

Department Newsletter July 2005, Number 151

STAFF AND STUDENTS

Welcome to **Will (Weili) Wang** the Department's new computing technician as of the 18th of July.

Jill Fenton successfully defended her PhD thesis. The title of the thesis is *Geographie Passionnelle: Contemporary Surrealism in Paris*. The examiners, who commended the thesis for the imaginative and experimental way it was written (very much in the spirit of its subject), were Dr David Pinder (Queen Mary) and Dr Steve Pile (Open University). The project was supported by an ESRC studentship.

Toby Butler's memoryscape walks was launched officially on the 4th of July and the associated website is up and running at www.memoryscape.org.uk

Memoryscape are two walks along the Thames, one in east London (Hampton Court to Kingston), another in West London, (Greenwich to the Millennium Dome) that you do using a CD walkman, MP3 player or ipod. At different places along the walk, you will hear stories, connected to that spot, from local people that Toby interviewed about what it is like to work and live near the river Thames . It has taken three years to develop these sound walks. As you walk, you will hear from 35 different people in total, including a lock keeper, water engineer, dockers, lightermen, houseboat dwellers, the man who designed the modern Thames Path and even a Swan Master! The recordings also include some very rare archive recordings from the Museum in Docklands.

Memoryscape won the West Focus Bright Ideas competition and all the people that have done the sound walks so far have rated it between 8 and 10 (out of 10).

If you think you would like to try one of these walks, please have a look at www.memoryscape.org.uk where you can download the walks or order a CD set and walking booklet. Booklets are available in the main office in Queens Building if anyone would like some to pass on to people.

Toby organised an accompanied walk on the 17th of July at Hampton Court and is holding a further walk on Sunday 31 July at 7pm from Greenwich .

There will be a pub stop and Toby will supply CD walkman for everyone. If you would like to go (bring your friends!) please email Toby for further details.

Sandy Tosvig will be interviewing Toby about Memoryscape on the 2nd of August on LBC radio at lunchtime.

Rob Imrie with Professor Chris Allen have been successful in a bid to the 2004-05 ESRC Seminar competition. Four seminars will be held (two in Central London) on the theme of:

'Understanding the Social Relations of Contract Research Production: A Case Study of Housing and Urban Research'.

Contributors to the seminars will include Dr Rowland Atkinson and Prof. Keith Jacobs (Centre for Housing and Community Studies, University of Tasmania), Professor Patrick le Galès, Dr. Gilles Pinson (University of Saint Etienne), Professor Jim Kemeny (University of Uppsala), and Professor George Galster (Wayne State University).

A book contract has been signed to publish the proceedings of the seminars.

OUTSIDE ENGAGEMENTS

Karen Till gave an invited Lecture entitled "Memorialization, World Heritage, and Human Rights," with Valmont Layne, District Six Museum Director, for international conference in May, "Hands On District Six: Landscapes of Postcolonial Memorialisation," Cape Town, South Africa.

Karen Till gave an invited lecture entitled "The New Berlin: Reflections on Authenticity, Place and Hauntings," Department of History and Public History Program, University of Western Cape, South Africa.

Karen Till gave an invited lecture entitled "Aestheticizing the Rupture: Berlin's Holocaust Memorial," Department of Geography, Cambridge University, U.K.

David Lambert presented a paper entitled 'Creating a National Hero: Surrogacy, history and memory in postcolonial Barbados ' to the Society for Caribbean Studies annual conference at the University of Newcastle (29 June-1 July, 2005).

Felix Driver was an invited speaker in the plenary roundtable session at the AHRC framework seminar on Land, Air & Water, in the Landscape & Environment programme, Nottingham, 2 July.

PUBLICATIONS

Till, Karen, The New Berlin : Memory, Politics, Place (Minneapolis : University of Minnesota Press, 2005)

Imrie, R., 2005, Accessible housing: quality, disability and design, Routledge, London & New York , xvi + 274.

David Lambert, 2005, White creole culture, politics and identity during the age of abolition Cambridge : Cambridge University Press.

David Lambert, 2005, "As solid as the Rock": Place, belonging and the local appropriation of imperial discourse in Gibraltar', Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers Vol. 30 No. 2 pp 206-220.

