

Geography Department News

Monthly Newsletter
Royal Holloway, University of London

April 2011
Number 201

STAFF AND STUDENTS

Rupert Griffiths has an exhibition at the CUBE (Centre for Urban Built Environments) Gallery in Manchester from the 6th of May to the 4th of June entitled 'Borderlands'. 'Borderlands' looks at the Tensions at play between the over-determined and legible places in the city and those places that are under-determined and under the radar.

OUTSIDE ENGAGEMENTS

David Simon attended the London launch of UN-HABITAT's Global Report on Human Settlements 2011: Cities and Climate Change, by Joan Clos, Executive Director of UN-HABITAT, at the LSE on 28th March.

David Simon was an invited guest at the inaugural Royal African Society Annual Lecture, given by the former UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, in London on 30th March on the subject of 'Africa and the World Food Security System'.

David Simon gave a talk to the Upper and Lower Sixth Form Geography students at the Windsor Boys' School on 4th April on 'Geographies of development in theory and practice'.

Tim Unwin spent the period 19th March - 28th April as a Visiting Scholar in the Graduate School of Education in Peking University.

David Lambert attended the London Centre for Arts and Cultural Exchange partners and Independent Research Organisations Round table and networking breakfast at Somerset House on 6th April 2011.

David Lambert attended the initial planning workshop of the AHRC International Network on 'The material culture of early modern connections' at the University of Warwick on 13th April 2011.

Alasdair Pinkerton appeared on PressTV (Iran) to discuss the future funding of the BBC World Service.

<http://www.presstv.ir/Program/164536.html>.

Simon Blockley and Ian Matthews represented RHUL and RHOXTOR/RESET at the first workshop of the new Tephra in Quaternary Science group. The group is QRA funded and coordinated by Siwan Davies (Swansea), Simon Blockley (RHUL) and Andy Dugmore (Edinburgh) and aims to bring together the UK and wider European tephrochronology community to improve methods, develop new research ideas and integrate different areas of the science.

OVERSEAS ONLY - FIELDWORK - CONFERENCES

Ed Derbyshire presented an invited account of 'The International Geoscience Programme (IGCP): past, present and future' as part of the International Union of Geosciences' 50th anniversary celebration held at UNESCO HQ in Paris on 21st February.

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NOTICES



Graduation Ceremony -
15th July

Last day of Term - 10th June 2011

Ed Derbyshire worked on the year 2010's sampling data with co-members of the Canarian Group on 'Saharan dust and its impact on human health in the Canary Islands' at the Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria from 23 to 30 March.

Tim Unwin presented a paper on "Technology beyond classrooms: ICTs and contemporary university practices in the Commonwealth" at the ACU Conference of Executive Heads in Hong Kong, 6-8 April 2011.

While attending the AAG conference in Seattle, **David Simon** visited the Planning Dept at the University of Washington on 13th April and made a presentation in Prof Marina Alberti's lab on different approaches to research on peri-urban interfaces around the world and associated research challenges.

Felix Driver undertook fieldwork with Luciana Martins (Birkbeck) in Campo Grande and Corumbá, Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil, 23-8 April.

Felix Driver visited the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, to work in the Museum of Anthropology, and in the Royal British Columbia Museum, Victoria, 4-12 April. He also visited staff and postgraduate students in the Departments of Geography and History at UBC.

Rupert Housley and **Clive Gamble** visited northwest Switzerland to take samples associated with two Lateglacial Magdalenian open-air archaeological sites for tephrochronology analysis. Since the sites had been discovered and destroyed by motorway construction in the 1980s, sampling involved accessing stored material kept in the Laténium Archaeology Park and Museum at Hauterive-Neuchâtel. The sites of Hauterive-Champréveyres and Neuchâtel-Monruz are noted for their numerous hearth structures and rich lithics, faunal and charcoal

assemblages. It is hoped that tephra work will link the archaeological record to the climate archives already known from lakes in the circum-alpine region. The work was done in collaboration with Philippe Hadorn, Denise Leesch and Nigel Thew, 19-21 April.

