

# Geography Department News

Monthly Newsletter  
Royal Holloway, University of London

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## STAFF AND STUDENTS

**W**elcome to Katherine Brickell who started as a British Academy Post-Doctoral Fellow in the department on 1 September. The title of her fellowship research is 'Geographies of Transition in the Mekong Region: Gender, Labour and Domestic Life in Cambodia and Vietnam'

Welcome to Simon Blockley who has started with us as Lecturer in Quaternary Science.

Vandana Desai was an external examiner for a PhD at Dept. of Geography, University of Liverpool on 17th September 2008 on thesis entitled "Life-Paths of Educated Omani Women"

Katie Willis was the external examiner for Alberto Cortés Ramos at Loughborough University. His PhD thesis was entitled 'The Production of Migratory Transnational Spaces: The Case of Seasonal Rural Migration from Nicaragua to Costa Rica, 1990-2003.' The internal examiner was Professor Phil Hubbard.

Glenys Owen-Jones successfully completed her PhD on 31st July 2008. The title of her thesis was 'Experiences of A-Level Geography Fieldwork'. Her supervisor was Felix Driver and her examiners were Dr Frances Slater and Dr Ian Cook of Exeter University.

Rebecca Sian Edwards successfully completed her PhD on 31st Aug 2008. The title of her thesis was 'An Urban Renaissance? Implementing New Labour's Public Space Policy'. Klaus Dodds was her supervisor and the external examiners were

Prof. Steven Pinch and Prof. Andy Thornley.

## OUTSIDE ENGAGEMENTS

Katie Willis gave a talk to the High Weald Geographical Association entitled 'Migration in LEDCs: Examples from Mexico and China'.

Clive Gamble was a co-organiser of the British Academy Centenary Project Symposium Social Brain, Distributed Mind held on 25th-26th September at the British Academy. Contributions by Geography staff and students; Dr Fiona Coward Small worlds, material culture and Near Eastern social networks; Clive Gamble Technologies of separation and the evolution of social extension; Posters on their research were presented by Dr Matt Grove and Dora Moutsiou.

David Lambert spoke at the 'Thinking Through Mobility in the Nineteenth Century' roundtable organised by the London Nineteenth-Century Seminar at the Institute of English Studies, Senate House on 4 October 2008.

Adrian Palmer attended the 33rd International Geological Congress in Oslo, Norway from the 6th to 14th August 2008 and presented a paper to the session concerning 'The challenge of the Younger Dryas'.

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## NOTICES



15<sup>th</sup> Gordon Manley Lecture - 10<sup>th</sup> November 2008 at 5.30pm - Prof. Ian Reid, Loughborough University - 'The trouble with water in deserts' - QLT

☛ Departmental Seminar - Stephen Tooth (University of Wales, Aberystwyth) - 9.10.08 @ 5pm, QB136 - 'Wetlands in Drylands'.

☛ Departmental Seminar - Hayden Lorimer (Glasgow University) - 23.10.08 at 1pm, QB136 - 'Life in nature's surfaces and beauty's secrets'.

🌐 CEDAR Workshop - Abdou Maliq Simone, Department of Sociology, Goldsmiths - 'Intersecting Urbanization from Jakarta to Dakar' - 22.10.2008 at 1-3pm - QB136.

🌐 PERG/CEDAR Seminar - Nhung Nguyen, Geography Dept., RHUL - 'Local Coastal Governance & Participatory Geographic Information Systems' - 6.10.08 at 1-2pm - QB136.

🌐 QUISS Seminar - Dr. Richard Cosgrove, La Trobe University - 'Middle to Late Pleistocene Hominid Settlement in China' - 21.10.08 at 1-2pm - QB136.

🌐 PERG Seminar - Borders & Belonging in Europe - Uli Best, University of Chemnitz - 'The Controlled Spaces of Internationalism COMECON Energy Projects between 2970 & 2990 - 16.10.08 at 1-2pm - QB136

🌐 LQL Lecture - 19.11.08

🌐 CEDAR Annual Lecture - 21.1.09

## FIELDWORK- CONFERENCES- OVERSEAS

Tim Unwin gave the opening keynote address on "Challenges and Opportunities in the use of ICTs for education in developing countries" at the Technology for Innovation and Education in Developing Countries" 5th International Workshop, held in Kampala, Uganda, 31 July - 2 August 2008.

Lowri Jones gave a paper on 'Native informants & cartography: The case of the Nile sources' at Ways of Knowing the Field: International Conference on the History of Field Work, Cartography, and Scientific Exploration, Carlsberg Academy, Copenhagen, 13-15th August 2008.

