Department Newsletter

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STAFF AND STUDENTS

Dipti Bhagat was successfully examined on her PhD thesis on The Poetics of Belonging: Exhibitions and the Performance of White South African Identity, 1886-1936, on 15 February. The examiners were John MacKenzie (Lancaster) and Bill Schwarz (Goldsmiths). The thesis was supervised by Felix Driver.

Rob Imrie gave his inaugural lecture on Tuesday 19th February 2002. The talk was entitled Discourses of Disability and the vote of thanks was given by Huw Thomas of Cardiff University.

Felix Driver has become an Associate Editor of Nineteenth-Century Contexts, an interdisciplinary journal published by Routledge.

Olav Lian has been appointed as “Adjunct Professor of Earth Sciences” in the Department of Earth Sciences, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, Canada.

OUTSIDE ENGAGEMENTS

David Simon visited the Deputy High Commissioner for South Africa, George Johannes, in London on 31 January to discuss the High Commission’s plans to establish a network of UK-based South African expertise able to contribute to development work in South Africa.

David Simon presented a seminar on 'Post-apartheid, post-colonial or postponed?: perspectives on development-environment discourses and policies in southern Africa' to a large audience at the Centre of African Studies, University of Cambridge, on 11 February.

Klaus Dodds visited Wellington College on 29th January and gave a talk on Antarctica. The Head of Geography reported that he had record numbers of students doing GCSE and AS/A2 Geography and that there was a growing interest in 'local' universities such as RHUL.

Peter French acted as external examiner at Norwich City College (APU) for a PhD thesis entitled 'An investigation into the operation and function of floated water meadows.'

Felix Driver was examiner of a PhD thesis by David Lambert, Cambridge University, entitled The Master Subject: White Identities and the Slavery Controversy in Barbados, 1780-1834.

Felix Driver presented a seminar paper (written with Luciana Martins) on 'John Septimus Roe and the art of navigation, c.1812-1830' at the Cabinet of Natural History in the History &
Philosophy of Science Department, Cambridge University, and at the Department of Geography, University of Sussex

**Vandana Desai** attended the Equal Opportunity Committee Meeting at the college on Thursday 21st February 2002.

**Olav Lian** attended a research seminar entitled “Reconstructing the Cordilleran Ice Sheet: information on thermal regime from subglacial sediments” Department of Geography, University of Reading, 26 February 2002.

**John Lowe** chaired the Town Meeting of the NERC’s new £20M Thematic Research Programme on RAPID CLIMATE CHANGE, held in the DTI offices in London on 1st February, 2002. The meeting was attended by over 170 scientists from all over the UK.

**PUBLICATIONS**


Reviews


CONFERENCES-FIELDWORK-OVERSEAS

Abbas Akhoundi gave a lecture at the Economic Globalization conference run by The Iranian Trade Research Centre on 29th January 2002. The title of his lecture was “Rethinking Globalization: An Analytical Framework”.


Tim Unwin participated in the Green College Oxford seminar on the role of methane in global warming held on 7th February, during which he contributed to the panel discussion on policy directions for the future.

David Simon was in Bangkok from 17-23 February to run the Users' Dissemination Meeting and hold a final team meeting on the EU-funded FISHSTRAT project on sustainable reservoir and lake fisheries development in tropical Asia.


Olav Lian organised the session “Glaciogeological and geomorphological evidence of ancient ice streams and outlet glaciers” for 2003 INQUA conference in Reno, Nevada, USA.

John Lowe attended the inaugural workshop of the EU-funded ‘EURODELT’ project in Bologna, Italy, from 19-23 January, 2002. EURODELT is a Concerted Action within Framework V. Co-ordinated by scientists based in the CNR Bologna, it involves research teams from 10 European countries, and is linked to American-funded Mediterranean research programs as well. The aim of the project is to establish which prodeltas in the Mediterranean
Sea will be subject to instability, and over what timescales. The Royal Holloway team will be responsible for establishing a precise timescale for the records which are to be studied and synthesised within the project.

VISITORS TO THE DEPARTMENT

Korsi Ashong, of the Centre for the Development of People (CEDEP), a leading Ghanaian NGO, met David Simon in London on 15th February to discuss the final report of the DFID-funded project R7995 on sustainable natural resource-based livelihood planning, held by CEDEP and on which David has been working.

GRANTS

Richard Hodgkins has been awarded a NERC small research grant of £30,580.68 for a project entitled "Modelling the spatial and temporal evolution of winter glacier mass balance" taking place between 01/08/02 and 31/07/04. The location is Langjökull, which is Iceland's second-largest ice cap at 960 sq km in area.

Richard Hodgkins has received a grant of £280 from the British Geomorphological Research Group for "Digital Elevation Modelling of Outlet Glaciers: Langjökull, Iceland".

Kathy Prendergast has been awarded a Small Grant in the Creative and Performing Arts from the AHRB (£4725). The award entitled 'From abandon to worry: an emotional map of America' is for costs of equipment, software and consumables associated with her digital mapping project.