

Departmental News Letters

Newsletter: June 2008, No. 177

Staff and Students

The College organised a reception for **Jim Rose** on 18 June in the Windsor Building. A significant number of external guests, including ex-MSc and UG students, attended the event. Jim also held an informal garden party at his house for all Geography staff and their families on Sunday, 15th June.

Felix Driver has stepped down as Head of Department from the end of June. **David Simon** will be the new head as of the 1st of July 2008.

Robin Hunter, our Departmental Superintendent, left on the 9th of June to take up a new role as Chief Technician at the Institute of Education, University of Reading.

Tim Unwin was a member of the PhD Commission at the University of Bologna which awarded Silvia Gaiana a PhD for her thesis entitled Rural development and communication: a community media project in Uttar Pradesh on 6th June 2008.

Tara Woodyer was part of a small team who led twenty-four primary school children on a week long residential field trip in the New Forest and its surrounding areas. During the week they visited places such as Hengistbury Head, Mudeford and Eling Tide Mill and talked about the importance of the coast and its various landforms. They even had a ride on a lifeboat!

David Simon was co-leader of the University of London's Centre of African Studies' postgraduate training 'Researching Africa Day' at SOAS on 7th June. Sorayya Khan was one of the participants. David represents RHUL on the CAS Management Committee.

Matt Grove, who recently completed his PhD in the Department with Clive Gamble, has been awarded a two-year postdoctoral research position in the Institute of Cognitive and Evolutionary Anthropology, University of Oxford, starting in October. He will be working with Robin Dunbar, an evolutionary psychologist, who is one of the co-directors (with Clive Gamble) of the British Academy-funded 'Lucy to Language' Project.

Alex Loftus served as an external examiner for the PhD of Pierre Mukheibir, University of Cape Town.

Andy Bradford, former Ph.D. student of Duncan McGregor and David Simon, has been awarded an interdisciplinary early career research fellowship on the NERC & ESRC Environment & Human Health Programme. Based at Sheffield University, the GIS project addresses urban food production and health risk management in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; Hyderabad, India; and Accra, Ghana. Also included are visits to Technical University of Berlin, Germany; Resource Centre for Urban Agriculture and Food Security, Leusden, The Netherlands; and Urban Harvest, CGIAR, Nairobi, Kenya (full award £338k).

Dorothea Kleine and Ann Light (Queen Mary/Sheffield Hallam) from the Fair Tracing Project gave a presentation on “Research Themes emerging from the Fair Tracing Project” at the EPSRC Bridging the Global Digital Divide research network workshop, London, June 2

Outside Engagements

Tim Unwin, Sir Brian Donnelly and Dr. John Kirkland spoke about the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission’s work at the International Parliamentary Governance Seminar on 16th June convened by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in the Palace of Westminster

Scott Elias is going to the University of New Brunswick (Canada) to serve as External Examiner for a PhD oral examination on 8 July. While there, he will present a talk to the Biology Department, entitled ‘The Bering Land Bridge: A Moist Barrier to Biotic Migrations?’

Mustafa Dikeç has been nominated a Visiting Professor at the Université Paris 1-Panthéon-Sorbonne for the next academic year. He will teach MA seminars in geography and urban planning on three themes: space and politics; cities, globalization and urban policy; and histories of time and space.

Mustafa Dikeç gave a seminar entitled ‘Spatial politics of urban policy: the French case’ at the Department of Geography, University of Liverpool, 7 May.

Mustafa Dikeç presented a paper entitled ‘Sensible evidences: ideology as an aesthetic affair’ at the Mediapolis workshop organised by the Department of Geography, The Open University, 9-10 June.

Ed Derbyshire attended a meeting of the Natural Sciences Committee of the UK National Commission for UNESCO at the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining in London on 7 May.

Ed Derbyshire chaired the 36th meeting of the External Relations Committee of the Geological Society in London on 15 May.

Ed Derbyshire attended the President’s Day, including the AGM of the Geological Society in Burlington House, London on 4 June. He also attended the Management and Finance Committee of the Society on 5 June.

