

Geography Department News

Monthly Newsletter
Royal Holloway, University of London

June/July/August/September 2009
Number 186

STAFF AND STUDENTS

Congratulations to Ian Matthews who completed his PhD on 1st June 2009. The title of his Thesis was 'The Potential of Tephrostratigraphy in the Investigation of Wetland Archaeological Records'. His Supervisors were Nick Branch and John Lowe and the Examiners were Prof. Chris Turney and Dr. Viv Jones.

Congratulations to Mauro Cannone who completed his PhD on 1st of July. The title of his Thesis was 'Re-Placing Social Capital: Networks of 'Power' and Urban Development in Contemporary Venice'. His Supervisor was Claudio Minca and the Examiners were Professor John Allen & Professor Anssi Paasi, Academy of Finland, University of Oulu.

Congratulations to Ben Cole who, following his viva examination, will be recommended for the award of his PhD, subject to the completion of minor amendments. Ben's thesis was entitled 'Placing alternative consumption: a topography of Borough Market, London'. His examiners were Ian Cook (Geography, University of Exeter) and Mike Goodman (Geography, Kings College London). Ben is now working as Post-Doctoral Research Associate on the European Research Council funded CONANX (Consumer Culture in an Age of Anxiety) research programme at Sheffield University.

Congratulations to Tara Woodyear who, following her viva examination on 24th August, was recommended for the award of her PhD subject to some minor amendments to her thesis. Tara's thesis was entitled 'Playing with toys: the animated geographies of children's material culture'. Her

examiners were Professor Nicky Gregson (Geography, Sheffield) and Dr Ben Anderson (Geography, Durham). Tara was supervised by Philip Crang and advised by Clive Gamble.

In June Katie Willis acted as the external examiner for a PhD at The University of Liverpool. The candidate was Josefina María Cendejas-Guizar and the thesis was entitled 'Sustainable Development Discourse and Cultural Diversity: Forest Policy and Indigenous Narratives in Central Mexico'. The internal examiner was Professor Dave Shaw.

David Simon was an external examiner on 10th September at the University of Northumbria for the PhD thesis of Siambabala Bernard Manyena entitled 'Disaster resilience in development and humanitarian interventions'.

Simon Blockley acted as external examiner for the MSc in Geochronology at Queens University Belfast.

Ruth Payne took up a position as an Assistant Researcher with the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research in Geneva.

Congratulations to Ian Candy who was promoted to Senior Lecturer from the 1st of August.

Welcome to Dr Thao Nguyen who joins us from Sydney, Australia as our new Royal Society Newton International Fellow (mentor Tim Unwin) to work on 'A replicable and sustainable ICT-enabled business model to benefit women-run micro-enterprises'.

Welcome to Dr Amanda Rogers and Dr Sara Fregonese, our new British Academy PDFs, being mentored by Phil Crang and Klaus

Dodds respectively. Amanda returns after just a short break after her ESRC PDF to work on 'Geographies of transnational theatrical creativity' while Sara joins us from the University of Manchester to work on 'The Urbicide of Beirut: Geographical Perspectives on War and Cities'.

Welcome to Dr Jason Lim who joins us from the University of Brighton as Teaching Associate until the end of June 2010. He will be teaching Claudio Minca's courses (undergraduate and Master's), supervising dissertation students and participating in a 2nd year fieldtrip, etc.

Welcome to Dr Mathieu Petite (mentor Claudio Minca) who joins us for one year on a Swiss National Science Foundation postdoctoral fellowship, working on 'Material Objects in Transformation: identities, heritage and tourism'.

Welcome to Lisa Cespedes who is joining us as a volunteer until December. She is a Graduate student of Nonprofit Management from the University of Central Florida in Orlando, planning to complete her M.A. in May, 2010. She recently completed an internship with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) in Rome, where she worked with the Knowledge Exchange and Capacity Building Division on e-agriculture.org <<http://e-agriculture.org>> , focusing on the use of ICTs for agriculture and rural development, specifically on the use of mobile telephony in rural areas, ICT4D, and knowledge management."

