

Staff and Students

Jim Rose has been appointed as the first Gordon Manley Professor of Geography.

Jim Rose has been awarded the degree of Doctor of Science by the University of Leicester, in recognition of his research and publications in Quaternary science and physical geography.

Ed Derbyshire has been elected to the position of Secretary for Foreign and External Affairs of the Geological Society of London for a period of three years.

Alasdair Pinkerton has been awarded a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship, tenable in the Department for three years, for a research project on 'Radio geopolitics: the BBC World Service and the Cold War in South Asia'..

Varyl Thorndycraft was the PhD external examiner at the Complutense University of Madrid on 7th June. The thesis submitted by Jose Ortega Becceril was on palaeofloods, recent floods and hydroclimatology of the Guadiana River, Spain.

Vandana Desai acted as an examiner for a PhD thesis at the Geography dept. at UCL on 1st May 2007. The thesis was by Noriko Hataya and was entitled "The Illusion of Community Participation: Experience in the irregular settlements of Bogota".

Toby Butler successfully defended his PhD viva on 3rd July. The title of his thesis is 'Memoryscape and sound walks: mapping oral history on the River Thames in London' and is the culmination of a successful ESRC-funded collaboration with the Museum of London. The examiners were Dr. Catherine Nash, Queen Mary University and Dr. Jennifer Harding, London Met.

Welcome to **Dorothea Kleine**, who joins the Department as Lecturer in Human Geography from the University of Cambridge.

Welcome to **Maria Montero**, who joins the Department as Research Assistant on an EPSRC-funded project (with Dorothea Kleine) on 'Fair tracing: empowering producers and consumers by providing enriched information about the roots of goods and services'.

Welcome to **Hannah Macpherson**, ESRC Postdoctoral Fellow, who completed her PhD at Newcastle and is working on 'Landscapes of sight and blindness: access, touch and memory in the countryside'.

Welcome to **Jennie Middleton**, ESRC Postdoctoral Fellow, who completed her PhD at Kings, London and is working on 'The walkable city: the dimensions of walking and overlapping walks in everyday life'.

Outside Engagements

David Simon and Jenny Lunn attended an ODI/ All Party Group on Overseas Development seminar on 'What Next in International Development?' by Gareth Thomas, undersecretary of state for overseas development, in London on 5th June.

David Simon presented a briefing session on Namibia for Irish diplomats at SOAS on 8th June.

David Simon was in Austria 24-25 June to progress final editorial work on the book from the EU-funded FISHSTRAT comparative Asian reservoir sustainable fisheries project (Vienna, 24th) and to conduct an interview for his current project on Holocaust survivors in development (Klagenfurt, 25th).

Jim Rose attended the first meeting of the Science Advisory Committee of Natural England. Natural England, which incorporates the work of the former England Nature, landscape responsibilities of the Countryside Commission and the Rural Development Service.

Ed Derbyshire attended a meeting with the Executive Director and the Chair of the Outreach Programme of the International Year of Planet Earth 2007-2009 at the Geological Society, London, on 4 May.

Ed Derbyshire presented a research seminar on 'Natural Mineral Dust: Sources, Pathways, Toxins and some Health Impacts' to the Department of Earth Sciences and Geography in the University of Keele on 8 May.

Ed Derbyshire presented a paper on 'Natural Aerosolic Mineral Dusts' to the First Workshop of the UK Dust Network (within the Environment & Human Health Programme co-funded by NERC and MRC) at the Scott Polar Research Institute in Cambridge on 29 May.

Mustafa Dikeç appeared in a programme broadcast on radio France Culture, in a special feature on politics and space in the French suburbs, featuring his new book *Badlands of the Republic* (Blackwell)

Hilary Geoghegan convened and presented her research in a panel session entitled 'Volunteer Enthusiasm: A National Museum of Science and Industry Case Study' at the International Conference of the Association of Transport and Communication Museums hosted by the National Railway Museum, York, 13 June.