Ed Derbyshire attended the meeting of the Council of the Geological Society on 18 June and the Royal Society of Chemistry’s Parliamentary Links Day at Portcullis House, Westminster on 24 June.

Alex Loftus was invited to present a paper at a workshop on “Urban Artscapes: Revisioning Contemporary London” at UCL on 27 May.

Dorothea Kleine attended a two-day workshop of the EPSRC Bridging the Global Digital Divide research network at the London Knowledge Lab, Institute of Education. The focus of the meeting was to coordinate outputs and future grant applications across the four projects originally funded by the EPSRC BGDD sandpit process. London, June 2-3.

Publications

Thorndycraft, V.R., Benito, G., and Gregory, K.J. (Eds.) (2008): Geomorphological and Palaeohydrological Response of Fluvial Systems to Climatic, Human and Tectonic Controls. *Geomorphology* 98, 1-172.

Thorndycraft, V.R., Benito, G. and Gregory, K.J. (2008). Fluvial Geomorphology: A perspective on current status and methods. *Geomorphology*, 98, 2-12.

Kleine, D. 2008, Negotiating partnerships, understanding power: doing action research on Chilean Fairtrade wine value chains, *The Geographical Journal*, Special Issue on Value Chains and the Geographies of Wine Production and Consumption, Vol 174 (2), pp. 109-123

Mulder, E. F. J.de, Woodfork, L., Nield, T. and **Derbyshire, E.** 2008. The International Year of Planet Earth: why and how? *Nature* 451 ,7176, Supplement – Year of Planet Earth, 304-305.

Derbyshire, E. (ed.) 2008. *Planet Earth*. Boston & Hannah International, London, 146pp.

Grants and Awards

Alex Loftus has been awarded a grant of £7,460 from the British Academy to organise a two day workshop on ‘Gramscian Geographies’.

Fieldwork-Conferences-Overseas

David Simon was in Cape Town 25-28 June for the UNU-WIDER (World Institute for Development Economics Research) workshop, *Beyond the Tipping Point: African Development in an Urban World*. He presented a paper entitled *When do you see it? The challenges of global environmental change for urban Africa* and chaired the session on *Inequality and Inclusion*. While there, he also met with David Mandiyanike (PhD 2007), now working as a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Cape Town.

Mary Dengler co-chaired the Club of Rome's think tank 30 meeting June 12 - 14th in Rome, which focused on the topic of sustainable cities. Mary further presented the work of think tank 30 to the parent organisation, the Club of Rome on June 14th. The meeting commemorated the 40th Anniversary of the founding of the Club of Rome.

Mustafa Dikeç presented his book *Badlands of the Republic: Space, Politics and Urban Policy* at an invited seminar at the Institut d'Urbanisme de Paris, 15 May.

Tim Unwin gave a Keynote address on “War and Development” at a conference on the changing role of agency in the development process, convened by the Group for Regional and International Development at the University of Liverpool Management School, 10th June 2008.

Visitors/meetings in the department

Professor Tom Mitchell (University of Chicago) visited Royal Holloway on 17-18 June, hosted by the Department of Geography jointly with the Humanities and Arts Research

Centre (HARC). He presented a lecture entitled 'War of Images: 9-11 to Abu Ghraib' to an audience of staff and postgraduate research students from across the Departments of Geography, Media Arts, Classics, Modern Languages, Drama and English.

Adam Ramadan from Oxford University presented the PERG Seminar on 19th June. The title of his presentation was 'Destroying Nahr el-Bared: Sovereignty and urbicide in the space of exception'.

A Geography taster day for students interested in studying geography was organised by **Danielle Schreve** and **Ian Candy** and was held in the Department on the 1st of July for one day. The taster day was entitled 'Changing Worlds, Changing Places'. **Jim Rose** and **Klaus Dodds** presented the morning lectures with the practicals being run by **Mustafa Dikeç**, **Simon Armitage**, **David Gilbert** and **Alun Lewis**. Over 60 students attended.

Any Other News

Dorothea Kleine and Alexandra Norrish celebrated their Civil Partnership on June 21st.