Dorothea Kleine gave a presentation on the EPSRC Fair Tracing project at the office of the German Development Agency GTZ in Lima, Peru, August 21

Dorothea Kleine presented a paper titled "Hacia una mirada sistémica de los TICs y el Desarrollo" at the Universidad de La Frontera in Temuco, Chile, August 27

Dorothea Kleine and Macarena Vivent of the EPSRC Fair Tracing Project are conducting participatory action research in Chile with the Fairtrade wine producers of the Los Robles co-operative. They will be presenting the results of the research conducted with UK consumers and different interface designs. Together with the producer partners, they will be exploring possible options for an end-to-end information system. August 22 - Sept 7

Rupert Housley undertook fieldwork on a number of Late-glacial Magdalenian and Federmesser Gruppen archaeological sites in Germany for RESET. Sites sampled included Oldendorf (Ldkr. Rotenburg, Wümme), Weitsche (Ldkr.

Lüchow-Dannenberg), Lengefeld-Bad Kösen (Sachsen-Anhalt), Wesseling-Eichholz (Köln), Hohle Fels (Alb-Donau-Kreis) and Hohlenstein-Stadel IV (Alb-Donau-Kreis), 12-30 August.

David Simon was a participant in a roundtable discussion on Development Theory that Matters, on Friday 29th August. He also presented a paper on 'The Urban Development Challenges of GEC: Stern, IPCC and Beyond' in the Climate Change Research Group and Developing Areas Research Group session on Climate Change in Developing Countries on Friday 29th August.

At the RGS-IBG Conference held in London 27-29 August, Katie Willis gave a paper entitled 'The Forgotten Continent? The place of Latin America in 'British' Geography'.

At the RGS-IBG Conference Madeleine Dobson (RHUL PhD student) and Elaine Ho (previously ESRC post-doc in the department, now Geography at the University of British Columbia) organised three sessions on the theme of 'Migration and Everyday Matters: Sociality and Materiality'. Maddy gave a paper on her PhD research entitled 'Domestic Material Culture and Return Migration: Britons moving 'Home'.

At the RGS-IBG Conference, Sorayya Khan presented a paper on her PhD research in a session organised by the Participatory Geographies Working Group and the Postgraduate Forum. Her paper was entitled 'Community participation in malaria management in Mopti Region, Mali.'

Charles Howie gave two presentations at the annual conference of the RGS:

- Farmer decision making in the Mekong Delta, Vietnam at a session organised by Development Areas Research Group (DARG)
- You get a curriculum for integrated rural development and I get access to farmers for my PhD: an equal academic exchange in the Mekong Delta, Vietnam at a

session organised by the RGS Rural Geographers Research Group (RGRG)

Charles Howie's work also featured on the college website on 1st September, see: [www.rhul.ac.uk](http://www.rhul.ac.uk). Vietnam.

Philip Hatfield presented a paper entitled, "Colonial Copyright and the Photographic Image: Collecting the Empire" in the session "New and Emerging Research in Historical Geography" (sponsored by the Historical Geography Research Group).

Presentation: in joint Climate Change and Developing Areas Research Groups session:

Duncan McGregor, David Barker and Donovan Campbell presented a paper entitled 'Environmental Change and Caribbean food security: recent hazard impacts and domestic food production in Jamaica', at the RGS-IBG conference. Duncan also presented the accounts and completed his 3 year period of office as Climate Change Research Group Treasurer.

At the RGS-IBG conference, Craig Martin presented a paper, 'Doing Disorder: Michel Serres' Language of Cacophony' as part of Non-Representational Geographies session (Wednesday 27 August).

At the RGS conference Hannah Macpherson gave a paper on "The workings of humour and laughter in research with members of visually impaired walking groups". This paper is approved for publication in Environment and Planning D and forthcoming in 2009.

Lowri Jones gave a paper on 'Native informants & cartography: The case of the Nile sources' at the RGS-IBG Annual Conference in a session on 'Indigenous' knowledge, resistance and agency: telling the hidden histories of geographical field science and exploration, which she co-convened with Nicola Thomas and Jude Hill of Exeter University.

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Eriko Yasue gave one presentation at the annual conference of the RGS:

Title: The reproduction of landscape and photographic practice by contemporary Japanese tourists at Asuke in Japan (At a session titled New and Emerging Research on Tourism Geographies)

Klaus Dodds presented at a session entitled 'The geopolitics of British foreign policy' and was involved with an editorial board meeting of the transactions of the Institute of British Geographers.

Luiza Bialasiewicz organised (and was one of the discussants in) a panel session on "The New Political Geographies of European Power", sponsored by the Political Geography Research Group.

Tim Unwin gave the opening keynote on "ICT4D - where next?" at the International Network for Postgraduate Students in the area of ICT4D symposium, 7-8 September 2008, Joensuu, Finland.

