

# Geography Department News

Monthly Newsletter  
Royal Holloway, University of London

December 2008/January 2009  
Number 182

## STAFF AND STUDENTS

It is with great sadness that we announce that **Mary Qadir**, wife of our longstanding Honorary Research Associate and editor of *Third World Quarterly*, **Shahid Qadir**, died peacefully on Thursday in Lahore at the age of 57. She had been suffering from multiple sclerosis.

Welcome to **Dr. Tom Stevens**, Lecturer in Physical Geography, who joined the Department in January from Kingston University.

Welcome to **Rafida Nawaz** from the University of Multan in Pakistan who will be with us as an academic visitor. She will be based at the Department between January and July 2009. Her work is on the post-colonial Africa. She is working with Klaus Dodds.

Welcome to the Visiting Academic, **Dr Paul Laris**, Associate Prof of Geography at California State University, Long Beach, who specialises in savannas, biogeography and political ecology. He is being hosted by Jay Mistry. Paul is dividing his sabbatical between RHUL and field research in Mali, where he heads at Easter.

Congratulations to **Rob Kemp** on his change of role title to Deputy Principal.

**Felix Driver** was the external assessor for the appointment of the Head of the new School of Global Studies, Sussex University, 8 December.

**David Simon** acted as external examiner for the PhD thesis by Carl Death (International Politics, University of Aberystwyth), entitled *One world comes to one country? Governing sustainable development from the*

Johannesburg Summit, on 30 January. The supervisor was Rita Abrahamsen and the internal examiner Ian Clark.

**Felix Driver** has been invited to serve on one of the AHRC's four Peer Review Panels in 2009-10.

**Dr Vicky Elefanti**, Research Fellow on the AHRC funded Prehistoric Stones of Greece project, has been appointed to the Malcolm H. Wiener Visiting Research professorship at the Wiener Laboratory of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens for the academic year 2009-2010. She will be researching a project entitled "The Laconis cave lithic collection and its contribution to the debate concerning the Middle to Upper Palaeolithic transition in south-eastern Europe"

Congratulations to **Steve Bell** who successfully defended his PhD thesis entitled 'Exploring Empowerment in Rural Uganda: Young People, Sexual Health and NGOs', without the need for any further amendments. The examiners were Janet Bujra (Bradford) and Tim Allen (LSE).

**Ruth Payne** successfully defended her PhD thesis on 15th January. Only very minor corrections need to be made. The examiners were Lorraine van Blerk (University of Reading) and Gareth Jones (LSE). Ruth's thesis, entitled 'Child-headed households in Zambia: from concepts to realities', was funded through an ESRC/CASE award in collaboration with Street Child Africa, was

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## NOTICES

☛ Departmental Seminar - Paul Cloke, Exeter University - 'Something's happening out there! Possibilities for postsecular spaces in the City' - 12.2.09, 5pm, Room 136.

☛ Departmental Seminar - Lisa Dockery and Vicky Little, National Autism Society - 'Supporting Students with Asperger Syndrome in Higher Education' - 18.2.09, 1pm, Room 136

☛ CQR Seminar - Christine Lane, University of Oxford - 'Exploring Geochemical Variability of Microtephra: Characterisation & Discrimination Methods' - 18.2.09, 5pm, Room 136

☛ CEDAR Seminar - David Hollow, RHUL - 'the Challenges of Effective Evaluation in ICT for Education Initiatives in Africa' - 23.2.09, 1pm, Room 136

☛ PERG Seminar - Stephen Young, University of Washington - 'Mobilizing Microfinance: the gendered geopolitics of debt in India' - 19.2.09, 1pm, Room 136

supervised by David Simon and Katie Willis at RHUL and Patrick Shanahan and Felix Holman at SCA.

Congratulations to **Ian Matthews** who successfully defended his PhD Viva, subject to minor corrections, on 17 December 2008 on the 'Late glacial and Holocene tephrochronology of Ireland' co-funded by a Royal Holloway Studentship and Archaeological Development Services Ltd, supervised by Nick Branch and myself. The external examiner were Professor Chris Turney (Exeter) and the University of London Examiner was Dr Viv Jones (UCL). Ian has now started his lectureship with the Department.

