

# Geography Department News

Monthly Newsletter  
Royal Holloway, University of London

March 2011  
Number 200

## STAFF AND STUDENTS

**C**ongratulations to **Chih Yuan Woon** who successfully defended his PhD thesis on Friday 11th March 2011. The title of his thesis was 'The Second Front? The Geopolitics of the War on Terror with Reference to South East Asia'. His examiners were Alan Ingram at UCL and Jo Sharp at the University of Glasgow. He was supervised by **Klaus Dodds** and advised by **Katie Willis**.

Congratulations to **Jo Imsook** who has been awarded a PhD following some minor amendments to her thesis entitled 'The empowerment of women in the Kanagawa Seikatsu Club Movement.' The examiners were Dr Cathy McIlwaine (Geography, QMUL) and Dr Hiroko Takeda (School of East Asian Studies, University of Sheffield). Imsook's supervisors were Vandana Desai and Katie Willis.

**Vandana Desai** was an examiner for a PhD at Kings College, London on 11th February 2011 for Jennifer McCarthy thesis entitled "Reframing participatory development and livelihoods in Afghanistan's rural north: A power analysis to understand variegated realities of vulnerability". The other examiner was Dr Cheryl McEwan, Department of Geography, University of Durham.

**Vandana Desai** was examiner for a PhD at Queen Mary's College, London on 28th March 2011 for Binh Tran's thesis entitled "Examining the role of grassroot organisations in developing sustainable forest management in Vietnam". The other examiner was Dr. Thomas Sikor, School of International Development, University of East Anglia.

**Felix Driver** has been invited to become a member of the Advisory Board of the new Centre for Arts & Humanities Research (CAHR) at the Natural History Museum. The Centre will be formally launched on 11 July 2011.

**Ugo Vallauri** was an invited speaker at the Networking and Learning Forum of the Association for Progressive Communication (APC) held in Panglao Island, Bohol, Philippines, on March 16-19. He contributed to the sessions on ICTs and environmental sustainability and hosted a clinic on research and ethics in ICT4D.

## OUTSIDE ENGAGEMENTS

**Tim Unwin**, in his role as Chair of the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission, gave a speech on 3rd March at the launch of the British Academy's report entitled "Working with Africa: human and social science research in action".

**Tim Unwin** is a Member of the Working Group on the Commonwealth Dimensions of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

**Tim Unwin** gave a keynote speech entitled "The role of e-learning in fostering development", Rethinking Education in the Knowledge Society conference, Monte Verità, Switzerland, 10th March 2011

**Tim Unwin** gave a keynote speech entitled "Balancing Democracies", the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission Conference on The

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## NOTICES

Start of Summer Term - Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> April 2011

College Discretionary Dates - 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> April 2011.

Good Friday - 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2011

Easter Monday - 25<sup>th</sup> April 2011

Public Holiday - 29<sup>th</sup> April 2011



Commonwealth, Human Rights and Democracy, Cumberland Lodge, UK, 11th March 2011.

**Tim Unwin** lectured to the Southampton Geographical Association on 15th March 2011 on the subject of "ICTs in Development: Solution or Part of the Problem".

**Tim Unwin** presented a lecture on "Computers, mobiles and the Internet: can they make a difference to the lives of poor people?" as part of the Cambridge University Science Festival on 17th March 2011 in Emmanuel College Cambridge, convened by the Humanitarian Centre.

**Felix Driver** chaired the interview panel for a new administrator for History Workshop Journal, held at Birkbeck, 16 March.

**Felix Driver** served on an AHRC Research Grants Panel 7 (Languages & Literature), in Swindon, 11 March.

**Felix Driver** presented a paper in a roundtable session on 'Archives and Empire' in the Reconfiguring the British seminar, Institute of Historical Research, 24 March.

On March 29th **Jessica Jacobs** was invited to attend a roundtable on 'Communicating Research: Beyond the Journal' at Chelsea College of Art and Design. Michael Schwab (Editor-in-Chief Journal of Artistic Research) introduced this new online open access journal and Pamela Mason from AHRC discussed the funding body's emerging theme 'Digital Transformations in Arts and Humanities'. Victoria Mapplebeck (Media Arts) and Rene Wolf (History) also attended from Royal Holloway. The session was introduced by Professor Stephen Scrivener (Chelsea) and organised by the London Centre for Arts and Cultural Exchange ([lance.org.uk](http://lance.org.uk)), Chelsea College of Art and Design and the Journal for Artistic Research ([jar-online.net](http://jar-online.net)),

**Simon Blockley** gave the keynote address to the Belgian Quaternary

Association in Brussels on the 23rd of March entitled "Tephrochronology in Quaternary Science".