IPID ICT4D PG Symposium, Joensuu and Mekrijärvi, Finland, 7- 9 September 2008

David Hollow, Niels Peter Nielsen, Uduak Okon and Ugo Vallauri presented papers at the 3rd IPID symposium held in Finland. Tim Unwin gave the opening keynote address, and Paolo Brunello, Andrea Burris, Marije Geldof and Fernanda Scur also participated.

Jenny Kynaston attended the 44th Annual Summer School of the Society of Cartographers at the University of Aberdeen at the beginning of September. The summer school had an interesting range of seminars, workshops and visits - rounded off by the Annual Dinner and Ceilidh. In her first year as a Committee Member she was able to participate more closely with society members and take on responsibilities including chairing a session and helping the Membership Secretary encourage new recruits.

Alasdair Pinkerton attended the

annual CRESC (ESRC Centre for Research on Socio-Cultural Change) Conference, held at St John's College, Oxford, on 4th September. He delivered a paper - entitled "BBC Calls the World: Cold War broadcasting and the struggle for South Asia" - that explored how the BBC's overseas services have created and complicated understandings of 'global citizenship' and cosmopolitanism'.

Andrew Brooks attended the Minewatch Zambia Conference at Oxford University on the 19th and 20th September where he presented a paper based on his MSc dissertation entitled: Spinning and Weaving Discontent: Labour Relations and the Production of Meaning at Zambia-China Mulungushi Textiles'

Ian Matthews<sup>1</sup>, Anna Bourne<sup>2</sup> and Alison MacLeod<sup>3</sup> presented talks at the 8th Congress of the International Association of Volcanology and the Chemistry of the Earth's Interior (IAVCEI) in Reykjavik, Iceland. Talks were entitled:

1. Holocene tephrochronology and wetland archaeology in the British Isles: new developments.
2. Refining and augmenting Central Mediterranean Tephrochronologies using Non-Visible Ash layers from the Upper Pleistocene
3. Tephrochronology of varved sediment records in Scotland: towards improving the chronology of events during the Last Glacial-Interglacial Transition

Members of the CQR have recently been involved in an international climate workshop, focussing on understanding long term records. The meeting was of Integration of Ice Core, Marine and Terrestrial Records (INTIMATE) working group, which aims to better understand the mechanisms controlling natural abrupt climate change by comparing independent records that cover the last 30,000 years. The meeting was organised by Simon Blockely, with colleagues from Oxford. CQR members John Lowe, Ian Matthews, Alison Macleod, Adrian Palmer and Sean Pyne-O'donnell presented:

Alison MacLeod<sup>1</sup> and Sean Pyne-O'Donnell<sup>2</sup> presented talks at the 10th IntIMaTe Conference (Integration of Ice core, marine and terrestrial records of the last termination), held at St. Antony's College, University of Oxford. Talks were entitled:

1. Tephrochronology of varved sediment records in Scotland: towards improving the chronology of events during the LGIT.
2. Late Quaternary ultra-distal tephrochronology in the northern hemisphere: potential and limits

Danielle Schreve gave a paper ("The Edge of the World: the Neanderthal Landscape") at the AHRC Landscape and Environment conference "People and Place: Landscape and Identity through Time" at the University of Chichester on 13th September. Caroline Juby (AHRC Collaborative Doctoral award with the Museum of London) also gave a paper on her PhD research "London before London: Reconstructing a Palaeolithic Landscape" at the meeting.

Danielle Schreve gave a paper with David Bridgland (Durham University) and Peter Allen (departmental research associate) on "A very remote period indeed: developing a framework for the Essex Palaeolithic and Pleistocene" at a conference on "The Historic Environment of Essex: from earliest humans to the 20th century" in Chelmsford on 19th September.

Adrian Palmer, John Lowe and Jim Rose organised the Quaternary Research Organisation Short Field Meeting to Glen Roy and vicinity (7th to 11th September). The meeting was organised with Scottish Natural Heritage and Lochaber Geopark and formed part of the UK contribution to the UN's International Year of Planet Earth. The field trip was attended by 40 delegates with a number of alumni of the department present. A field guide for the area has been published highlighting

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recent discoveries which have advanced our understanding of environmental response to rapid climate change during the last 20 ka.

## PUBLICATIONS

Ekers M, Loftus A, 2008, "The power of water: developing dialogues between Foucault and Gramsci" *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 26(4) 698 - 718

McGregor, D (2008) *Tropical Land Management*. University of London External System, 112pp.

