

## Department Newsletter July & August 2006, Number 162

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### STAFF AND STUDENTS

**Dr Luiza Bialasiewicz** (Lecturer in Human Geography), **Professor Tim Cresswell** (Chair in Human Geography) and **Professor Claudio Minca** (Chair in Geography) started work in the Department on 1st July.

**Rob Kemp** took up his position as Vice-Principal (Academic Affairs) on 1st August.

**Stephen Pawley** successfully defended his PhD Thesis on 19th July (without having to make any amendments), the topic being 'Glacial History of North Norfolk'. The Examiners were Prof. Jane Hart, University of Southampton and Dr. Colm O'Cofaigh, University of Durham .

**Tim Unwin** has been appointed a High Level Advisor for the UN's Global Alliance for ICT and Development ( <http://www.un-gaid.org/>).

**Felix Driver** has been invited to join the advisory board of the Livingstone Online project at the Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine.

**Toby Butler** has qualified as an Associate of the Museums Association (AMA).

**Bridget Robison** left the Department to start a teacher training course in the Autumn. Bridget remains an Honorary Research Associate.

**Richard Bailey** left the Department at the end of August to take up a post at Oxford.

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### OUTSIDE ENGAGEMENTS

**Tim Cresswell** gave a keynote address in the Social Technologies Summit that formed part of the Futuresonic Urban Festival of Electronic Music and Arts in Manchester ([www.futuresonic.com](http://www.futuresonic.com)). His talk was called 'The Politics of Mobility in a More-than-human world'.

**Claudio Minca** was the keynote speaker at the Mediterranean Mobilities Research Group's 1st workshop on 7th July entitled 'Emerging Tourism Futures in the Mediterranean'.

**Tim Unwin** gave a Keynote Address entitled 'No End to Poverty', Commonwealth Scholarship Commission conference on Environment and Development, Cumberland Lodge, 28 July.

**Tim Unwin** gave an invited lecture on 'Bridging the Global Digital Divide: Challenges for us all' at an event organised by the Royal Institution at W5 @ Odyssey, Belfast, on 5 July.

**Tim Unwin** gave an invited lecture on 'What's next in ICT at the Open University's International Strategy Conference, Milton Keynes, 10 July.

**Tim Cresswell** gave a response to the video installations of Ergin Cavusoglu at the Arnolfini Gallery in Bristol . Ergin's work concerns notions of place, movement and non-place and draws on his experience as a Bulgarian - Turkish migrant to the UK . Ergin similarly responded to some of Tim's writing in the form of a conversation. This has been recorded for posterity as Material City paper 3 at [www.situations.org.uk/\\_uploaded\\_pdfs/MaterialCityPaper3.pdf](http://www.situations.org.uk/_uploaded_pdfs/MaterialCityPaper3.pdf)

**Ed Derbyshire** conferred with Dr. Eduardo de Mulder (The Netherlands) and Dr. Ted Nield (Geological society of London ) on 9 August on strategic aspects of the International Year of Planet Earth 2007-2009, at Burlington House, London.

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## **FIELDWORK-CONFERENCES-OVERSEAS**

**Duncan McGregor** visited Dr Michelle Mycoo, Department of Surveying and Land Information, University of the West Indies, St Augustine , Trinidad on 11 August, to discuss potential collaborative research. He also spoke with Dr Asad Mohammed (Surveying and Land Information) and Dr Jacob Opadeyi (Faculty of Engineering). He also visited, on behalf of the London External Programme, the Institute of Tertiary Teaching, San Fernando, Trinidad (24 August) and held telephone discussions with the Academy of Tertiary Studies, Curepe, Trinidad

**Duncan McGregor** co-organised (with David Barker and David Dodman, Geography and Geology Department, UWI) the 5th RGS-IBG British-Caribbean Seminar Global Change and Caribbean Vulnerability: Environment, Economy and Society at Risk? held at Mona Campus, University of the West Indies, Jamaica , 24-28 July 2006. Duncan presented (with David Barker, UWI) a paper on Environmental change and Caribbean food security: recent hazard impacts and domestic food production in Jamaica . He chaired two sessions of the conference, and led the closing discussion on: Caribbean vulnerabilities: the way forward. He also co-led (with David Dodman, UWI) a field day on Rural economic development as a response to globalisation. He presented a poster with Savitha Ganapathy entitled Assessing land cover change in Jamaica : archive research, and was interviewed live on local radio on the opening day.

**Felix Driver** visited the archives in the Museu Amazônico (Universidade Federal do Amazonas), Manaus , Brasil, 26-8 July.

