

Geography Department News

Monthly Newsletter
Royal Holloway, University of London

July and August 2011
Number 204

STAFF AND STUDENTS

Professor Jim Rose was accorded Honorary Life Fellowship of INQUA (International Union for Quaternary Research). There were only 8 new life members inducted in 2011, from 8 different countries, with Jim the only one nominated from the UK. There are not many of these awarded, as nominations can only be received and assessed once every four years when they have to be endorsed by the INQUA International Council, which only meets during INQUA congresses. It is quite an honour: Jim follows in the footsteps of Sir Nick Shackleton and Professor Geoffrey Boulton.

John Lowe was re-elected as a Vice-President of INQUA for the next inter-congress period (2011-2015) and also appointed Senior Vice-President by the incoming new INQUA President, Professor Margaret Avery of Iziko South African Museum, Cape Town. This effectively means John will be INQUA Deputy President, to cover for the President in her absence or if she is unable to continue with the Presidential role.

Felix Driver has been elected as a Fellow of the British Academy.

Mustafa Dikeç has been promoted to Reader in Human Geography.

Katherine Brickell held initial meetings in Phnom Penh, Cambodia with Dr Bunnak Poch at Western University and the NGO Gender and Development/Cambodia for her new ESRC/DFID grant on domestic violence law. She also met with the NGO 'Our Books' to discuss the possibility of being a local partner on a project on the history of

Khmer comics to be pursued with Jason Dittmer at UCL.

Katherine Brickell held meetings with Dr Bui The Cuong, Director of Southern Institute of Social Sciences and Ms Nguyen Thi Hoa, Director of the Centre for Gender and Family Studies, Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam in connection to a project funded by a RHUL Research Strategy Grant with Vandana Desai and Katie Willis on the topic of love.

Luiza Bialasiewicz left the Department at the end of July in order to take up an Associate Professorship in European Studies at the University of Amsterdam. We wish Luiza well in her new position.

David Lambert left the Department in the summer to take up the position of a Readership in Caribbean History in the History Dept at Warwick University. We wish David all the best in his new position.

Clive Gamble left the Department in August to rejoin the Archaeology Department at Southampton University. Due to his ongoing research collaboration in the Department, Clive has been appointed a Visiting Professor. We wish Clive all the best.

Andrew Brooks has been appointed Lecturer in Development Geography at King's College London. Andrew would like to thank all the staff and postgraduates in the Department for the help and support he received as both a Masters and PhD student over the last 4 years.

Article continues on page 2...

NOTICES

2011/12 Academic Year - Start term - Monday, 19th September.

OUTSIDE ENGAGEMENTS

Felix Driver served on an AHRC Panel D meeting (Languages & Literature), Swindon, 7 July

Felix Driver attended the launch of the Centre for Arts & Humanities Research, Natural History Museum, 11 July

OVERSEAS ONLY - FIELDWORK/CONFERENCES

Thomas Stevens attended the International Association of Sedimentologists (IAS) conference in Zaragoza, Spain, 6-8th July. He presented papers on: "Dust accumulation rates and climate from Quaternary loess deposits." "Constraining the origin of Mu Us Desert (China) sands using detrital zircons."

More than 50 CQR staff and students (past and present) attended the International Quaternary Union Congress in Bern, Switzerland from 21-27 July. Invited talks were given by our current Ph D students **Anna Bourne, Claire Gallant, Mark Hardiman, and Natalie Russell**, and by staff members **Simon Armitage, Simon, Blockley, Ian Candy, John Lowe, Ian Matthews, Danielle Schreve and Tom Stevens**.



XVIII INQUA Congress 2011 Bern Switzerland 21-27 July: Staff and Postgraduate Student Contributions

Thomas Stevens attended the International Quaternary Association (INQUA) conference in Bern, Switzerland, 21st-27th July. He presented papers

on: "Constraining the provenance of Mu Us Desert (China) sands using U-Pb dating of detrital zircons and heavy mineral assemblages." "Using luminescence dating to reconstruct past loess dust accumulation rates: significance, trials and tribulations." "How can loess source region datasets be used to help constrain past atmospheric dust transport?"

