driver** and Lowri Jones convened a session on 'Exploration and the geography of knowledge' at the AAG Annual Meeting in Boston, April 2008. Lowri gave a paper on 'Hidden histories of exploration: indigenous presence in Thomas Baines' paintings of the North Australian expedition, 1855-6' and Felix was discussant for the session.

**Felix Driver** was a panellist on a roundtable on Charles Withers book *Placing the Enlightenment* (Chicago 2007) at the AAG Annual Meeting, Boston, April.

**Elaine Ho** visited and presented her research at the University of Washington (UW) and University of British Columbia (UBC) in April 2008. Her presentation at UW was titled, 'Producing citizenship through the emotions: Singaporean transmigrants in London' while the presentation at UBC was on, "'Flexible citizenship" or familial ties that bind? Singaporean transmigrants in London'.

**Ed Derbyshire** attended the Global Launch Event of the United Nations International Year of Planet Earth held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on 12 and 13 February. He went on to attend the meeting of the IYPE Board, as well as meetings related to the Science programme of the International Year on 14 and 15 February.

Visitors/meetings in the department

Dr Clecio Azevdo Da Silva, Lecturer, Department of Geography, Universidad Federal De Santa Catarina, Florianopolis, Brazil visited the Department on

April 30th 2008. Hosted by Graça Brightwell he also met with Philip Crang and Felix Driver to discuss both the Department's connections with Brazilian Geography and his research on food and cultural heritage.

Peter Hellmonds, Head of Corporate Social Responsibility, Nokia-Siemens Networks visited the Department on 7th May to discuss collaborative research in the field of ICT4D.