Duncan McGregor (2008) 'Climate change and development', pp. 282-287 in V. Desai and R.B. Potter (eds) *The Companion to Development Studies* (2nd Edition). Hodder Education, London

Unwin, T. and de Bastion, G. (2008) ICT4D, in: Desai, V. and Potter, R.B. (eds) *The Companion to Development Studies*, London: Arnold, 2nd edition, 54-58

Unwin, T. (2008) Conflict, development and aid, in: Desai, V. and Potter, R.B. (eds) *The Companion to Development Studies*, London: Arnold, 2nd edition, 450-53

David Simon (2008) 'Neoliberalism, structural adjustment and poverty reduction strategies', pp. 86-92, and 'Postmodernism and development', pp. 119-124 in V. Desai and R.B. Potter (eds) *The Companion to Development Studies* 2nd edn. London: Hodder Education.

Dodds, K. (2008) 'Developing countries, Third World and the South' and 'Global War on Terror and the Global South' in V Desai and R Potter eds *A Companion to Development Studies* (2nd Edition) London: Arnold: 3-7 and 489-493.

David Simon and Muriel Samé Ekobo (2008) 'Walvis Bay - Swakopmund: Desert micro-region and aspiring regional gateway', Chapter 2, pp. 53-73 in F.

Söderbaum and I. Taylor (eds) *Afro-regions; the dynamics of cross-border micro-regionalism in Africa*. Uppsala: Nordiska Afrikainstitutet.

Benito, G., Thorndycraft, V.R., Rico, M., Sánchez-Moya Y. and Sopeña A. (2008). Palaeoflood and floodplain records from Spain: evidence for long-term climate variability and environmental changes. *Geomorphology* 101, 68-77.

Helen Scalway (2008), *What Kind of Migrant Are You?* Centre for Drawing Project Space-Notes No. 5 (Centre for Drawing, Wimbledon College or Art in collaboration with Royal Holloway, University of London, 2008)

Willis, Katie (2008) 'Migration and Transnationalism', in Vandana Desai & Rob Potter (eds) *Companion to Development Studies*, Second Edition, London: Hodder Arnold, pp. 212-216.

Clive Gamble 2008 *Hidden Landscapes of the Body* In, B.David and J.Thomas (eds.) *Handbook of landscape archaeology*. pages 256-262 *World Archaeology Congress*, Left Coast Press Walnut Creek CA.

David Lambert, 2008, 'The "Glasgow King of Billingsgate": James MacQueen and an Atlantic proslavery network', *Slavery and Abolition* 29, pp 389-413.

Palmer, A.P., Lowe, J.J. and Rose, J. (eds) (2008): *The Quaternary of Glen Roy and vicinity, Field Guide. Quaternary Research Association*, London. (Of the 23 articles in the guide, 15 contributions were made by members of the department including the Editors, Alison MacLeod, Chao-Yuan Chen, Mark Hardiman, Paul Albert, Sean Pyne-O'Donnell and Simon Blockley).

*Review*

Bradley L. Garrett, review of Tim Edensor's *Industrial Ruins in Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 2008, volume 26, pages 758-760.

## GRANTS AND AWARDS

Zoe Poulsen has won the Peter Marsh Prize in Ecology and Conservation, which awards £200 towards fieldwork expenses for an ecology or conservation based dissertation. The title of Zoe's dissertation is "Vegetation and fluvial landscape change on the Olifants River (South Africa) during recent environmental history (1915-2008)".

## VISITORS-MEETINGS IN THE DEPARTMENT

Members of the CQR organized a meeting of the Royal Holloway and Oxford Tephrochronology research group (RHOXTOR), at the end of September. The group brings together tephra researchers from four departments, RHUL Geography, and RHUL Earth Sciences, together with the departments of Archaeology and Earth Sciences from Oxford. The core aim of the group is to facilitate collaborative research initiatives between the four departments, building on the success of the RESET project. At the meeting it was decided that a new governing group would be established to move RHOXTOR activities forward. The steering group will be chaired by Simon Blockley (RHUL), with David Pyle (Oxford) acting as secretary, and two more representatives from RHUL and Oxford archaeology to be announced. Rupert Housely will be developing a RHOXTOR website and the group will play a major role in producing an upcoming technical guide to tephrochronology.

*Article continues on page 5...*

## ANY OTHER NEWS

Congratulations to Alasdair Pinkerton and Philippa Greaves who were married on 27th September 2008 at Brechin Cathedral, Scotland. It was a great wedding and Philippa's Dad conducted the service.



Peter Gostelow who graduated in 2000 has just completed a four year bicycle trip travelling all the way from Japan, through Asia & Europe to the UK. His journal is on the web-site below:

[http://www.crazyguyonabike.com/doc/?o=3Tzut&doc\\_id=985&v=4q5](http://www.crazyguyonabike.com/doc/?o=3Tzut&doc_id=985&v=4q5)