Ed Derbyshire attended the AGM and President's Day at the Geological Society of London on 3 June in his capacity as Secretary,

Foreign and external Affairs. He also attended the Council meeting of the Geological Society on 17 June.

Ed Derbyshire attended a meeting on 18 August at Imperial College, London, chaired by Professor Jane Plant, to discuss progress in the compilation of a book on pollutants, human health and the environment.

Ed Derbyshire met Dr. Johann Engelbrecht (Desert Research Institute, Reno, USA) on 28 August at Heathrow Airport to discuss developments in the work programme of the Canary Island-based network on Spanish Government project PI 2007/042 (Textural and mineralogical characterization of Natural Mineral Particles and their health effects on the Canarian population).

Ed Derbyshire attended a meeting of the Natural Sciences Committee of the UK national Commission for UNESCO at IMMM, Carlton house Terrace, London on 4 September. He also attended a meeting of the Scientific Unions Committee of the Royal Society on 21 September.

Ed Derbyshire attended a meeting of the Elections Sub-Committee and the Management and Finance Committee at the Geological Society in London on 16 September. He also attended a meeting of the Officers of the Geological Society, prior to a meeting of the Council of the Society, on 23 September.

Ed Derbyshire chaired a meeting of the External Relations Committee of the Geological Society at Burlington House on 28 September.

Mustafa Dikeç was invited to give a talk at the Urban Salon, London on 16 June. The title of his paper was "Aesthetics, ideology and the city".

Mustafa Dikeç was invited to the Theorising Urban Marginality Workshop at the University of Durham, 18 June. He gave a paper entitled "Barbarians at the gate".

Rupert Housley carried out his 4th and final year of external examining for the MA & BSc degrees in Archaeology at the University of Edinburgh, 3 - 4 June.

In September 2009, Katherine Brickell undertook a week long course at Insight Share on 'Participatory Video' alongside a community placement with a Latin American day centre in Oval.

OUTSIDE ENGAGEMENTS

Felix Driver attended a meeting of the Livingstone Online Project Advisory Board, Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine, 23 June.

Felix Driver was a member of the Editorial Advisory Board for the 5th edition of the Dictionary of Human Geography published in 2009 by Wiley-Blackwell. This edition was dedicated to the memory of two contributors, Denis Cosgrove and Les Hepple.

Klaus Dodds has been appointed editor of the Geographical Journal. He takes over in January 2010 and will serve for five years as editor.

Dorothea Kleine co-organised, with Dr. Andy Dearden (Sheffield Hallam University) a writing retreat for member of the EPSRC Bridging the Digital Divide Research Network. The aim was to develop an edited book based on crosscutting themes across four projects, June 3-4

Thomas Stevens attended the International Association of Sedimentologists Bureau meeting on the Isle of Wight 3rd to 5th of June.

Thomas Stevens attended the Loessfest conference in Novi Sad, Serbia, 30th August-5th of September.

In September Varyl Thorndycraft was appointed Education and Outreach Officer of the Geomorphology Division of the European Geosciences Union.

PUBLICATIONS

F. Driver, 'Tropicality', Dictionary of Human Geography 5th edn (Wiley-Blackwell, 2009), ed D Gregory, R Johnston, G Pratt, M Watts, S Whatmore.

Willis, Katie (2009) 'First World', in Rob Kitchin & Nigel Thrift (eds) *International Encyclopedia of Human Geography*, Oxford: Elsevier, pp. 183-188.

Willis, Katie (2009) 'Squatter settlements', in Rob Kitchin & Nigel Thrift (eds) *International Encyclopedia of Human Geography*, Oxford: Elsevier, pp. 403-408.

Katie Willis & M. Satish Kumar (2009) 'Development I' Rob Kitchin & Nigel Thrift (eds) *International Encyclopedia of Human Geography*, Oxford: Elsevier, pp. 111-116.

