

Departmental News Letters

Feb / Mar 2008, No. 174

Staff and Students

Denis Cosgrove passed away on 21st March after a long battle against illness. Denis was Professor of Human Geography at Royal Holloway from 1994 to 1999, and Visiting Professor since 2000, returning to teach on the MA Cultural Geography every year until 2007. He was Dean of Royal Holloway's Graduate School from 1998, immediately prior to his appointment to the Alexander Von Humboldt Chair at UCLA in 2000. He will be remembered as a great colleague, teacher and friend. An obituary by David Lowenthal was published by The Independent on 8th April. Memorial events are planned for Los Angeles and London. Denis' book, *Geography and Vision* (which includes a revised version of his inaugural lecture at Royal Holloway) is about to be published by I. B. Tauris.

Tim Cresswell presented his Inaugural lecture on the 6th of February entitled 'Place and mobility in the modern world'.

Jim Rose presented his Special Lecture on Monday, 25th February on 'The landscape and climate of the earliest humans in northern Europe'.

Dr Nick Branch has been promoted to Senior Lecturer in recognition of his contributions in research, teaching, administration and thirdstream activity.

Vandana Desai has been appointed as a Research Associate with Equality Research and Consulting Ltd.

Vandana Desai has been elected as a member of the Advisory Council of the Development Education Association (DEA)

Danielle Schreve has been invited to join the college's Women in Science Group.

Alex Loftus has joined the editorial board of the new radical journal *Human Geography*

Katie Willis was the internal examiner for a PhD thesis at the LSE by Sarah Thomas de Benitez, entitled 'Square holes for round pegs: 'Street' children's experiences of social policy processes 2002-2005 in Puebla City, Mexico'. The external examiner was Dr Michael Wyness, Institute of Education, University of Warwick.

Maria Montero left the Department on 31st March to have her baby and is planning to return to Chile at the end of the year. Her role is being replaced by Helen Le Voi

Matthew Canti completed his PhD on the 31st January 2008. The title of his Thesis was 'The Calcium Carbonate Granules Produced by Earthworms and their Potential for Palaeoenvironmental Interpretation'. The examiners were: Professor K Thomas of the Institute of Archaeology, University College London and Dr R Preece Department of Zoology, University of Cambridge.

Hilary Geoghegan completed her PhD on the 31st January 2008. The title of her Thesis was 'The Culture of Enthusiasm: Technology, Collecting and Museums'. The examiners were Prof David Matless, University of Nottingham & Dr Gail Davies, University College London. Hilary recently started a ESRC Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Department.

Matt Grove completed his PhD on 29th February 2008. The title of his Thesis was 'The Evolution of Hominin Group Size and Land Use: An Archeological Perspective'. The examiners were Professor Robert Foley & Dr Andrew Garrard.

Bertie Mandelblatt completed her PhD on 29th February. The title of her thesis is 'Feeding the French Atlantic: Colonial Food Provisioning Networks in the Franco-Caribbean during the Ancien Regime'. The examiners were Richard Drayton (Cambridge) and Miles Ogborn (Queen Mary). Bertie is due to take up a SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowship, tenable for two years, based in the History Department at the University of Montreal.

Glenys Owen-Jones completed her PhD thesis on 'Experiences of A-Level Geography Fieldwork' on 25 March. Her examiners were Dr Ian Cook (University of Exeter) and Dr Frances Slater (Institute of Education).

Amanda Rogers completed her PhD on the 31st January 2008. The title of her thesis was 'Geographies of Identity and Performance in Asian American Theatre'. The examiners were Professor Helen Gilbert and Dr J D Dewsbury. Amanda recently started an ESRC Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Department.

Outside Engagements

Varyl Thorndycraft presented a Seminar on 25th February at the North East Quaternary Association, University of Northumbria entitled "Flood response to global change: Evidence from Spanish palaeoflood records".

Varyl Thorndycraft presented a Seminar on 27th Feb at the Department of Geography, University of Liverpool entitled "Flood response to global change: Evidence from Spanish palaeoflood records".

