

Staff and Students

Congratulations to **Dr. Luiza Bialasiewicz** who has been promoted to Senior Lecturer; **Dr. Scott Elias** who has been conferred with the title of Professor; **Dr. Jay Mistry** who has been promoted to Senior Lecturer; and **Dr. Danielle Schreve** who has been conferred with the title of Reader.

Welcome to **Win Min Tun** who joined us in January as the Department's new Computer Technician.

Welcome to **James Reid** who has joined Archaeoscape; and to **Dr. Helen Scalway** who is a postdoctoral researcher on the AHRC/V&A project on Fashioning Diaspora Space, working with Felix Driver and Phil Crang.

Felix Driver was a member of the Periodic Subject Review Panel reviewing provision at the Department of Geography at Exeter University (including the Cornwall campus), and the Cornwall School of Mines, 27-28 February.

Luiza Bialasiewicz has been invited to join the Editorial Board of ACME: The International E-Journal of Critical Geographies.

Pippa Biltcliffe has successfully defended her PhD thesis, supported by an AHRC studentship, entitled A cultural geography of Victorian art collecting: identity, acquisition and display. The examiners were Prof Stephen Daniels (Nottingham) and Prof Alison Blunt (QMUL). Pippa is currently working in the education department at the Natural History Museum.

Mohamed Eltayeb (MSc 2000), one of our successful distance learning pilot group on the MSc Geography of Third World Development, has been awarded his PhD at the University of Khartoum for a thesis entitled 'Heavy metals in coral reefs and selected fauna along the Sudanese Red Sea coast'. He is the second from this group to complete a PhD.

Stella Blockley was awarded her PhD by Bradford University in December..

Katie Willis acted as internal PhD examiner for Emmeline Skinner (UCL). Her thesis was entitled 'Livelihoods strategies in old age: Older people and poverty in urban Bolivia'. The external examiner was Dr Peter Lloyd-Sherlock (University of East Anglia).

Katie Willis was internal PhD examiner for Elaine Ho (UCL). Her thesis was entitled 'Debating Migration and Citizenship in a Transnational World: 'Highly skilled' Singaporeans in London'. The external examiner was Professor Joe Painter (Durham University).

Peter French acted as external examiner at the Geography Department, University of Cambridge, for a PhD thesis entitled 'Wave energy dissipation at cliffed salt marsh margins'.

Outside Engagements

David Simon and **Katie Willis**, along with 3 MSc Practising Sustainable Development students, Diana Safieh, Shahid Nadeem and Bhuvan Veerma, attended the presentation and discussion on 'The challenge of reducing poverty: comparing developed and developing countries' by Hilary Benn, Secretary of State for International Development, at the Institute of Education, London, on 20 February.

Tim Cresswell was invited to lead a tour at Bristol's Arnolfini Gallery on January 6. He discussed his reactions to the work of Lois and Franziska Weinberger which considers the idea of a garden as a metaphor for society.

David Simon has been elected vice-chair of the Board of the Journal of Southern African Studies, of which journal he is also the senior editor.

David Lambert presented a paper entitled "'Taken captive by the mystery of the Great River": James MacQueen's geography and the place of slavery' at the Department of Geography, University of Cambridge, 24 January.

Ed Derbyshire met Professor John Dodson (Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation) in central London on 21 December in order to review the status of the Science Programme of the International Year of Planet Earth 2007-2009.

Ed Derbyshire attended the first Board Meeting of the International Year of Planet Earth Corporation, held in the Geological Society, Piccadilly, 9-10 January. He also attended the formal joint launch of the Bicentenary of the Geological Society and the Triennium of the International Year of Planet Earth 2007-2009.

Ed Derbyshire attended the 4th meeting of the Natural Sciences Committee of the United Kingdom National Commission for UNESCO at The Linnean Society, London on 31 January

Katie Willis gave a talk entitled 'Migration and Urbanisation in China' to the Bedford branch of the Geographical Association.

David Simon presented a seminar on 'Urbanisation and global environmental change: the challenge for African cities' in the Oxford University Centre for the Environment on Friday 9th February.

David Simon presented a Lecture on 'Urbanisation and global environmental change: the challenge for African cities' in the Geography Department at Kings College, London on the 20th of February.

David Simon attended the Editorial Working Group meeting of the Review of African Political Economy in Sheffield on 2 February.

Varyl Thorndycraft attended a meeting on 1st February, supported by INQUA, at The Royal Society, London. "The significance of past hydrological events: using existing 14C data to reconstruct Holocene fluvial activity in temperate and tropical regions"

Publications

Butler, T., 'A walk of art: the potential of the sound walk as practice in cultural geography', *Social and Cultural Geography*, 7 (2006), pp. 889-908

Derbyshire, E. and Fort, M. 2006. Geomorphology and mountain hazards in the Hunza Valley. Chapter 6 in Kreutzmann, H. (ed.) *Karakoram in transition: culture. development and ecology in the Hunza Valley*, 74-95, Oxford University Press.

Derbyshire, E., 2007, International Collaboration in Global Science: Price or Prize? *Geotimes* v. 52, p.7.

F Driver and L. Martins, 'John Septimus Roe and the art of navigation, c. 1815-1830' in Tim Barringer, Geoff Quilley and Douglas Fordham (eds), *Art and the British Empire* (Manchester University Press, 2007), pp. 53-66.

F. Driver and E. Baigent, 'Biography and the history of geography: a response to Ron Johnston', *Progress in Human Geography*, 31 (1), 2007, pp. 101-106.

M. Feakins and **L. Bialasiewicz** (2006). "Trouble in the East": The New Entrants and Challenges to the European Ideal. *Eurasian Geography and Economics*, 67, No. 6, pp. 647-661.