Alasdair Pinkerton co-organised a conference, held at the NUI Galway on 1st April, on the subject: 'Building Empires on Air'. The workshop was funded by the Andrew Mellon foundation and involved a number of leading international scholars working on media and empire.

Alasdair Pinkerton and **Klaus Dodds** were interviewed by the Issaquah Press (Seattle) about their research into Project Revere—a secret US government funded programme that sought to explore how air-dropped leaflets could spread rumours during the Cold War.

Dorothea Kleine presented a paper titled 'Taboo, lacuna or irrelevance? Discussing embedded values within the field on information technologies for development' in the I-School Seminar at the School of Information, University of Berkeley, (USA) April 8th.

Dorothea Kleine visited the Technology and Social Change Group at the University of Washington, where she gave the paper: Politics, Religion, and other topics best not to raise at an ICT4D event: The role of the normative in ICT4D, Seattle, April 12th.

AAG Conference 2011 Seattle, 12-16 April: Staff and Postgraduate Contributions

Bater, Richard

• Paper: "A Brief History of Sand: Trump International and the Governing of Material Identities"

Katherine Brickell gave a paper in the *Geographies of Everyday Im(mobilities)* session on "Translocal Mobilities of 'Home' in Siem Reap, Cambodia".

Andrew Brooks gave a presentation 'Selling Uncertainty: The Urban Livelihoods of Used Clothing Traders in Mozambique' as part of the paper session 'Local and International Actors in African Economic Development' and also chaired the session, 12/4/11.

Cheng, Yuhui

• Paper: "Making themselves feel being at home: Taiwanese skilled expatriates in the YRD, China"

Cresswell, Tim

• Paper: "Documentary Photography and the Surrealism of Everyday Life"

• Panellist on "Writing creatively: Process, practice, and product"

• Organizer of "cultural geographies Annual Lecture"

Dawkins, Ashley

• Paper: "The Situationist International, Ranciere, and the Creative Practices of Urban Interventions"

Dodds, Klaus

• Paper: "Popular geopolitics, cartoons and Steve Bell"

• Panellist on "Author meets the Critics: Shannon O'Lear's 'Environmental Politics'"

Felix Driver presented a paper in a session on Matthew Farish's book, *The Contours of America's Cold War*.

Keighren, Innes

• Paper: "'Written amid hurry and confusion': Richard Wilbraham's inscriptive practices as regimen and comfort"

• Co-organizer of "Truth, Authorship and Credibility in Travellers' Narratives"

• Co-organizer of "Classics in Human Geography"

Kleine, Dorothea

• Paper: "Development 2.0 or Imposition n.0? Geographers engaging critically with ICT4D rhetoric and practice"

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Dorothea Kleine was a panellist for the session on "Technology Innovation and Upgrading in Emerging Economies", Thursday, 4/14/2011.

Loftus, Alex

- Paper: "Common Sense" in "Sensational Marxisms: Towards a Communism of the Senses I"
- Organizer of "Sensational Marxisms: Towards a Communism of the Senses I, II, and III"

Nash, Fiona

- Paper: "Participation As Passive Revolution: Durban's Free Basic Water Extension"

Pinkerton, Alasdair

- Panellist on "Geographies of Media IX: Author Meets Critics - Dittmer's Popular Culture, Geopolitics & Identity"

Simon, David

- Paper: "Hybrid Planning In The Peri-Urban Interface: Planning And Design For Adaptation And Resilience Along The Urban-Rural Continuum"
- Panellist on "Climate Change and Development: Intersections, Contradictions, Opportunities (II)"
- Organizer of "Geographers and/in Development" panel session

PUBLICATIONS

Cresswell T (2011) 'Place - Part I' In Agnew J and Duncan J (eds) *The Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Human Geography* (Blackwell) pp235-244.