Tim Unwin gave a Seminar on "Constructing national identities – banknotes in central and eastern Europe in the 1990s" for the Association for the Study of Ethnicity and Nationalism at the London School of Economics on 5 March 2008.

David Simon was an invited participant in a British Academy roundtable on 13th March on Europe and the Wider World.

David Simon lectured to the Upper Sixth Form at Hampton School on 'African cities and GEC: Issues and challenges' on 18th March.

Luiza Bialasiewicz led a two-day invited workshop on "Europe in the World" for the International Master's Programme in Planning and Management of Co-operation and Training Activities for Central and Eastern Europe and the Balkans, organised by the Jacques Maritain Institute and the UNESCO Chair in "Peace, Cultural Development and Cultural Policies", in Portogruaro, ITALY, March 27th-28th.

Publications

Macpherson, H M, (2008) 'Between landscape and blindness: some paintings of an artist with macular degeneration' *Cultural Geographies in Practice, Cultural Geographies* 15 pp.261-169

Vandana Desai and Robert Potter (2008) *Doing Development Research*, Vistaar Publications, New Delhi, pp. 324. Special edition for the South Asian countries only (ISBN 8178297191). This book was first published by Sage Publishers in 2006 and still available for the rest of the world.

Vandana Desai and Robert Potter (eds.) (2008) *Companion to Development Studies*, Revised Second edition, Hodder Education, London, pp.587. ISBN 978 0340 889145. This book will also be translated and published by a Chinese publisher in 2009.

Harriot Beazley and **Vandana Desai** (2008) "Gender and Globalisation" in *Companion to Development Studies* (2008) (ed.) Vandana Desai and Robert Potter, Hodder Education, London pp. 359-365.

Vandana Desai (2008) "Community Participation in Development" in *Companion to Development Studies* (eds.) Vandana Desai and Robert Potter, Hodder Education, London pp.115-119.

Vandana Desai (2008) "Role of non-governmental organizations" in *Companion to Development Studies* (eds.) Vandana Desai and Robert Potter, Hodder Education, London pp. 525-530.

David Simon (2008) 'Political ecology and development: Intersections, explorations and challenges arising from the work of Piers Blaikie', *Geoforum* 39(2), pp. 698–707.

Loftus, A. & Lumsden, F., 2008, 'Reworking Hegemony in the Urban Waterscape', *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*, 33: 1.

F.Coward 2008 Standing on the Shoulders of Giants, *Science*, vol. 319, pp. 1493-5

Grants and Awards

Jim Rose has been awarded the prestigious Coke Medal by the Geological Society of London, in recognition of his services and contributions to Quaternary geology.

Chris Stringer, one of our Visiting Professors, has been awarded the 2008 Kistler Book Award for his account of the AHOB project, *Homo britannicus*.

Klaus Dodds was awarded £7,476 by the British Academy for a project entitled 'Icy nationalism: geopolitics, resource speculation and the polar regions'. Bridget Robison will be the RA for this project.

John Lowe was awarded £7,343 by NERTC/British Geological Survey for a project with Adrian Palmer and colleagues from QMUL on 'The last glacial-interglacial transition in South Wales: an integrated investigation of the timing of rapid environmental change'.

Nick Branch and **Varyl Thorndycraft** have been successful in winning an Archaeoscape contract for £8,500 with the Environment Agency.

Fieldwork-Conferences-Overseas

David Simon was in Dakar from 21-25th February on behalf of the IHDP Urbanization and Global Environmental Change programme. On 22nd he helped run a regional workshop on 'Resilience to climate change in an urbanizing West Africa', presenting a session on African cities and climate change. On 23-24th February, the UGEC scientific steering committee met, and on 25th a guided tour of vulnerable areas of the sprawling Dakar metropolis was undertaken.

Katie Willis ran a one-day workshop on 'Qualitative Methods in Development Research' at the Chr. Michelsen Institute, Bergen, Norway. The workshop was attended by PhD students and members of research staff from the Political Science and Anthropology groups.

