

## Departmental News Letters

May 2008, No. 176

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**Denis Cosgrove (1948 – 2008)**

A meeting to celebrate the career of **Denis Cosgrove** (1948-2008) was held at the RGS-IBG in Kensington Gore on 30th May. It was a notably moving occasion attended by over 120 people, many of them friends, colleagues and members of Denis' family including his daughters Emily and Isla, who spoke at the start. Other speakers included Felix Driver, Steve Daniels (Nottingham), David Pepper (Oxford Brookes), David Atkinson (Hull, formerly Loughborough), Neil Roberts (Plymouth, formerly Loughborough), Jim Duncan (Cambridge), Peter Jackson (Sheffield), Catherine Delano-Smith (IHR), Jerry Brotton (QMUL, formerly Royal Holloway), Ola Söderström (Neuchâtel), Luciana Martins (Birkbeck, formerly Royal Holloway) and Veronica Della Dora (Bristol, formerly UCLA).

### Staff and Students

**Scott Elias** and **Danielle Schreve** have both been invited to join the NERC Peer Review College.

**Jennie Middleton**, who recently completed her ESRC Postdoctoral Fellowship, has been appointed as a Research Associate in the ESRC Centre for Business Relationships, Accountability, Sustainability and Society at Cardiff University. She will be conducting research on sustainable communities.

**Elaine Ho**, currently an ESRC Postdoctoral Fellow, has been appointed to a two-year Postdoctoral Teaching Fellowship in the Department of Geography at UBC, from 1st July 2008. Her mentor there will be David Ley.

**Justin Spinney** completed his PhD on 30th April 2008. The title of his Thesis was 'Cycling the City: Movement, Meaning & Practice'. The examiners were Quentin Stevens & Tim Edensor. **Phil Crang** was his supervisor.

**Kirsten Coley** completed her PhD on 31st March 2008. The title of her Thesis was 'Holocene Environmental Change on the Peruvian Altiplano'. The examiners were Dr

Jonathan Holmes, University College London & Prof Tony Stevenson, University of Newcastle. **Rob Kemp** was her supervisor.

**Bertie Mandelblatt** completed her PhD on 31st March 2008. The title of her Thesis was 'Feeding the French Atlantic: Colonial Food Provisioning Networks in the Franco-Caribbean During the Ancien Regime' The examiners were Richard Drayton, University of Cambridge & Prof Miles Ogborn. **Phil Crang** was her supervisor.

**Matt Benwell** completed his PhD on 30th April 2008. The title of his Thesis was 'Social Geographies of Childhood: Outdoor Spaces, Mobility and 'Growing Up' in Post-Apartheid Suburban Cape Town, South Africa' the examiners were Samantha Punch, Stirling University & Dr Gareth Jones, LSE. **Klaus Dodds** was his supervisor.

**David Simon** acted as international external examiner for the University of Melbourne's Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning of the PhD thesis by Justice Kufour Owusu-Ansah entitled Urban Dispersal around Kumasi, Ghana.

#### Outside Engagements

**Tim Unwin** gave a keynote presentation on "Monitoring and Evaluation Frameworks for Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships in Education" and chaired two workshops on "Challenges and Concerns" and "Intended Outcomes and Suggestions for Monitoring and Evaluation" at the Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop convened by the World Economic Forum's Global Education Initiative on 17th May during the Forum's Middle East Summit held in Sharm el Shaikh.

**Tim Unwin** was a guest of the City of Stockholm at the awards dinner for the Stockholm Challenge on 22nd May held in Stockholm City Hall

**Katie Willis** was a guest lecturer on the Gender, Space and Culture course jointly run by the University of Amsterdam and the University of Groningen. She ran a workshop on gender and migration and participated in student-led fieldtrips around Groningen.

**Maria Brightwell** presented a paper at the Coloquio Geocritica in Barcelona, co-authored with Clécio Azevedo da Silva (Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina), entitled Transformações na provisão alimentar no espaço rural. Um estudo de caso sobre famílias agricultoras em Praia Grande, Santa Catarina (Brasil), 26-30 May 2008.

**Felix Driver** gave a talk on collaborations between geographers and artists at a symposium to mark the completion of the first artist's residency at the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG), 9 May.

**Klaus Dodds** and **David Lambert** visited the Foreign Office for a meeting with the new Deputy Governor of Gibraltar Lesley Pallett and Dr Sheelagh Ellwood of the Research Analysts Group (1 May).

**David Simon** was interviewed by Roger Harding [broadcast on BBC World Service radio's The World Today (0011-0015 BST, Mon 2 June)] on the domestic and international significance of President Mugabe's arrival in Rome on 2nd June for the UN Food Summit at the FAO. David was also interviewed by Max Pearson.

**Luke Dickens** was a guest speaker in a live discussion on Radio Peckham's culture show, 'The Primer', talking about the recent street art exhibition at Tate Modern. The full podcast is available on <http://www.radiopeckham.org/culturefix/>

**Ruth Payne** gave a presentation on "Learning through process: experiences of collaborative action research in Zambia" to policy-makers at the Children Affected by HIV/AIDS Working Group at the UK AIDS Consortium on 14th May 2008.