Publications

David Simon (2007) Global change and urban risk: the challenge for African cities, *The Constitution*, 7(1), March, pp. 3-22.

Unwin, T. (2007) No end to poverty, *Journal of Development Studies*, 45(3), 929-953.

Grants and Awards

Dorothea Kleine has transferred £108,732 of EPSRC grant from Cambridge in support of her Fair Tracing project.

Alasdair Pinkerton has been awarded a British Academy postdoctoral fellowship valued at c.£294,000 over three years.

John Lowe has been awarded £36,504 by NERC in support of his work within the QUEST project in collaboration with colleagues at Bristol and Oxford Universities.

Jim Rose has been awarded continued funding of £4,240 for his work for the British Geological Survey.

Claudio Minca has been awarded £1,350 from the Royal Holloway Research Strategy Fund for his work on ‘Moroccan dreams: the postcolonial re-enactment of a spatial laboratory of modernity’.

Fieldwork-Conferences-Overseas

Varyl Thorndycraft attended the 4th International Palaeoflood Workshop, 24-28th June 2007, Chania, Crete and gave the presentation “The use of slackwater flood deposits as palaeoenvironmental archives of catchment instability”. He was also co-author of the following three presentations:

Benito, G., **Thorndycraft, V.R.**, et al. A. Magnitude and frequency of Buffels River palaeofloods in relation to climatic variability (Namaqualand, South Africa)

Rico Herrero, M.T., Benito, G. and **Thorndycraft, V.R.** Late Pleistocene and Holocene palaeoflood record of the Segre River (NE Spain).

Benito, G., **Thorndycraft, V.R.**, et al. (WADE project members). Assessing floodwater recharge of alluvial aquifers in dryland environments.

Ed Derbyshire attended, by invitation, the meeting of the Science Committee of the 33rd International Geological Congress held in Uppsala, Sweden on 11 June.

Ed Derbyshire attended the second Board Meeting of the International Year of Planet Earth Corporation, held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on 20 and 21 June.

Tim Unwin, David Hollow, Andrea Burris, Marije Geldof and Uduak Okon all participated in the 2nd eLearning Africa Conference held in Nairobi from 28th-30th May. David convened a workshop on monitoring and evaluation of ICT4education initiatives in Africa, Andrea managed much of the conference’s bursaries scheme, and Tim chaired one of the plenary discussions. David and Tim also participated in a workshop held at Maseno University following the conference, as part of the DelPHE funded ICT4D network for African HEIs, during which their new Moodle environment (<http://moodle-ict4d.rhul.ac.uk>) was launched. The Collective has also recently launched an ICT4D Group of Facebook.

Tim Unwin served on the international advisory panel for SPIDER (the Swedish Program for ICT in Developing Region) in its allocation of research grant, and in this capacity attended a grant allocating meeting in Stockholm on 7th June

Tim Unwin, in his role as Commissioner, hosted a reception for Kenyan scholars, fellows, distance-based students, alumni and friends of the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission

in Nairobi on 28th May 2007. Speakers included the British High Commissioner, Adam Wood, and David Siele, the Director of Higher Education in the Kenyan Ministry of Education.

Visitors-Meetings in the Department

Bryan Lash of the University of Kansas presented the talk "'Contesting the Geographies of Malaria" on the 4th of July.

Ian Matthews, PhD student, RHUL, presented the QUISS Seminar on 20th June. The title of his talk was 'Addressing Chronological issues in wetland archaeology: towards a tephrochronological framework for Britain and Ireland'.

Sune Olander Rasmussen, Postdoc and Centre coordinator at Centre for Ice and Climate, Niels Bohr Institute, Copenhagen, Denmark, presented the CQR Lecture on 29th June. The title of his lecture was 'The NorthGRIP ice core: Why, what happened, what is it good for, and what's next?'.

Dr David Dodman (Geography & Geology Dept, University of the West Indies, Jamaica Campus) visited Duncan McGregor on 19 June to take forward publication of an edited collection from the 5th RGS/ IBG British-Caribbean Seminar in Jamaica, July 2006.