**Simon Blockley** gave an invited lecture to the Centre for Archaeological Science and the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Leuven on the 24th of March entitled "human interaction with environmental change in the late Quaternary".

**Simon Blockley** and Christine Lane gave an invited lecture to the Centre for Ice and Climate at the University of Copenhagen on the 28th of March entitled "Direct correlation of European palaeoenvironmental record using tephrochronology".

**Andrew Brooks** gave the presentation: 'Opening Markets and Closing Factories? Untangling the Relationship Between Used-clothing Imports and the Decline of African Clothing Industries' at the Sheffield International Development Network Conference, University of Sheffield (07/03/11).

**Sorayya Khan** gave a talk on 'Participatory decentralization in health? A case study from Mali' to students of the MSc in Leadership and Management in Health at the School of Management, RHUL on 17th March 2011.

**Katherine Brickell** and **Sara Fregonese** participated in a 3 day policy-making training course held at the British Academy and run by the Institute for Government (IfG). It included a private dinner with Lord Adonis.

**Klaus Dodds** presented at a Royal United Services Institute hosted Roundtable on the future of the Arctic. His paper was entitled, 'Political geographies of the Arctic' 18th March.

**Klaus Dodds** co-organised a British Library based 'Civilizational Collapse' Workshop and presented a paper on 'Geographies of the end of the world: Hollywood and the contemporary disaster movie' 1 March (co-organised with Richard

Alston in Classics and supported by the Humanities and Arts Research Centre).

**Klaus Dodds** presented a paper on 'Geopolitics of James Bond' to the 1887 Geographical Society Mansfield College, University of Oxford 7th March.

## OVERSEAS FIELDWORK/CONFERENCE

**Duncan Depledge** on March 3 delivered a talk to the Global Security Forum (GLOBSEC 2011) in Bratislava on the implications of climate change for national security (<http://www.ata-sac.org/globsec2011/>). This is as part of his work for the Royal United Services Institute.

**Tim Unwin** gave a keynote address on "The role of e-learning in fostering development", at the Rethinking Education in the Knowledge Society conference, Monte Verità, Switzerland, 10th March 2011.

**Amanda Rogers** presented a paper entitled "Geographies of Engagement at the Singapore Arts Festival" as part of a panel on Spaces of Cultural Performance at the Annual Meeting of the Cultural Studies Association, Columbia College Chicago, on 26th March.

**David Lambert** attended the inaugural Atlantic World Conference on the theme of 'Atlantic Crossings' held at Boston University, 24-25 March.

**Dorothea Kleine** was an invited speaker at Yale University's Information Society Project. Her talk was titled "Let's talk values. Deconstructing and reconstructing normative discourse on information technologies", 2 March, New Haven, CT

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## PUBLICATIONS

**Felix Driver**, *The world and Africa: rediscovering African geographies* (RGS-IBG, in association with the MLA-funded exhibition, 22 March-28 April 2011).

**Blockley, S.P.E., R. Pinhasi, R.** 2011. A revised chronology for the adoption of agriculture in the Southern Levant and the role of Lateglacial climatic change *Quaternary Science Reviews*, Volume 30, Issues 1-2, 98-108.

## BOOK REVIEWS - ABSTRACTS - CONFERENCE REPORTS

**Bradley L. Garrett** reviewed Hell and Schönle's edited compilation *Ruins of Modernity for Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 29(2) pages 378-380.

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**Bradley L. Garrett** reviewed American visual culture by Mark Rawlinson for *Cultural Geographies* Volume 18(1): 137-139

**Brickell, K.** (2011). *Power, Resistance and Women Politicians in Cambodia: Discourses of Emancipation* by M.Lilja. NIAS Press, Copenhagen. *International Feminist Journal of Politics* 13(1): 126-127.