Rupert Housley attended the Quaternary Association (INQUA) conference in Bern, Switzerland, 21st-27th July. He was the co-organizer of session 36: Enhancing tephrochronology and its application in archaeology and palaeoenvironmental-change studies and a poster presentation: "A hitherto unreported Late Glacial or Early Holocene Icelandic Cryptotephra in North Germany".

David Simon attended the biennial meeting of the Advisory Board for the University of Stellenbosch's Food Security Initiative in Cape Town on 22nd July; while there he also completed revisions of a paper he has authored with Susan Parnell (University of Cape Town) and attended a seminar by Raewyn Connell (Univ of Sydney) on 'reflections on Southern Theory'.

David Simon presented the keynote talk and worked as team member for a training session on Resilience for staff of the Rockefeller Foundation in New York City on 29th July.

Katherine Brickell gave a paper entitled 'Marital Dissolution in Contemporary Cambodia' at two conferences in Southeast Asia in July. The first entitled 'Transforming Cambodia Studies: Social Change and Cultural Transitions since 1979' was held at The Center for Khmer Studies, Siem Reap, Cambodia (in collaboration with Northern Illinois University; University of California, Berkeley; University of California, Los Angeles and University Of Wisconsin). The second she was organiser for with Brenda Yeoh and Shirlena Huang entitled 'Householding in Transition: Emerging Dynamics in

"Developing" East & Southeast Asia' at the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore. The conference was a joint collaboration between the National University of Singapore, the Department of Geography, Royal Holloway, University of London and IGU Commission on Gender and Geography.

Katherine Brickell conducted 1-week of field research in Hue, Central Vietnam related to her British Academy Small Grant. It involved screenings of the community's participatory video and related evaluative interviews on the theme of domestic life.

Katherine Brickell gave a paper entitled 'Gendered Perspectives on the Domestic Roles and Identities of Men in Hue, Vietnam' at the Masculinities in Asia conference at the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore.

Leonhardt van Efferink presented his paper "The indispensable key to India? The British Empire and the 'scripting' of Afghanistan" at the International Conference of Critical Geography, held at the Goethe University in Frankfurt am Main, 16-20 August 2011.

Thomas Stevens and Anna Bird partook in fieldwork to the Chinese Loess Plateau in North Central China. Sampling was for the NERC dust storm provenance project and focussed on loess and red clay sequences covering the last 8 Myrs.

PUBLICATIONS

Unwin, T. (2011) ICTs and disability in the Commonwealth, in Commonwealth Ministers Reference Book 2011, London: Commonwealth Secretariat, 226-229.

F. Brock, S. Lee, R.A. Housley and C. Bronk Ramsey, 2011, Variation in the radiocarbon age

Article continues on page 3...

of different fractions of peat: a case study from Ahrenshöft, northern Germany. *Quaternary Geochronology* (online: 10.1016/j.quageo.2011.08.003)

BOOK REVIEWS

Keighren, Innes M. "Science: a very human endeavour. Review of *Never pure: historical studies of science as if it was produced by people with bodies, situated in time, space, culture, and society, and struggling for credibility and authority*, by Steven Shapin". *H-HistGeog, H-Net Reviews* (2011).

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Simon Armitage has been successful in a grant application as part of a major 5-year European Research Council project based at Bergen University, with the evocative acronym TRACSYMBOLS. The full title is 'Tracing the evolution of symbolically mediated behaviours within variable environments in Europe and southern Africa'. Research has already commenced but the formalities have only just been finalised. Simon's component is worth €30k (£25.5k).

Katherine Brickell has been awarded Humanities and Arts Research Centre (HARC) funding (£1,212) for a project entitled 'Accommodating Strangers? The (Geo)Politics of Home and Hospitality'. It will involve 2 half-day workshops (the first, 'Accommodating Strangers? Home, Belonging and Citizenship' and the second, 'Strangers in the Day and Night: Was Post-World War II Britain really hospitable?'), an in-house seminar led by Dr Jane Hamnett from the Department of History, and a keynote lecture to be confirmed for September 2012.

Mustafa Dikeç has been awarded a HARC Fellowship for next session, on his project entitled "Welcoming Strangers: Policy, Politics, Philosophy".

ANY OTHER NEWS

Karen Oliver took part in the London to Brighton race in June and raised, with her team, £2,000 for the British Heart Foundation.

Anne Ballard raised £1,015 for beat (eating disorder charity) in July by taking part in a tandem skydive.