Ruth Payne, (2009) 'Getting involved: action research with child-headed households', article for the *BOND July e-bulletin "Your Networker"*.

Bradley L. Garrett, 2009 - Urban Explorers: Quests of Myth, Mystery and Meaning, in *Geography Compass Vol. 5* (video article).

Bradley L. Garrett, 2009 - Drowned Memories: The Submerged Places of the Winnemem Wintu in Archaeologies, *the Journal of the World Archaeology Congress Volume 5, No. 3*.

Jenny Lunn (2009) paper 'The role of religion, spirituality and faith in development: a critical theory approach', *Special Edition of Third World Quarterly*.

Kleine, D. and T. Unwin (2009): Technological Revolutions, Evolutions, and new Dependencies: What's new about ICT4D?, *Third World Quarterly*, 30 (5), pp.1045-1067

McGregor, Duncan (2009). 'Environment and Ecology' in RS Hillman & TJ D'Agostino (eds)

Understanding the Contemporary Caribbean. Lynne Rienner and Ian Randle Publishers. Revised 2nd Edition, 191-224.

Menendez, I., Derbyshire, E.; Engelbrecht, J., Suchodoletz, H. von, Zöller, Ludwig, Dorta, P., Carrillo, T., Rodríguez de Castro, F. 2009 Saharan dust and the aerosols on the Canary Islands: past and present. Chapter 2 In: Cheng, M. and W. Liu (eds.) Airborne Particulates. Nova Publishers Inc., New York, 39-80, ISBN 978-1-60692-907-0.

Elias, S. A., 2009. Advances in Quaternary Entomology. Developments in Quaternary Sciences, 12, Elsevier, Amsterdam, 307 pp.

Gröcke, D. R., van Hardenbroeck, M., Sauer, P., Elias, S., 2009. Hydrogen Isotopes in Beetle Chitin. In Gupta, S. N. (Ed.), Chitin: formation and diagenesis. Springer, in press.

Elias, S. A., Webster, L., and Amer, M., 2009. A beetle's eye view of London from the Mesolithic to the Bronze Age. *The Geological Journal*, 44, 537-567.

Review/Conference Reports

Kimberley Peters (2009) - Review of Marcus Rediker 'The Slave Ship: A Human History', in *The Geographical Journal* (2009) 175 (2), pgs 160-1

Kimberley Peters (2009) - Review of Canzler W, Kaufmann V and Kesselring S (eds) 'Tracing Mobilities: Towards a Cosmopolitan Perspective' in *International Planning Studies* (2009) 14 (1) pgs 103-106.

Bradley L. Garrett, 2009 - Are We There Yet? The Golden Age of American Family Vacations, book review in *The Journal of Tourism and Cultural Change*, Vol. 7 Issue 3.

Stevens, T., Paull, C.K., Ussler III, W., McGann, M., Buylaert, J.-P., 2009. OSL dating of Monterey Canyon (CA, USA) sediment. UK luminescence and electron spin resonance dating conference, RHUL, August, 2009.

Stevens, T., 2009. Assessing the sources of loess using single-grains. Keynote for INQUA Loessfest 2009, Novi Sad, Serbia.

Smith, M.J., Stevens, T. 2009. Loess spectroscopy and its use as a proxy for past climate change. INQUA Loessfest 2009, Novi Sad, Serbia.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Clive Gamble was awarded, on 1 May, the prestigious triennial Henry Stopes Medal by the Geologists' Association for his work on 'The prehistory of Man and his geological environment'.

Ian Candy won this year's British Society for Geomorphology's Warwick Award, which recognises excellence in published geomorphological research by a young academic/researcher.

Thao Nguyen from Vietnam has been awarded one of the prestigious Royal Society Newton International Fellowships for 2009. She will arrive in the autumn to work with Tim Unwin on a project entitled 'A replicable and sustainable ICT-enabled business model to benefit women-run micro-enterprises'. Thao combines academic research with commerce.