Cresswell T (2011) "Littoral" (poem) *the North volume 47*.

Cresswell T (2011) 'Race, Mobilities and the Humanities: a Geosocial Approach' In Daniels S et al (eds) *Envisioning Landscapes, Making Worlds: Geography and the Humanities* (Routledge) pp 74-83.

Vandana Desai and Duncan McGregor (2011) "Food Security and Decentralisation in a Changing Climate: An African Case Study" *Geography and You, March-April*, pp. 36-39.

Bradley L. Garrett and Erika Sigvardsdotter, "The Tree" by Torgny Lindgren, (translated from Swedish), *Asymptote Journal*, April 2011 issue* (also find an author biography here).

Unwin, T. and Kirkland, J. (2011) Commonwealth Scholarships in an age of change: a view from the UK, *NORRAG*, NN45 (<http://www.norrag.org/issues/article/1396/en/commonwealth-scholarships-in-an-age-of-change-a-view-from-the-uk.html>).

Lane, C.S., Andrič, M., Cullen, V.L., Blockley, S.P.E. 2011. The occurrence of distal Icelandic and Italian tephra in the Lateglacial of Lake Bled, Slovenia. *Quaternary Science Reviews*, 30, 1013-1018.

BOOK REVIEWS - ABSTRACTS - CONFERENCE REPORTS

Rogers A (2011) Palaeoperformance: the emergence of theatricality as social practice - By Yann-Pierre Montelle *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, 17, 2 pp. 398-399.

Tim Unwin on Turnock, David (2009) *The Transition from Communism to the European Union: Restructuring Romanian Industry and Agriculture Since 1990*. Edward Elgar, Cheltenham, UK, and Northampton, MA, USA, in: *Slavonic and East European Review*, 89(2), 391-393

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Max Hall was awarded £2000 by the Shackleton Scholarship for research in the Falkland Islands. Max's PhD is focussed on the Falklands problem in the context of post-1945 post-imperial Britain and supervised by Klaus Dodds.

David Lambert has been awarded a Barra International Fellowship worth \$3,500 to support research in residence in the collections of the Library Company of Philadelphia and the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. The Fellowship is supported by an endowment created by the Barra Foundation of Wyndmoor,

Pennsylvania, to foster international study of early American history. He will take up the Fellowship in spring 2012.

Katherine Brickell has won 3 years of funding from the ESRC/DFID Joint Scheme for Research on International Development (Poverty Alleviation) (c£250,000) for the project 'Lay and Institutional Knowledges of Domestic Violence Law: Towards Active Citizenship in Rural and Urban Cambodia'. The study will combine qualitative and quantitative research (including participatory video) to address the hiatus between legal reform and transformative change for women.

Katherine Brickell has been awarded the Royal Geographical Society 30th International Geographical Congress Award (£750) to support her attendance at the conference she has organised with the National University of Singapore and IGU in July 2011. The conference is called "Householding in Transition: Emerging Dynamics in 'Developing' East and Southeast Asia".

Dorothea Kleine has been awarded an ESRC/DFID Joint Scheme for research on international development (poverty alleviation) phase 2 call 2, *Leveraging Buying Power for Development: Ethical Consumption and Public Procurement in Chile and Brazil*. She is the Principal Investigator, with co-investigators Dr Tomás Ariztía (Universidad Diago Portales, Chile) and Prof Roberto Bartholo (Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil). FEC £328k.

ANY OTHER NEWS

Bradley L. Garrett's research was featured on BBC World Service Spain (BBC Mundo), *En fotos: Viaje a uno de los secretos mejor guardados de Londres*, 3rd of May, 2011.

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Leonhardt van Efferink publishes
interviews with the geographers
Katharyne Mitchell and Merje

Kuus on his
ExploringGeopolitics

website

(<http://www.exploringgeopolitics.org>).