Guillaume Iyenda and **David Simon** (2006) Gender, bread winning and family life in Kinshasa, pp. 221-236 in M.J. Murray and G.A. Myers (eds) *Cities in Contemporary Africa*. New York and Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

Simon, D. (2006) Global Change and the Urban Risk: the Challenge for African Cities, *CEDAR Research Paper* 43, 30pp

Book Reviews

David Simon (2005) review of 'Urban Africa: changing contours of survival in the city' (edited by AM Simone and A Abouhani, CODESRIA, Dakar, and Zed Books, London, 2005), *International Development Planning Review* 27(4): 499-500.

D. McGregor: Joint Review of: 'The Vulnerability of Cities: Natural Disasters and Social Resilience' (M. Pelling, Earthscan, 2003) and 'Natural Disasters and Development in a Globalizing World' M. Pelling (editor), Routledge, 2003) in *International Development Planning Review*, 28 (6), 2006, 408-410.

Grants and Awards

Sorayya Khan has received a grant of £1,100 from the Central Research Fund of the University of London towards the cost of field research on community participation in health service provision in rural Mali.

Jim Rose has been awarded £2,000 continuation funding by NERC under the BGS Collaborative Research Programme in support of his work for the East Anglia regional guide on the Kesgrave and Bytham formations.

Jay Mistry has been awarded £7,492 by the British Academy for her project on ‘Exploring the adaptive capacity of the Makushi social memory, Guyana’.

Danielle Schreve has been awarded £4,400 from the British Council, in association with the Ministero dell’Universita e della Ricerca, to support collaborative research on faunal assemblages in Italy.

Alex Loftus has been awarded £1,037 from the College’s Research Strategy Fund to support a workshop series on ‘Urban interventions and the “sustainable Games”’.

Fieldwork-Conferences-Overseas

Klaus Dodds presented a paper on geopolitics of James Bond at the Colloque James Bond (2)007: Histoire culturelle et enjeux esthetiques d'une saga populaire which was held at the National Library in Paris (16-18 January). He was also interviewed by French and German journalists about why French intellectuals were holding a symposium about an Anglo-Saxon super-spy.

Duncan McGregor attended the 4th International Conference of the African Soil Science Society, 7 to 13 January 2007, in Accra, Ghana. He presented a paper on ‘Resource management and agriculture in the peri-urban zone of Kumasi, Ghana: problems and prospects’ (D.F.M. McGregor, A. Adam-Bradford, D.A. Thompson and D. Simon). He also visited Dr Pay Drechsel, Regional Director of International Water Management Institute, at IWMI offices in Accra, to take forward a joint research application to ESRC/DFID in conjunction with the University of Development Studies, Tamale, Ghana.

Visitors-Meetings in the Department

Duncan McGregor presented the Departmental Seminar on the 25th of January entitled ‘Environmental Change and Caribbean food security: recent hazard impacts and domestic food production in Jamaica’.

Luiza Bialasiewicz presented the Monday Night Lectures in Geography on the 29th of January. The title of her presentation was ‘Making Europe: The Geographies of European Integration, from the EU Constitution to Eurovision’.

The Department held a successful Alumni Careers Evening on the 30th of January.

Fiona Coward presented the Departmental Seminar on the 8th of February. The title of her presentation was ‘From Lucy to language: The archaeology of the social brain’.

Maria Kaika from Oxford University, presented the Departmental Seminar on the 22nd of February. The title of her presentation was ‘Sublime objects for autistic architecture? Re-imagi(n)g London and re-branding the City’.

Yutaka Sato, Post-doctoral Researcher at RHUL presented the CEDAR Seminar on the 12th of February. The title of his presentation was ‘Urban Restructuring and the Limits of Social Transformation: the Case of Ahmedabad, India’.

Nick Branch and **Dr. Frank Meddens** presented the QUISS Seminar on the 7th of February. The title of their presentation was 'Inca Ushnus – Landscape, Site and Symbol in the Andes: Introduction to the new Arts and Humanities Research Council Funded Project'.

Prof. Erik Swyngedouw from Manchester University presented the CEDAR Seminar on 26th February on the subject of his Transactions IBG paper on 'Technonatural Revolutions: the Scalar Politics of Franco's Hydro-social Dream for Spain, 1939-1975'.

Erik Swyngedouw also presented the CEDAR Annual Lecture entitled 'Climate Change Policy as Post-Political Post-Democratic Populism (PPP)' on the 26th of February.

Dr. Matthew Pope Research Fellow, Boxgrove Projects, Institute of Archaeology, UCL, presented the QUISS Seminar on the 28th of February. The title of the presentation was 'The Valdoe: a new habitat in the Boxgrove palaeolandscape'.

Any Other News

Klaus Dodds is now writing a monthly column on 'Geopolitical hotspots' for the Geographical Magazine. The latest (Feb 2007) is on North Korea.

Nick Branch's field research in Peru was highlighted in the February 2007 edition of the Geographical Magazine (page 22) in an article on the Royal Geographical Society funding for fieldwork projects.

Toby Butler gave an interview on his ESRC-funded Memoryscape project which was published on the literary website 'ready steady book'. See

<http://www.readysteadybook.com/Article.aspx?page=tobybutler>



The Geography Society Annual Dinner was held in the Picture Gallery in Founders on Friday 2nd February. Up to 100 students and staff attended the event which included a professional photographer, prize draws, rewards and auctions and a disco afterwards in Founders Dining hall.

The Geography Society has also been awarded a prize for the best Social Society of the Year, 2006/7: the trophy was presented by Vice-Principal Rob Kemp, and is currently on display in the Queens Building foyer. Congratulations!