## GRANTS AND AWARDS

**Amy Cutler** has been awarded a grant of £1000 from Royal Holloway Entrepreneurs for PASSENGERFILMS, a film society connecting cultural geographers with filmgoing communities in London. There will be monthly screenings of mainstream and independent films, with shorts and talks around themes of landscape and place. The April screening is of Marc Singer's 'Dark

Days', a documentary about the homeless living in derelict tunnel systems underneath New York, filmed in near darkness and soundtracked by DJ Shadow. Christopher Warrack from Open Cinema will be in conversation with architects and some of London's urban explorers about the heterotopic spaces of homelessness, how these are represented on film, and which cities are best equipped to deal with the issue. Lindsay Parker (Royal Holloway) will also talk from her research on the criminalisation of public vagrancy and how this drives people out of sight, out of mind under the city.

Future screenings are listed and announced on the blog [www.passengerfilms.wordpress.com](http://www.passengerfilms.wordpress.com), the Facebook page [www.facebook.com/passengerfilms](http://www.facebook.com/passengerfilms), and on twitter (@PASSENGERFILMS). The events are designed to give time for geographers, film makers and filmgoers to socialise and talk about their attitudes toward filmic representations of landscape. For more information or to take part in an event please contact [amycutler1985@googlemail.com](mailto:amycutler1985@googlemail.com)

**Scott Elias** has been given two overseas travel grants. Elsevier has awarded him £1,368 to attend the INQUA Congress in Bern Switzerland in July. The Denver Museum of Nature and Science has awarded him a grant of £1,300 to travel to Snowmass, Colorado in June to collect fossil insects from the Ziegler Reservoir site, where hundreds of Late Pleistocene mammal bones have been recovered.

**Ugo Vallauri** was awarded a £2000 Postgraduate Research Award from the Royal Geographical Society for his project "Participatory video as a catalyst for promoting farmer-led innovations among small scale farmers in Eastern Kenya.". The research will take place in the second half of the year as part of Ugo's PhD on rural agricultural development and the role of ICT.

## VISITORS - MEETINGS IN THE DEPARTMENT

Stuart Croft, Professor of International Security, Warwick University presented the PERG Seminar on 7th March. His presentation was entitled 'Radicalisation and Violence'.

**David Chapman**, Royal Holloway University of London presented the CEDAR Seminar on 9th March entitled 'What Role for Renewable Energy Systems towards Sustainable Development in Small Island States?'

Pamela Were Wesonga, Executive Director of Youth Initiatives Kenya (YIKE) presented the CEDAR Seminar on 9th March entitled 'Youth Groups as a Tool for Urban-Poor Development in Nairobi, Kenya: Experiences & Lessons of Youth Initiatives Kenya'.

**Prof Clive Gamble**, Royal Holloway University of London presented the QUISS Seminar on 9th March entitled 'The Evolution of Male Control of Resources: An Archaeological Case Study'.

**Mark Hardiman**, Royal Holloway University of London presented the QUISS Seminar on 17th March entitled 'Extending the Tephrochronological Framework Across Southern Europe During the Last Glacial; The Potential for Synchronizing Palaeo-Records'.

**Dr Sara Fregonese**, Department of Geography, RHUL presented the Department of Geography Seminar on 3rd March entitled 'In the Ruins of Cosmopolis: Beirut's Hotels and Discrepant Cosmopolitanism'.

**Andrew Brooks**, Geography Dept., RHUL presented the Department of Geography Seminar on 10th March entitled 'Opening Markets and Closing Factories? Untangling the Relationship between Used-Clothing Imports and the Decline of the African Clothing Industry'.

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The Department organised its annual alumni/careers evening on 9th March 2011. Five alumni came to speak to our students and they were Rachel Braitwaite, Marcus Oakey, Julian Richards, Abi Taylor and Will Walder. The Geography Society once again organised an excellent reception.

**Alasdair Pinkerton** presented the Royal Holloway Lectures in Geography on 7th March. The title of his presentation was

'Superpower Geographies of the Cold War'.

### **ANY OTHER NEWS**

**Jessica Jacob's** recent publication 'Sex, Tourism and the Postcolonial Encounter' was nominated for inclusion in the Geographical Perspectives on Women Book Event at the AAG in Seattle this April. This event is open to all conference delegates at the forthcoming conference is

'a celebration of recent books published about gender and geography' GPOW Book Event & Reception (Sponsored by GPOW and The Annals of the AAG)

Date/Time: Thursday, April 14th, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Location: ArtXchange Gallery, 512 First Ave. S., Seattle, WA 98104 (20 mins walk from the Sheraton; 15 mins by public transit; 1.6 miles by car)

Phone: 206.839.0377

Email: [info@artxchange.org](mailto:info@artxchange.org)