Richard Powell (Univ of Liverpool) and Klaus Dodds were successful in this year's competition for ESRC Research Seminars awards for a set of meetings on the polar regions, focusing on Arctic energy, the Law of the Sea and circumpolar geopolitics.

Ian Matthews and Nick Branch (Univ of Reading; previously of this Dept) have won a grant of €37,000 by the Irish Heritage Council to continue their research on the tephrochronology and isotope geochemistry of Irish bogs for another six months.

Danielle Schreve and Ian Candy succeeded in their application for a third grant (AHOB3) on the Ancient Human Occupation of Britain from the Leverhulme Trust. This grant is led by Chris

Stringer at the Natural History Museum and is worth over £1mn over three years, with just under £180k coming to RHUL. This will bring back Barbara Silva as postdoctoral researcher in years 2 and 3.

Congratulations to Simon Blockley, who has won £11,551 over 12 months from NERC for a project based at Southampton University on 'Pinpointing abrupt climate change in Patagonia using tephrochronology and improved age modelling'.

Randy Donahue, Julia Lee Thorpe, Simon Blockley and Mark Pollard were awarded £335,762 for the "Hunter-Gatherer Mobility and subsistence strategies in the Upper Palaeolithic of Peninsular Italy project". The project commenced on 1st June and the first field season will commence in October 2009. Over three years the project will attempt to test the role of abrupt climatic transitions at the end of the last glacial on human populations in central Italy. Much of the budget is to support fieldwork costs but the tephra budget will be held at RHUL and an initial sum of £4,500 has been set up from 1st June, with additional funds to follow during the life of the project.

Thomas Stevens was awarded a QRA Research Grant of £350.

VISITORS-MEETINGS IN THE DEPARTMENT

Mark Ruddy, RHUL presented the QUISS Seminar on 3rd June entitled "The Shape of Things Past: Aspects of the Evolution of the Water Vole *Arvicola*".

Ruth Sowa, RHUL presented the QUISS Seminar on 10th June entitled "Lateglacial Environmental Change and Human Activity at Sproughton".

The Royal Holloway and Oxford Tephrochronology Group (RHOXTOR) met in the department in July. The meeting set up the framework for the RHOXTOR collaboration over the next few years, including the setting up of a RHOXTOR joint

seminar series to promote collaborative research between the two institutions.

FIELDWORK- CONFERENCES- OVERSEAS

David Simon chaired and moderated a UN-Habitat-sponsored session entitled 'Local governments are key actors for adaptation' at the Local Government Climate Change Leadership Summit at the Bella Conference Centre, Copenhagen, on 2 June. Among the panellists was the Afghan Minister for Urban Development. This conference is one of the preparatory events leading to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change's 15th Conference of the Parties (COP15) to hammer out a successor to the Kyoto Protocol in Copenhagen in December.

Tim Unwin gave a presentation on 'Crafting effective multistakeholder partnerships for education' in the Stakeholders Forum and an address to Ministers on 'Commonwealth Scholarships: building on 50 years of achievement' at the Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers, Kuala Lumpur, 16th June 2009.

Felix Driver was the invited discussant at a Workshop on 'The inhabited Arctic: new cartographies in the study of Arctic governance and exploration' organised by the Circumpolar History & Public Policy research group at the University of Cambridge, 17 June.

Jamie Adcock presented a paper entitled 'Cultivation and Nurture: The Nursery and Child Rearing Manuals, c. 1870-1930' at the Second International Conference on Geographies of Children, Youth, and Families held at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain, from the 16th until the 18th of July. The theme of the conference was 'Diverse Childhoods in International Contexts: Gender and Other Social and Cultural Differences'.

