

## Departmental News Letters

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### Staff and Students

Welcome to **Dr Elaine Ho**, who joins the Department as an ESRC Postdoctoral Fellow and is working on a project entitled 'Geographical perspectives on citizenship: "highly skilled" Singaporean transmigrants in London'. Elaine will be working with **Katie Willis**.

Congratulations to **Phil Crang**, who has been appointed as a member of the AHRC's Visual Arts and Media Panel for 2007-9. Phil is only the second geographer to be appointed to an AHRC research or postgraduate awards panel.

**Felix Driver** has been appointed a member of the peer review college for the SSHRC Canada Research Chairs program.

Welcome to **Amanda Farry** and **Clare Robertson** who were awarded internships and will be working for Archaeoscape.

Congratulations to **Vandana Desai**, **Jenny Kynnaston** and **Xingmin Meng** for receiving the college's teaching award during graduation.

### Outside Engagements

**Ed Derbyshire** attended the presentation of the l'Oriel Awards for Women in Science at Brown's Hotel, Mayfair on 5 July.

**Ed Derbyshire** attended a meeting of the UK Chairs of the UNESCO International Science Programmes (UK National Commission for UNESCO) in Whitehall, London on 26 July.

**Dorothea Kleine** attended this year's International Lecture at Bonn University and participated in a related Reading Seminar with the speaker, Roger Kasperson (Clark University), on Political Ecology and Risk Research. July 9.

**David Simon** met with Patrick McCully, Executive Director of the International Rivers Network, at their offices in Berkeley CA, on 20th July to discuss mutual interests and possible collaboration on GEC issues.

### Publications

Hoffecker, J., and **Elias, S. A.**, 2007, *The Human Ecology of Beringia*. Columbia University Press, 290 pp.

Mulder, E de, Nield, T, **Derbyshire, E.** 2007. The International Year of Planet Earth (2007 – 2009): Earth Sciences for Society. EPISODES, 30 (2), 82-86.

**David Simon** (2007) Beyond antidevelopment: discourses, convergences, practices, Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography 28(2): 205-218.

**David Simon** (with Susan Parnell and Coleen Vogel) (2007) Global environmental change: conceptualising the growing challenge for cities in poor countries, *Area* 39(3): 357–369.

Book Reviews – Abstracts - Conference reports

**Felix Driver**, review of Philippe Despoix, *Le Monde Mesuré. Dispositifs de l'exploration à l'âge des Lumières* (Geneva 2005), *Isis*, vol, 98 (2), 2007, pp. 384-5

**David Simon** (2007) Review of South Africa and the Logic of Regional Co-operation, by James Hentz (Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2005), *African Affairs* Vol 106 No 424 July, pp. 534-6.

Grants and Awards

**Varyl Thorndycraft** was awarded a grant from GEES Subject Centre small-scale project “Google Earth, Virtual Fieldwork and Maths in Geomorphology” of £2,645.

The Encyclopedia of Quaternary Science, edited by **Scott Elias**, with sections edited by **Clive Gamble** and **Danielle Schreve**, has won the ‘Best Reference Work’ award of the Geoscience Information Society. In October, Scott will attend the Geological Society of America annual meeting in Denver, Colorado, USA to receive the award.

Fieldwork-Conferences-Overseas

**Marije Geldof** presented a paper "ICT for low-literate youth in Ethiopia: the usability challenge" at the 12th International Conference on Human-Computer Interaction (HCI2007) in Beijing on July 25th.

**Dorothea Kleine** participated in the 2007 Annual Conference of the UK National Commission for UNESCO in Cardiff. Working Groups attended were: Communication & Information; International Higher Education Collaboration. July 14.

**Ed Derbyshire** hosted the inaugural workshop of the Canary Island Dust Aerosol Programme (CIDAP) at Playa de los Amadores, Gran Canaria on 19 and 20 July. The group, which included representatives from the Universidad de Las Palmas (Gran Canaria), Universidad de La Laguna (Tenerife) and the Desert Research Institute, Reno, Nevada (USA), agreed on a draft proposal on research into Saharan mineral dust and human health..

**Vandana Desai** attended UKIERI workshop at Carlton House on 12th June 2007.

**Tara Woodyer** participated in a workshop entitled 'Flows, Doings, Edges: writing a 'relational' PhD' at Kings College, London on 28th August 2007.

Andrea Burris, **David Hollow**, **Marije Geldof**, **Salma Abbasi** and Uduak Okon all presented papers at the second international conference for PhD students undertaking research on ICT4D, organised by IPID at Karlstad, Sweden, on 30-31 August 2007

***RGS-IBG Annual Conference***

Royal Holloway's profile was high at the Annual Conference of the RGS-IBG, held 29-31 August, in Kensington Gore. 5 academic staff, 4 postdocs and 7 PhD students presented papers at the conference. Conference sessions convened by Royal Holloway staff and students included 'Enchanting Geographies' (**Hilary Geoghegan** and **Tara Woodyer**), 'Mobilizing the City' (Jennie Middleton and **Justin Spinney**), 'Animating Geographies' (**Hannah Macpherson**), 'Senses and Memory' (**Tom Barton**), 'The Critical Geopolitics of the War on Terror' (**Klaus Dodds**) and 'The Role of Technology in Participatory Practice' (**Dorothea Kleine**). **Katie Willis** was a member of the Conference Planning Committee.