Congratulations to **Mauro Cannone** on successfully defending his viva on 27th January. Mauro's thesis was approved with minor corrections. The examiners were Prof. John Allen from the Open University and Prof. Anssi Paasi from the University of Oulu (Finland). Claudio Minca was his supervisor.

**Hilary Geoghegan**, has just been appointed to a three year postdoctoral position at the University of Exeter in Cornwall on 'Envisioning Climate Impacts on Landscape & the Development of Environmental Knowledge'.

**Lowri Jones** began work as a Research Assistant on an AHRC funded project led by Felix Driver. Entitled 'Hidden Histories of Exploration: Exhibiting Geographical Collections', the project takes a new look at the extensive historical collections of the Royal Geographical Society and the Institute of British Geographers (RGS-IBG) by highlighting the role of indigenous peoples in the history of global exploration. Its main focus will be a major exhibition held at the RGS-IBG, South Kensington, in Autumn 2009.

## OUTSIDE ENGAGEMENTS

**Tim Unwin** has been invited to serve on the international editorial board of triple-c (cognition-communication-cooperation) open-access journal for a global sustainable information society.

**Adrian Palmer** and **Ian Matthews** met with Adrian Humpage of the British Geological Survey and Simon Carr (QMUL) to discuss future research grant applications investigating recent palaeoenvironmental change in South Wales at the QRA Annual Discussion Meeting held at Oxford University (January 5th-7th).

On January 29th, **Luiza Bialasiewicz** gave a seminar at the School of Geography, University College Dublin entitled 'Europe at the Border: Trieste and the Meaning of Europe'.

**Duncan McGregor** gave a lecture on 20 January to the Brighton branch of the Geographical Association entitled Physical and human systems in conflict: coping with climate change in the Caribbean.

**David Lambert** presented a paper at Nottingham University's Geography Department on 28th January entitled 'Geographical knowledge, Atlantic slavery and the culture of West African exploration'.

**Mustafa Dikeç** gave a public lecture at the Cité Club, Paris on 13 January. His talk was entitled 'Quelle politique de la ville pour nos banlieues?' ('What policy for our banlieues?').

**Mustafa Dikeç** gave a seminar at the Centre de recherche Réseaux Industrie Aménagement (CRIA), Université Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne on 23 January. His talk was entitled 'L'espace et le politique dans la politique de la ville' ('Space and politics in urban policy').

**Mustafa Dikeç** gave a guest lecture at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles on 30 January. His lecture was

entitled 'Riots as unarticulated justice movements'.

In November 2008 **Mary Dengler** was the invited external reviewer for the Savannah College of Art and Design final year Masters of Architecture programme's project designs that sought to address urban sustainability concerns for the regeneration of the Tottenham Court Road/St. Giles Circus area of London.

**Varyl Thorndycraft** gave a talk on Jan 20th to the High Weald GA in Tonbridge. The title was "Riverine landscapes and floods: a 10,000 year history".

**Dorothea Kleine** has been appointed as a member of the UNESCO UK Working Group on the Information Society.

## PUBLICATIONS

Fritz Schiemer, **David Simon**, Upali Amarasinghe and Jacques Moreau (eds) (2008) Aquatic Ecosystems and Development: Comparative Asian Perspectives. Leiden: Backhuys Publishers and Weikersheim: Margraf Publishers. xii + 508pp. ISBN 978-90-5782-201-8 and 978-3-8236-1530-9.

**David Simon** and Fritz Schiemer (2008) Chapter 1: Aquatic ecosystems and development: the FISHSTRAT project, pp. 1-18 in F. Schiemer, D. Simon, U. Amarasinghe and J. Moreau (eds)

E Ivan Silva, **David Simon** and Fritz Schiemer (2008) Chapter 2: Catchment characteristics, hydrology, limnology and socio-economic features of three reservoirs in Sri Lanka, pp. 19-44 in F. Schiemer, D. Simon, U. Amarasinghe and J. Moreau (eds).