Graça Brightwell presented a paper entitled 'A gut feeling: food memories and the making of a displaced Brazilian identity in London' at the European Summer Campus 2009: Thinkings food, feeding thoughts. paradigm shifts, approaches and theories in the social sciences organized by François Rabelais University and the Institut Européen d'Histoire et des Cultures de l'Alimentation in Tours, from 30 August to 7 September 2009.

Simon Armitage and Tom Stevens organised the 2009 UK Luminescence and ESR Meeting, held in the Geography Department from 26th - 28th August. 66 presentations were given during the meeting, covering both geographical applications of luminescence dating and research into the physics underlying luminescence phenomena. The meeting was attended by 83 delegates representing 41 institutions in 18 countries.

On 11th-12th September, ICT4D hosted within the Department the 2009 Annual Conference of the International Network for Postgraduate Students in the Area of ICT4D. Uduak Akpan-Okon, Ugo Vallauri and Paulo Brunello were the lead organisers.

Rupert Housley undertook fieldwork on the open-air Late-glacial Magdalenian archaeological site of Hłomcza in southeast Poland for RESET. Samples were taken for tephrochronology analysis. The sampling was carried out in conjunction with Professor Pawel Valde-Nowak of the Institute of Archaeology, Jagiellonian University, Krakow, 15 - 18 June.

Clive Gamble and Rupert Housley undertook a 10-day field sampling visit to southern Poland in order to take tephrochronology samples for RESET. A total of 6 localities were visited: Węgliny (near Gubin), where a 5.80m lake core was made; Dzierzyslaw 35, Sowin 7 and Lubotyń 11 (near Racibórz), two Magdalenian and a Szeletian site with rich lithics assemblages; and finally Mały Gawroniec and Podgródzie 16

(near Sandomierz), two further Magdalenian sites. The work was undertaken in collaboration with local archaeologists from several Universities in Poland: Mirek Masojc (Wrocław), Marta Poltowicz-Bobak & Darek Bobak (Rzeszów) and Michał Przeździecki (Warsaw), 9 - 20 August.

Dorothea Kleine, co-investigator on the DelPHE grant for collaboration with African universities conducted fieldwork in Kenya, where she worked on a curriculum for ICT and Development with African colleagues. At Kenyatta University, she worked with the Director of the Centre for Research, Charity Gichuki and held a 1-day workshop on "Getting published in English-speaking academic journals". At Maseno University in Kisumu, Dorothea worked with John Alwala on an interdepartmental undergraduate course in ICT4D. Outputs were posted on the new EDULINK platform so that European and African partners can comment on them. July 22-Aug 4.

Thomas Stevens completed Geological Society and Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute funded fieldwork to offshore California to sample submarine canyons using remotely operated vehicles, diving down to 4 km depths.

Thomas Stevens completed National Geographic funded fieldwork in the deserts of central north China to try and understand the provenance of the grains that make up these deposits.

Simon Blockley undertook fieldwork in Serbia and Croatia as part of RESETworkpackage 6, to test for the presence of tephra in the long central European loess records.

Simon Blockley, Ian Matthews and Katie Thomas undertook fieldwork in Scotland at the Late-glacial site of Muir Park Reservoir near Loch Lomond

Simon Blockley, Ian Candy, Amanda Farry, James Huntley

and Adrian Palmer cored palaeolake Flixton nest to the important Mesolithic archaeological site, Starr Carr.

In September 2009, Katherine Brickell gave a paper entitled 'Visual narratives of home: material geographies of Cambodian and Polish men' at the 1st International Visual Methods Conference held at the University of Leeds, UK.

Ed Derbyshire worked on the archives of the International Geological Correlation Programme (IGCP) in the IGCP Secretariat at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on 16 to 18 September.

Ed Derbyshire attended the 2009 William Smith meeting (on 'Environment, Pollution & Human Health) at the Geological Society on 21 -23 September, followed by a progress meeting of the authors involved in the forthcoming book on pollutants, human health and environment.