### ***2006 RGS-IBG Conference***

Many of the Department's staff and postgraduates organised sessions and presented papers at the Annual Conference of the Royal Geographical Society (with Institute of British Geographers), held in London, 30th August-1st September 2006.

**Simon Armitage** gave a paper with three colleagues entitled 'Reconstructing late Quaternary palaeolacustrine environments in the middle Kalahari , Botswana '.

**Matt Benwell** gave a paper entitled 'Children's geographies in the post-Apartheid suburban landscape, Capetown , South Africa '.

**Toby Butler** gave a paper entitled 'Memoryscape: integrating oral history, sound art and landscape on the River Thames'. Toby also organised a soundwalk around docklands for conference delegates on 30 August.

**Mauro Cannone** gave a paper entitled 'Social capital and (elite) networks of trust: the case of Venice '.

**Tim Cresswell** gave a paper on 'Fixity, flow and the politics of the past: the case of Maxwell Street , Chicago ', and was a contributor to panel discussions on 'Landscape, mobility and practice' and on ' Mobile methodologies: researching mobile experiences'.

**Phil Crang** and **Amanda Rogers** convened a session on 'Theatrical geographies', in which Amanda presented a paper entitled 'It just doesn't feel right! Geographies of emotional involvement in Solve for X'. Phil was also a discussant in a session on 'Urban know-how: performance and experimental practice'.

**Mary Dengler** and **Danielle Schreve** presented a poster on 'The use and perception of wild horses for sustainable landscape management in different biomes and cultures of the European Union'.

**Mustafa Dikeç** co-convened a session on 'Justice and injustice in the city'.

**Felix Driver** co-convened a session on 'Documentary film and historical geography', and as editor of the Journal of Historical Geography sponsored the plenary session on 'Narratives of climate change'.

**Clive Gamble** co-convened a session on 'Mobilities, catchments and quaternary landscapes: Geography, archaeology and the work of E S Higgs', in which he gave a paper entitled 'From catchments to landscapes: a geographical appreciation of the geographical palaeoeconomy of Eric Higgs'. In the same session, Fiona Coward gave a paper on 'Movement, activity and interaction: an ecosystemic approach to prehistory', and Matt Grove gave a paper entitled 'Lithics, space and the central place'.

**Fernando Garcia** gave a paper on 'Continental café culture: conviviality in Chueca , Madrid '.

**David Gilbert** and **David Lambert** convened a session on 'Counterfactual geographies', in which David Gilbert gave a paper entitled 'Worlds that might have been: counterfactuals and the geographical imagination', David Lambert gave a paper entitled 'Britons never never shall be slaves': counterfactual claims from the underdevelopment of Africa to the global reparations movement' and Klaus Dodds gave a paper entitled 'What if? Geopolitics, 9/11 and the US Presidential election, 2000'.

**Alex Loftus** gave a paper entitled 'Producing political ecologies through artistic interventions in the city'.

**Duncan McGregor** presented the annual accounts to the AGM of the Climate Change Research Group, of which he is Treasurer.

**Jay Mistry** co-convened a showcase session on 'Participatory techniques'.

**David Simon** chaired a plenary panel session on 'Urbanisation and global environmental change: twenty-first century challenges'. He also took part in a panel presentation on the International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change, as part of the Climate Change Research Group session.

**Justin Spinney** co-convened a session on ' Mobile methodologies: researching mobile experiences', in which he also gave a paper entitled 'So what does that look like? Knowing and representing the unspeakable'. Justin also co-presented another paper on 'Cycling and rhythm: an attempt at a rhythmanalysis of the practice of cycling'.

**Katie Willis** co-convened a session on 'Global social justice and neo-liberalism: voices from the margins', in which she was a discussant; and was also convenor of another session on 'Disasters, development and generosity', in which she was also a discussant. Katie was also a member of the Conference Planning Committee.

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## PUBLICATIONS

**Bialasiewicz, L.** (2006). "The Death of the West: Samuel Huntington, Oriana Fallaci and a New 'Moral' Geopolitics of Births and Bodies" *Geopolitics* 11:1-24

**Bialasiewicz, L.** and S. Elden (2006). "The New Geopolitics of Division and the Problem of a Kantian Europe " *Review of International Studies* 32(4)

**Driver, F.** and **Martins, L.**, 'Shipwreck and salvage in the tropics: the case of HMS Thetis, 1830-1854', *Journal of Historical Geography*, vol. 32 (2006), 539-562

Mulder, E. F.J. de., Nield, T. and **Derbyshire, E.** , 2006. The International Year of Planet Earth (2007-2009): *Earth Sciences for Society* . Episodes 26: 82-86

**Scalway, H.**, 'A patois of pattern: pattern, memory and the cosmopolitan city, *Cultural Geographies* , 13 (2006) 451-7.