Suchart Ingthamjitr, Boonsong Sricharoenham, **David Simon** and Fritz Schiemer (2008) Chapter 3: Catchment characteristics, hydrology, limnology and socio-economic features of Ubolratana reservoir in Thailand, pp. 45-62 in F. Schiemer, D. Simon, U. Amarasinghe and J. Moreau (eds).

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Teresita Perez, Evangeline Enriquez, Rafael Guerrero III, David Simon and Fritz Schiemer (2008) Chapter 4: Catchment characteristics, hydrology, limnology and socio-economic features of Lake Taal, Philippines, pp. 63-79 in F. Schiemer, D. Simon, U. Amarasinghe and J. Moreau (eds).

Simeona Aypa, Suchart Ingthamjitr, Upali Amarasinghe, David Simon and Castor de Jesus (2008) Chapter 18: Fish cage culture in Asian lakes and reservoirs: potentials and constraints, pp. 305-338 in F. Schiemer, D. Simon, U. Amarasinghe and J. Moreau (eds).

David Simon, Mohottala Kularatne, Pongpat Boonchuwong and Castor de Jesus (2008) Chapter 19: The social economy of fish and fishing within littoral communities, pp. 339-384 in F. Schiemer, D. Simon, U. Amarasinghe and J. Moreau (eds).

David Simon, Mohottala Kularatne, Pongpat Boonchuwong and Castor de Jesus (2008) Chapter 20: Comparative perspectives on fish trading and marketing around five Asian reservoirs and lakes, pp. 385-411 in F. Schiemer, D. Simon, U. Amarasinghe and J. Moreau (eds).

Fritz Schiemer and David Simon (2008) Chapter 23: Aquatic resource management in tropical Asia: Developing a transdisciplinary approach for sustainable development, pp. 467-501 in F. Schiemer, D. Simon, U. Amarasinghe and J. Moreau (eds).

Driver, F 'Hidden histories of exploration: researching and exhibiting geographical collections', *Museums and Galleries History Group Newsletter*, 7 (December 2008), 3-4.

Palmer, A.P., Rose, J., Lowe, J.J. and Walker, M.J.C. (2008) Annually laminated Late Pleistocene sediments from Llangorse Lake South Wales, UK: a chronology for the pattern of ice wastage. *Proceeding of the*

*Geologists' Association*, 119, 245-258.

David Lambert, 2009, "'Taken captive by the mystery of the Great River": Towards an historical geography of British geography and Atlantic slavery', *Journal of Historical Geography* 35 pp 44-65.

Felix Driver, 'Denis Cosgrove: historical geography unbound' (editorial), *Journal of Historical Geography*, 35 (2009), 1-2.

Louise Henderson, 'Everyone will die laughing': John Murray and the Publication of David Livingstone's Missionary Travels, Livingstone Online, Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine at UCL. <http://www.livingstoneonline.ucl.ac.uk/companion.php?id=HIST2>

Smith, Adrian, Alison Stenning & Katie Willis (eds) (2008) 'Social Justice and Neoliberalism: Global Perspectives', London: Zed Books

Willis, Katie, Adrian Smith & Alison Stenning (2008) 'Introduction: Social justice and neoliberalism', in Smith, Adrian, Alison Stenning & Katie Willis (eds) (2008) 'Social Justice and Neoliberalism: Global Perspectives', London: Zed Books, pp. 1-15

Stenning, Alison, Adrian Smith & Katie Willis (2008) 'Conclusion: Neoliberalization, social justice and resistance', in Smith, Adrian, Alison Stenning & Katie Willis (eds) (2008) 'Social Justice and Neoliberalism: Global Perspectives', London: Zed Books, pp. 228-242.

Walsh, Katie, Hsiu-Hua Shen & Katie Willis (2008) 'Heterosexuality and migration in Asia', 'Gender, Place and Culture', 15:6, pp. 575-579.

[This is the introduction to a special issue coming out of a workshop on 'Sexuality and Migration in Asia' which was co-sponsored by the Department of Geography, RHUL and the Asian MetaCentre, National University of Singapore. It was held in Singapore in April 2006 and was organized by Katie Walsh & Katie

Willis from RHUL and Hsiu-hua Shen and Brenda Yeoh from NUS].