David Lambert, 2005, 'The counter-revolutionary Atlantic : White West Indian petitions and proslavery networks' *Social and Cultural Geography* Vol. 6 No. 3 pp 407-422.

REVIEWS

Unwin, Tim (2005) Elden, S. (2004) Understanding Henri Lefebvre: Theory and the Possible, London: Continuum, in: *Progress in Human Geography*, 29(3), 386-389.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Charles Howie and Professor Vo-Tong Xuan, Rector of An Giang University, made a successful application to the British Business Group Vietnam (BBGV) for funding to buy an online/CD version of the Encyclopaedia Britannica.

Prof. Xuan received the cheque from the Lord Mayor of the City of London, Alderman Michael Savory, in Ho Chi Minh City on 6th July. The encyclopedia will be available for nearly 5,000 students at the newly formed university in the Mekong Delta, Vietnam. Charles has worked at AGU to develop new curricula and assist with staff development. In return AGU has supported his work for his PhD.

David Lambert was awarded £2520 by the British Academy for a one-year project entitled 'Atlantic slavery and geographical knowledge in the age of abolition (c. 1780-1838): James M'Queen - West Indian slaveholder and "armchair" geographer of Africa'.

VISITORS/MEETINGS IN THE DEPARTMENT

"Dr. Roger Williamson (Associate Director, Sustainable Development, Wilton Park) visited **Tim Unwin** on 1st July to discuss a conference they are convening at Wilton Park in October on the use of ICT partnerships for delivering education and governance agendas in developing countries".

Dr. Roger Levermore of the Univ. of Liverpool Business School visited **David Simon** on 21 July to discuss ideas for his new research project on sport and international development.

CONFERENCES-FIELDWORK-OVERSEAS

In May 2005, **Karen Till** worked collaboratively with the District Six Museum in Cape Town, South Africa on two memory methodology workshops. The goal of the workshops, funded by a British Academy Grant, is to document emerging memory practices of Cape Town communities working through the violent legacies of forced removals. The sound canvases, conceptual mappings and embodied journeys resulting from these workshops resonated through different emotional and historical registers for participants in ways that question the primacy given to visuality in contemporary memory debates and suggest new possibilities for working through trauma. Preliminary analyses suggest that the experimental

rooms, displays and activities of the workshops may help museum and community groups create new exhibition and heritage spaces. The workshops also created a forum for communities to discuss their ideas and projects with one another; inventory their needs, resources and goals; and identify common projects and exchange resources. Participants networked in ways that may facilitate collaborations on intergenerational projects and community outreach programs that promote transitional justice agendas.

The next Cape Town workshop will be facilitated by the District Six Museum and Dr. Till and hosted by a community group later this summer and will include project-based memory methodology workshop diaries.

Tim Unwin attended a conference held at the University of Edinburgh on 4th July on "Towards a new policy for tertiary education and capacity development in Africa"; this was held to make the G8 meeting in Edinburgh , and coincided with the Carnival for Full Enjoyment.

ANY OTHER NEWS

Congratulations to Abdullah (Andy) Adam-Bradford and Mariam on the arrival of their son Billy Jalal Adam-Bradford who was born 0145hrs on the 15 July 2005, London , weighing 7 pounds and 8 ounces. Both mother and child are doing well.

Philip Beesley takes over as Dean of Science from Mike Green, with effect from 1st August. From that date, all communications on Faculty business should be sent to Philip in the Faculty Support Office.

Dr. Simon Blockley has been given a 5 year RC UK Research Fellowship in Tephrochronology at the Research & Lab for Archaeology, Oxford which will be followed by a permanent appointment as Lecturer.

Anne Ballard's son, Scott, attended the official book launch of the new Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince book in Edinburgh . He was one of 70 children worldwide to attend the official launch in which he sat through a reading (by JK Rowling) of Chapter 6 of the new book and was then given a signed copy of the book, was entertained at a Hogwards Banquet in the Great Hall at Edinburgh Castle and took part in a press conference. He pronounced in his book review to the Bookseller that if you like magic, mystery and adventure you must read this book.