## BOOK REVIEWS

**Felix Driver** , review of P Kitson (ed) Nineteenth-Century Travels, Explorations and Empires: Writings from the Era of Imperial Consolidation, 1835-1910 (4 Vols, Pickering & Chatto, 2003), *Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History* 34 (2006) pp. 460-462

**Fernando Garcia** (2006), review of Ellis, Markman. (2004) The Coffee House: a Cultural History, London : Weidenfeld and Nicolson, in: *London Journal* , 31(1), 112-114

**Toby Butler's** 'Drifting' audio walk from Hampton Court to Kingston has been reviewed in *the Oral History Review* (Winter/Spring 2006, 33:1, 107-109), where it is likened to a 'Zen koan'.

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## GRANTS AND AWARDS

A team led by **Phil Crang** has been awarded £504,037 by the AHRC under the Diasporas, Migration & Identities Scheme, for a project entitled 'Fashioning diaspora space: textiles, pattern and cultural exchange between Britain and South Asia'. The project, based at Royal Holloway, is in collaboration with the Victoria & Albert Museum. The Co-investigators **are Felix Driver**, Chris Breward (V&A Research Division) and Rosemary Crill (V&A Asian Department). **Dr Helen Scalway** (currently Research Associate at RHUL) will be one of two Research Assistants. There is also a PhD studentship.

**Phil Crang** has also been awarded £12,572 by the AHRC, under the Landscape & Environment programme research networks scheme, for a series of workshops in 2007 entitled 'On the go: mobilities, settlement and performance'. Colleagues from Geography, Drama, English and Music will be involved in managing these workshops.

**David Simon** has been awarded £7,500 by the British Academy for his research project on 'The road beyond hell: the influence of Holocaust survivors on development thinking'.

**Duncan McGregor** has been awarded a Travel Grant of £900 by The Royal Society for attendance at the 5th RGS-IBG British-Caribbean Seminar, Jamaica, July 2006.

Congratulations to **Alex Loftus**, who (as reported in the Times Higher on 14 July) was shortlisted for the ESRC's Michael Young prize for a project proposal on 'How people shape urban environments and the constraints on the ability to do so'.

The Cultural Geography MA students of 2004-5 have been awarded the Landscape Research Group's prize for the 'best project or dissertation based on original academic research and showing conceptual sophistication in the study of landscape' for its website project on the 'Soundscape of London'. Listen for yourself at <http://www.gg.rhul.ac.uk/MA/Soundscape/index.html>

**Marije Geldof**, PhD student in the Department, has been awarded a Microsoft Research European PhD Scholarship for her research on the role of ICT in empowering people with low-literacy levels in Africa.

**Ed Derbyshire** has been awarded £1300 to help with expenses incurred in two scientific meetings in Beijing, and with visiting laboratories in other parts of China in September and October.

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## ANY OTHER NEWS

**Third World Quarterly** is publishing 3 special issues in 2006

## VOL.27 (1) 2006 From Nation-Building to State-Building

In the post-9/11 era there is renewed awareness of, or concern about, the connection between U.S. foreign policy, international security and nation-building (or what is increasingly termed state-building). The overall aim of this Special Issue is to contribute to the emerging literature on the relationship between international security and nation- or state-building in the post-Cold War era through a broadly comparative examination of the extent and type of nation- and state-building and the ways in which particular polities (primarily nation-states, but also regional and international organizations) define security and development in a changing U.S.-centred global context.

## *VOL.27 (5) 2006 Reshaping Justice: International Law and the Third World*

It is our hope that this Special Issue will encourage debate and dialogue on the topics covered. What unifies the very disparate contributions to this volume is a dual commitment that connects international law with prospects for global justice and that imagines how international law in the future might be made to serve the cause of social progress and moral evolution for the planet as a whole, but especially for the peoples of the Third World.

## *VOL.27 (7) 2006 The Politics of Rights: dilemmas for feminist praxis*

Since the late 1990s, development institutions have increasingly used the language of rights in their policy and practice. This special issue on feminist perspectives on politics of rights explores the strategies, tensions and challenges associated with 'rights work' in a variety of settings. Articles on the Middle East, Africa, Latin America, East and South Asia explore the dilemmas that arise for feminist praxis in these diverse locations, and address the question of what rights can contribute to struggles for gender justice. They explore the intersection of formal rights - whether international human rights conventions, constitutional rights or national legislation - with the everyday realities of women in settings characterised by entrenched gender inequalities and poverty, plural legal systems and cultural norms that can constitute formidable obstacles to realising rights. They suggest that these sites of struggle can create new possibilities and meanings - and a politics of rights animated by demands for social and gender justice.