## BOOK REVIEWS – ABSTRACTS - CONFERENCE REPORTS

Adrian Palmer and Ian Matthews presented a poster entitled 'A new age-model for the onset of the Holocene in South Wales' at the QRA Annual Discussion Meeting, University of Oxford (January 5th-7th).

Brickell, K. 2008. The Killing of Cambodia: Geography, Genocide and the Unmaking of Space by James Tyner. Ashgate, Aldershot, 2008. Book review for *Environment and Planning C: Government and Policy* 26(6): 1228-1229.

## GRANTS AND AWARDS

Alasdair Pinkerton has been awarded a British Academy Small Research Grant (2009-2010). The grant will allow him to explore the development of US-funded broadcasting projects during the early Cold War era, with particular emphasis on two little-known initiatives known as the "Ring Plan" and "Project TROY".

Simon Blockley won funding for tephra processing as part of a grant awarded to University College Cork.

Tom Stevens has been awarded a research grant from the National Geographic (US\$14,400) for a project entitled "Investigating the East Asian Monsoon through geochronological, geochemical and magnetic fabric analyses of late Cenozoic sediments in Asia." The project involves collaborations with researchers from Nanjing University, China, and Birkbeck College, University of London.

Lisa Howell, Nuffield Bursary student who worked with Mary Dengler this summer to conduct preliminary fieldwork about public perception of Konik horses at Wildwood Trust in Kent, was awarded a British Science

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Association CREST award. Lisa has been accepted for the incoming undergraduate class and plans to join us in Royal Holloway Geography in autumn 2009 to pursue a BSc.

Mary Dengler was awarded a 2008 Commendation by Royal Holloway for the 'Integration of an individual community volunteer project into an active learning curriculum to enhance student learning and employability'.

## **VISITORS-MEETINGS IN THE DEPARTMENT**

Auchariya Yangphrayoon from RHUL presented the CEDAR Seminar on 1st December 2008. The title of his presentation was 'Hedonic Price Model & GIS for Mass Land Valuation in Bangkok Metropolis'

CQR held a Double Seminar on the 8th of December with Professor Andrew Roberts from the National Oceanography Centre, University of Southampton and his presentation was entitled 'Excursions of the Earth's Magnetic Field: Why Does it Wander, Where & for How Long?' and Professor Eelco Rohling from the National Oceanography Centre, University of Southampton with his presentation entitled 'Red Sea Sea-Level Changes - New Constraints on Timing, & Important Implications for the Modern Climate State'.

Danny McCarroll from the University of Wales, Swansea presented the Departmental Seminar on 4th December entitled "Climate Change and the New Millennium".

Joel Wainwright from the Department of Geography, Ohio State University presented the PERG/CEDAR Workshop on 15th January. The title of the presentation was 'Decolonizing Development": A Postgraduate Workshop.

Professor Jules Pretty OBE, from the Department of Biological Sciences, University of Essex

presented the CEDAR Annual Lecture on 21st January. The title of his lecture was 'Sustainable agriculture and the state of the world food system'.

Professor Jules Pretty OBE, from the Department of Biological Sciences, University of Essex presented the CEDAR Workshop on the 21st of January entitled 'Do Connections to Nature Matter Today?'

Alison Macleod, RHUL presented the QUISS Seminar on 28th January entitled "Developing a Varve Chronology for Britain - 16-8 ka BP".

Andrea Lampis (Universidade de los Andes, Colombia) visited the Department on 19th January and presented a session of the MSc PSD on the impact of global environmental change on urban livelihoods and vulnerability in Tumaco on the Colombian coast. He also met with CEDAR staff and discussed research collaboration possibilities with David Simon.

Dr Paul Shaw, Head of Geography Department, University of the West Indies, St Augustine Campus, visited Duncan McGregor on 8 January to take forward collaborative research and other joint activities.

Veit Bachmann, University of Plymouth presented the Departmental Seminar on 22nd January. The title of his presentation was 'European 'Space' in East Africa: Identity, presence and power'.

Anssi Paasi, University of Oulu presented the Departmental Seminar on 26th January. The title of the presentation was 'Revisiting (New) Regional Geography: questioning the taken for granted'.