**Dorothea Kleine** presented a paper titled "Clustering up the view: State strategies of local economic development in rural Southern Chile" at the RGS-IBG Annual Conference in London, 30 August 2007. She also co-chaired two sessions on the role of technology in participatory practice, where she presented a paper on "Linking local realities - using technology to connect Fair Trade producers and consumers". 31 August 2007.

After three very successful years as Chair (and Website Officer) of the RGS-IBG Developing Areas Research Group (DARG), **Katie Willis** has handed over the position as Chair to Emma Mawdsley from Cambridge University. **Dorothea Kleine**, who is also a Committee Member, will take on the role as DARG Website Officer. **Jenny Lunn**, from Royal Holloway, is one of the new Postgraduate Representatives on the DARG Committee.

**Duncan McGregor** attended the AGM of the RGS/IBG Climate Change Research Group, on 31 August at RGS, and presented the annual accounts in his capacity as the Group's Treasurer.

**Tara Woodyer** presented a paper entitled 'Playing with toys: animating the agency of objects' in the session 'Animating Geographies' at the RGS-IBG Annual Conference on 30th August 2007.

**Hilary Geoghegan** presented a paper entitled 'Dedicated Instrument Sniffers: the pleasure of technology enthusiasm' in the session 'Enchanting Geographies' at the RGS-IBG Annual Conference on 29th August 2007.

### **INQUA Congress, Cairns, Australia**

A significant number of staff and students from the department attended the XVIIth International Congress of INQUA (International Union for Quaternary Research) held in Cairns, Australia from 28th July to 3rd August, 2007. Indeed, there were 36 delegates at the congress with present or past connections with the Geography Department at RHUL, some 4% of the total delegates attending.

Standing left to right: Pete Abbott (Swansea, PhD); Mike Burn, (Edinburgh, PhD); **Scott Elias** (RHUL, Director of MSc in Quaternary Science); Sallie Burrough (Oxford, PhD); Stephanie Mills (QMUL, Research Assistant); Steve Roberts (British Antarctic Survey, Officer); Xiaozhong Huang (Beijing, PhD); Jon Lee (British Geological Survey, Officer); **Sean Pyne-O'Donnell** (RHUL, PDRA); **Ian Candy** (RHUL, Lecturer); James Smith (British Antarctic Survey, Officer); **Adrian Palmer** (RHUL, Technician); Chris Turney (Exeter, Lecturer); Matt Jones (Nottingham, Research Fellow); Francis Mayle (Edinburgh, Lecturer); Shaun Richardson (Aberystwyth, Consultant); Alan Williams (Wollongong, PhD); Siwan Davies (Swansea, Lecturer); Zoe Hazell (English Heritage, Palaeobotanist); Sarah Coulter

*(Belfast, PhD).*

*Sitting left to right: Virginia Panizzo (UCL, PhD); **Jim Rose** (RHUL, Senior Pro 1 and Godfather); Abi Stone (Oxford, PhD); Anna Hughes (Sheffield, PhD); **John Lowe** (Senior Pro 2 and Director of CQR); Mark Bateman (Sheffield, Lecturer); **Alison Macleod** (RHUL, PhD); Keely Mills (Loughborough, PhD); Ed Hodge (Bristol, PDRA); Bethan Davies (Durham, PhD); Benedict Rheinardy (Swansea, PhD).*

*Royal Holloway's name was prominent in the congress' proceedings because:*

***John Lowe** was elected to one of the four INQUA Vice-President positions, and will serve on the INQUA Executive Committee from 2007 until the next INQUA congress is held in 2011.*

***Alison Macleod** (PhD student on the NERC RAPID project) won one of 10 prizes awarded for best student poster presentations (out of several hundred contenders).*

***Chris Stringer** gave one of the most acclaimed of the Plenary Lectures in the congress.*

***Jim Rose** was widely congratulated for the outstanding achievement of raising the impact factor of *Quaternary Science Reviews* to 4.1, currently the highest within the Geography and third highest within the Geology Multidisciplinary journal categories – the latter having a particularly solid impact on the INQUA fraternity. Jim hands the reins over to Colin Murray-Wallace, based in Australia, at the end of this year.*

*There was also much talk about **Scott Elias'** Encyclopedia (sic!) of Quaternary Science, and Scott was present to receive some of this face-on.*

***Ian Candy** gave a keynote presentation in the 'Pedogenic carbonate as a palaeoenvironmental proxy' session, whilst **Adrian Palmer**, **Sean Pyne-O'Donnell** and those named above, participated in the congress by presenting papers and posters, and attending various meetings of national committees and INQUA scientific Commissions.*

*Chris Turney, who completed his PhD and a post-doc contract at RHUL and was a lecturer in the department for one year, won the inaugural Sir Nicholas Shackleton Prize for the most outstanding young Quaternary scientist (under 35 years of age). RHUL was mentioned in the President's introduction and Chris' acceptance speech.*

*The XVIIIth international congress will be held in Bern, Switzerland, in 2011, and it is to be hoped that the Department will make just as big an impact, if not a bigger one, on that occasion*

Any Other News

Congratulations to **Peter and Helen French** on the arrival of their baby girl, Clare Elizabeth, born at Royal Berkshire Hospital in Reading at 1248 on Wednesday 8th August, weighing in at 7lbs 11oz.