Tim Cresswell gave a workshop on the theme of new media, mobility and identity at the Mobile City conference at the Netherlands Architecture Institute at Rotterdam on 27th February. This was followed in the 28th by a Keynote Address entitled, Dromologies: Towards a Politics of Mobility.

Ann Light, **Dorothea Kleine** and Maria Montero from the EPSRC Fair Tracing Project organised a Design Workshop at University College London with a representative from the Nokia Green Team in Tampere, Finland and London-based human-computer interaction designers, web designers as well as social scientists and computer scientists from the Fair Tracing Team. February 13

On March 1st, **Alex Loftus** presented a paper as part of a two-day workshop on 'Ethnographies of Activism' at the LSE.

Jay Mistry, Katie Willis and Duncan McGregor led 20 students to Mulanje, Malawi on the 2nd Year Environment and Development field trip. Despite this being arranged at very short notice, the trip was successful, thanks in no small measure to the assistance given locally by Elsbeth Robson, Moses Mwale and Partrick Katundu. The Mulanje area is more humid than the usual semi-arid Kenyan destination, but the group projects transferred successfully. Students and staff alike gained valuable field experience of a poor (by UK standards) developing area which is the current target for a number of EU-funded development projects.

Visitors/meetings in the department

Diana Liverman, Director, Environmental Change Institute and Professor of Environmental Science at the University of Oxford presented the CEDAR Annual Lecture on Wednesday, 13th February. The title of her lecture was 'Accumulation by Decarbonisation? Carbon, Climate and Sustainable Development'. Prof Liverman also gave a CEDAR Postgraduate Workshop on 13th February on her recent work on Carbon Trading and the Clean Development Mechanism.

Yen Lee, Department of Politics, RHUL presented the CEDAR Seminar on 4th February entitled 'Changing politics through Digital Networks? A comparative study of South Korea and Indonesia'.

Mark Whitehead, University of Wales, Aberystwyth presented the PERG Seminar on 7th February entitled 'Urban Sustainability in Critical Geographical Context'.

Elizabeth Olson, School of Geosciences, University of Edinburgh presented the CEDAR Seminar on 18th February entitled 'Common Belief, Contested Meanings: Organizational Culture in Faith-Based Development'.

Varyl Thorndycraft presented the QUISS Seminar on 13th February entitled 'A Rough Guide to Holocene River Environments'.

Elizabeth Olson, School of Geosciences, University of Edinburgh presented the CEDAR Seminar on 18th February entitled 'Common Belief, Contested Meanings: Organizational Culture in Faith-Based Development'.

Marije Geldof, Dept of Geography, RHUL presented the CEDAR Seminar on 3rd March entitled 'The Interaction Between Low-Literate Youth & ICT in Ethiopia & Malawi'.

Hannah Macpherson and Jennie Middleton organised an interdisciplinary workshop, entitled 'Peripatetic Practices: a workshop on walking', which took place on 31st March 2008. The workshop had over forty participants including academics, policymakers, and artists. The paper and discussion sessions generated productive exchanges concerning different ways of thinking through and about the practice of walking. The event was supported by the ESRC and SCG.

Juliet Fall from University of Geneva presented the PERG Seminar on 13th March. Title of her presentation was 'Artificial states and natural boundaries: two geographical myths that won't go away'.

Any Other News

Congratulations to the members of the two teams that battled it out with LSE and UCL at the Intercollegiate Quiz on 18th February. Not only did our two teams come first and third place, but we also won the Best University prize (Uni with highest average score)! Those to be congratulated from the two teams are: **Simon Armitage, Tom Banks, Mark Berry, Ian Candy, Dave Elsey, Dom Godfrey, Jon Hancock, Alex Loftus, Rick Meakin and Guy Thallon.**

A feature on **Madeleine Dobson's** ESRC-funded research on repatriation, home and identity (supervised by Katie Willis) was published in The Daily Telegraph, 20 March. 2008