**Ruth Payne** presented a paper entitled "Emerging Adulthood: Growing up in Child-Headed Households in Zambia" at a workshop on Emerging Perspectives in the Anthropology of Childhood hosted by the Centre for Child-Focused Anthropological Research at Brunel University on 15th May 2008.

Felix Driver attended a steering committee meeting for 'Livingstone Online', a project at the Wellcome Centre for the History of Medicine, London, 12 May.

**David Hilling** was guest destination lecturer on Cunard's Queen Victoria for cruise Madeira, Canary Islands, Lisbon and Vigo.

**David Hilling** attended RHUL Honorary Fellows Induction (15/5/08) and 1990's alumni day (17/5/08).

**David Hilling** was a guest at HMS President for naming ceremony of Green Barge company's new tug, Green London (7/5/08).

**David Hilling** attended Raleigh Anniversary dinner of the Geographical Club (19/5/08).

#### Publications

**Tim Cresswell** and Gareth Hoskins, 2008, Place, Persistence and Practice: Evaluating Significance at Angel Island, San Francisco, and Maxwell Street, Chicago. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 98(2), pp. 392-413

**Tim Cresswell**, 2008, Space and Place (1977). Yi-Fu Tuan in P. Hubbard et al (eds) Key Texts in *Human Geography*, pp53-60, London, Sage.

**D. Hilling** (2008) 'Europas vergessene Wasserwege' (Europe's forgotten waterways), Schiffahrt und Technik, Sankt Augustin.

#### Grants and Awards

**Duncan McGregor** has been awarded £2002 from the College's Research Strategy Fund for his project: Environmental Change and Caribbean Food Security. The grant will fund a short field research visit to Jamaica

#### Fieldwork-Conferences-Overseas

Members of the Department played an active role in e-Learning Africa, held in Accra from 28th-30th May: **David Hollow** led a workshop on the effective evaluation of ICT for Education in Africa, **Ugo Vallauri** presented a paper on rural access to ICT, Uduak Okon

presented a paper with **Tim Unwin** on how we design partnerships that work for the development of effective technologies, **Andrea Burris** managed the bursary programme, and **Tim Unwin** led a workshop on crafting multi-stakeholder partnerships for education, chaired a plenary discussion on what is slowing down ICT-supported learning in Africa, chaired a session on the 'ifs and buts' bottleneck in classroom education, and gave a keynote presentation on challenges to the delivery of effective e-Learning for the environment in Africa convened by UNEP.

**David Hollow, Ugo Vallauri** and **Tim Unwin** participated in a symposium and workshops held in Winneba, Ghana, from 24th-27th May, as part of the DelPHE funded partnership for ICT4D in African higher education institutions, during which **Tim Unwin** gave a keynote entitled 'Delivering effective ICT4D initiatives: a global perspective'.

As part of her ESRC Postdoctoral Fellowship, **Jennie Middleton** visited the Urban Research Centre at the University of Western Sydney. She participated in a series of events including a research symposium on 'Public Space in Sydney and London' where she presented a paper entitled 'The conviviality of walking: exploring the social dimensions of urban pedestrian movement'. The visit consisted of an ongoing engagement with academics, planners and policymakers whose concerns relate to her research on urban walking.

Visitors/meetings in the department

**Naomi Riddiford**, PhD, RHUL presented the QUISS Seminar on 14th May. The title of her presentation was 'Communicating the Impact of Long Term Salt Production on the Landscape of Europe'.

**Theodora Moutsiou** presented the QUISS Seminar on 28th May. The title of her presentation was 'The Obsidian Evidence for the Scale of Social Life During the Palaeolithic'.

**CEDAR** and the Centre for Global and Transnational Politics (PIR) held a very successful joint workshop on 29th May. Entitled New Directions in Development Theory and Practice: Interdisciplinary Perspectives and organised by **David Simon** and Sandra Halperin (PIR), it brought together academic staff, postgraduates and some undergraduates from across campus with cognate interests and provided both stimulating discussion and a foundation for future conversations. Geography staff presentations were: **David Simon** Pioneers of Development: retrospective reflections; **Dorothea Kleine** Can we kick the habit? Taking development beyond the growth paradigm; **Klaus Dodds** Icy Geopolitics – current perspectives on the Arctic;

**Vandana Desai** China-India: Challenges for the future; **Katie Willis** Health sector restructuring in Oaxaca, Mexico; **Luiza Bialasiewicz** (EU)topian visions: the EU's (self-ascribed) role as an 'alternative' development role-model, while **David Lambert** was discussant in the final round table session.

Any Other News

Congratulations to **Danielle** & Pete on the arrival of their baby son Thomas Xavier, born in the early hours of the morning on Tuesday May 6th weighing 7lb 3oz.