Dorothea Kleine, RHUL presented the Departmental Seminar on 29th January entitled 'Guerilla ICT4D: Heterodox Development Theory, Ethical Consumers and the Internet.

## **FIELDWORK- CONFERENCES- OVERSEAS**

David Simon presented a paper entitled 'To and through the UK: Holocaust refugee ethnographies of escape, education, internment and careers in development' at the 75th Anniversary Conference of the Council for Assisting Refugee Academics (CARA), 'In Defence of Learning: the Past and the Present', at the British Academy, London, on 4th December.

David Simon attended the conference, Beyond Camps and Forced Labour: Current international research on survivors of Nazi persecution at the Imperial War Museum, 7-9 January 2009 and presented a paper entitled 'Forced migration, career choice and development: Holocaust ethnographies'. David Cesarani (History) was a co-organiser of the conference.

Tim Unwin, Niels Peter Nielsen and Jorrit Mulder participated in the Edulink funded consortium between universities in Denmark, Finland, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Senegal, Tanzania and the UK which held its first workshop from 6th-18th January 2009 in Dar es Salaam and at the Iringa Campus of Tuzi University in Tanzania. This provided an excellent opportunity to cement the partnership, design a digital networking environment, and prepare frameworks for shared content development. Niels Peter and Jorrit stayed on for a period of fieldwork.

Jenny Lunn (PhD student under David Simon's supervision) has just completed 12 months of fieldwork in Kolkata, India. As part of the dissemination of her research findings, she has delivered presentations at the Centre for Urban Economic Studies (University of Calcutta) and the Indian Society for Applied Behavioural Sciences. Jenny and her partner Alessandro Moscuza (a former Masters student of the

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Department) also delivered a lecture on Development Geography to the Geography Department at Loreto College, Kolkata.

Duncan McGregor was invited to attend the two-day international conference on The World Food Crisis and the Global South, held at the Institute for the Study of the Americas/SOAS on 27 and 28 January, 2009. Duncan gave a paper on his work with David Barker and Donovan Campbell (University of the West Indies, Mona Campus) 'Environmental Change and Caribbean Food Security: Recent hazard impacts and domestic food production in Jamaica'.

During her sabbatical, Mary Dengler conducted research investigating different stakeholder perceptions about the governance of contested free-roaming horses at Cumberland Island National Seashore, Georgia. The research was funded by the Royal Holloway Research Strategy Fund. While in Georgia, she presented her preliminary findings as well as ongoing work with Danielle Schreve about wild horses in European lowlands (funded by the RGS-IBG) to the environmental NGO, National Wildlife Federation at the southeastern regional headquarters in Atlanta.

Dorothea Kleine (RHUL), Ann Light (Sheffield Hallam), Ian Brown (Oxford Internet Institute) and Apurba Kundu (Bradford) from the Fair Tracing Project presented key research findings at the second annual EPSCR Bridging the Global Digital Divide network conference. Cambridge, January 5-6

Dorothea Kleine hosted an international online video conference on research on the "ethical consumer" on 28th of January. Participants came from the US, the UK and Finland and included Terry Newholm of Manchester Business School and Nate Greenslit of MIT Media Lab, as well as activists and open source programmers.

## ANY OTHER NEWS

Richard Clarke (Alumni - 1999) has been signed up by Capital FM and will present the daily late-night show between 10pm and 1am on 95.8 Capital FM from the beginning of 2009. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/media/2008/oct/20/radio2>.

The Department has been ranked within the top 10 nationally in the RAE 2008, at joint 9th, on the basis of the proportion of 4\* and 3\* in the overall profile. Our overall profile is 4\*: 20%, 3\*: 45%, 2\*: 30% and 1\*: 5%.

4\* is defined as quality that is world-leading and of the highest standards in terms of originality, significance and rigour. 3\* indicates quality that is internationally excellent in terms of originality significance and rigour and just short of the highest standards of excellence. 2\* is internationally recognised, while 1\* is nationally recognised. Details of the three sub-profiles (outputs, research environment, and research esteem) will be released by HEFCE in early January.