Dorothea Kleine presented a paper titled "Applying the capability approach to the "medium of choice par excellence": Using the Choice Framework for a holistic analysis of internet usage" at the Annual Conference of the Human Development and Capability Association at the Pontifical Catholic University in Lima, Peru. Over 300 delegates from different disciplines discussed their work within the theoretical framework of Amartya Sen's and Martha Nussbaum's capabilities approach. At the event, Dorothea became a founding member of the "Technology, Design and Development" thematic group of the HDCA. Lima, Sept 10-12.

Dorothea Kleine (RHUL) co-organised, together with Mike Powell (IKM Knowledge), Mark Thompson (Cambridge University, Judge Business School) and Ann Light (Sheffield Hallam University) an expert workshop on "Good planning or benign imposition? Innovation, emergence and risk in developmental research: learning from ICTD" at Trinity Hall,

Cambridge. 21 development funders, researchers and practitioners debated the challenge of having set a priori project outcomes by funders whilst understanding development as an open-ended process characterised by emergence. ICT4D was used as the case study in this interactive workshop. Cambridge, Sept 17-18

Varyl Thorndycraft gave a key note conference presentation: Combining geomorphic & documentary flood evidence to reconstruct extreme events in Mediterranean basins at the 11th Plinius Conference on Mediterranean Storms, 7-11th September, Barcelona, Spain

Charles Howie attended a one day symposium on in Arnhem, Holland on Water Management and Spatial Planning organised by NETHCID (Netherlands Commission on Irrigation and Drainage). Charles was the reporter for three sessions on water management and rural livelihoods in the Mekong Delta, Vietnam. The International Observer was Ian Barker, head of water management for the UK Environment Agency, who summed up the work by identifying key generic issues that need to be faced in the short term in order to prepare for the effect of climate change

At the Annual Conference of the RGS in Manchester, August 26-28, Charles Howie, postgraduate committee member of the Rural Geographers Research Group (RGRG), convened three sessions entitled New and Emerging Rural Researchers and chaired one of them. He co-convened, with Bruce Scholten, Geography Department, University of Durham, two sessions entitled Rural South: Development Lessons and Trends, sessions supported jointly by RGRG and Developing Areas, Research Group (DARG). He also attended the AGM of DARG.

Kimberly Peters presented a session at the RGS-IBG conference entitled 'Emerging Human Geography Research' and her

paper was entitled 'Geographies of ships and the sea: a study of Radio Caroline, the offshore broadcasting pirate'.

Louise Henderson presented a paper at the RGS Conference entitled 'Geographical publishing in mid-Victorian Britain: Francis Galton's Art of Travel' in the New and Emerging Research in Historical Geography session.

Jenny Lunn attended the RGS-IBG Annual International Conference in Manchester and was confirmed as a Postgraduate Representative for a further year at the DARG AGM.

Andre Reyes Novaes, currently an academic visitor in the Dept, presented a paper entitled 'Borderlands in the press: South American borders in Brazilian journalistic cartography' at the RGS-IBG Conference, Manchester, August 2009.

Bradley L. Garrett - 2009 - Bring Your Own Torch: an Ethnography Urban Exploration presented at the 2009 Royal Geographic Society annual conference August 26th-28th 2009.

At the Annual Conference of the RGS-IBG, Dorothea Kleine co-organised a session called "Following the thing: new cultural and economic geographies" with Dr. Ian Cook (Exeter) and Dr. Mark Graham (Oxford Internet Institute), where she also presented the EPSRC Fair Tracing project. Aug 27.

Dorothea Kleine organised a session on "Personal Development Paradigms" in which Dr. Elsbeth Robson, Dr. Harsha Liyanage and Prof David Simon gave impulse pieces. Aug 26.

ANY OTHER NEWS

Congratulations to Alex Loftus and Fiona on the birth of their baby son (little brother for Rosa) - Lucian - who was born at home on 15th July.

Congratulations to Hilary Geoghegan and Dan who tied the knot on Saturday, 1st August

2009. There was a break in the Cornish rain for some sun on their wedding day.

