

STAFF AND STUDENTS

David Simon represented the Science Faculty at the a meeting of the University of London Subject Area Board for Physical and Mathematical Sciences, at Senate House on 21 November.

David Simon acted as Intercollegiate Examiner for the PhD thesis of Martin Evans (KCL), *The Casamance, Senegal: 'War economy or business as usual'?*; the viva was held at King's College on 26th November. The External Examiner was Prof. Richard Black (Sussex) - one of Tim Unwin's former research students.

David Simon addressed some 70 A-level students from 5 Croydon schools, at the Old Palace School of John Whitgift, Croydon, on 'Challenges of sustainable development' on 12 November. Janet Carlsson, one of our former students, is a geography teacher at the Old Palace School, and sends regards to those who remember her!

David Simon served as a member of the jury for the successful PhD thesis defence of Muriel Samé Ekobo, entitled *Politique municipale et recompositions urbaines dans une ville post-apartheid Walvis Bay (Namibie)*, at the University of Paris X - Nanterre, France, on 6 November.

Felix Driver acted as external examiner for the Shape of the World second-level course in Geography, at the Open University, 28 November.

Felix Driver visited Queen Mary to serve as External Examiner for the Masters Programmes in Globalisation and Development; Cities and Cultures; and Geography.

Della Murton visited Dr Lorraine Craig of the Royal Geographical Society on 7 November to enhance links between the RGS and the Quaternary Research Association.

Rob Imrie has received ESRC's formal evaluation of the project he was seconded onto as a researcher from July 1st 2001 until June 30th 2003 ('**Responding to disabled people's needs in the residential environment**', R000239210). The project has been graded as 'Outstanding' or 'high quality research' making an important contribution to the development of the subject... and has provided an exceptional research contribution...'.

On October 31st, **Rob Imrie** was at the University of Glasgow and examined the PhD of Gesa Helms (supervised by Professor Chris Philo) on 'Urban regeneration and safety and security in cities'.

Ian Candy presented the QUISS Seminar on Tuesday, 18th November entitled '*Mediterranean Climates during the British Quaternary : Multi-proxy reconstruction*'.

Katie Walsh, PhD Candidate at RHUL presented the Departmental Seminar on Thursday, 20th November 2003 entitled '*British Expatriate Belongings in Dubai : Home-making, Intimacy and foreignness*'.

Duncan McGregor, David Simon and Don Thompson presented the Departmental Seminar on Thursday, 27th November entitled 'Peri-Urban Kumasi, Ghana : Watershed misuse and management'.

Debora Byrne was examined on 4TH December 2003, and passed her PhD with minor corrections. Her examiners were Dr Jaboury Ghazoul of Imperial College and Professor Peter Furley of Edinburgh University.

OUTSIDE ENGAGEMENTS

Katie Willis will be joining the editorial board of Geoforum from January 2004.

Philip Crang and Katie Walsh both presented papers in a seminar series on Domestic Consumption, in a session on 'Diasporic Homes' hosted by Queen Mary, University of London. Philip's paper talked about the productive relations between: theorisations of home as open, mobile and porous rather than enclosed; concerns with textured, grounded accounts of transnational spaces; and accounts of consumption as implicated in routine, everyday domestic relations. Katie's paper made some sense of this, with subtle narratives of domestic consumption by ex-patriates in Dubai.

Philip Crang attended the Food Standard Agency's symposium on its research activities, where its increasing interest in funding social scientific as well as natural scientific research was talked through.

Felix Driver was invited to the advisory group meeting on learning resources in connection with the 'Unlocking the Archives' project at the RGS-IBG, 21 November.

Felix Driver presented a seminar on "Distance & Disturbance: Travel, Exploration and Knowledge in the Nineteenth Century" in the Open Museum series organised by the Ferguson Research Centre (Open University) at the British Empire & Commonwealth Museum, Bristol, 12 November.

Felix Driver presented a lecture on 'Seeing & Knowing: Researching the Visual Archive' to a Day Conference on Practising Historical Geography organised by the Historical Geography Research Group, UCL, 5 November.

Tim Unwin gave the opening keynote paper on "Interpreting rural Europe: context and challenges" at the ESRC and DEFRA seminar on English Rural Policy and EU Enlargement held at DEFRA on 17th November 2003.

David Simon presented an update on the state of higher education in Namibia and Zimbabwe as part of the Canon Collins Educational Trust's trustees' 'Away Day' in London on 15 November.

David Simon attended a briefing by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Namibia, Prof. Peter Katjavivi, and senior colleagues, on the latest developments and future plans at the university, held at the Royal Overseas League in London on 3 November. The event was organised by the ROSL, Canon Collins Educational Trust, Action Aid and the Friends of Namibia Society in conjunction with the Namibian High Commission.

David Simon presented a research seminar on 'Emerging development-environment discourses, policies and practices in South Africa: what roles for culture, locality and difference?', in the Dept. of Geography, University of Leicester, on 27th November.

David Simon acted as an expert witness presenting oral evidence to the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee, at the first public session of its current inquiry into British relations with South Africa, at the House of Commons on 9th December. He had earlier presented written evidence to the Committee.

David Simon presented a seminar on Emerging post-apartheid development-environment discourses, policies and practices in South Africa, at the School of Geography and the Environment, University of Oxford, on 5 December.

Rob Imrie gave a seminar presentation to staff and research students in the Department of Geography, University of Southampton on November 12th. The paper was entitled 'Governing the cities and the urban renaissance'.

Rob Imrie gave a seminar presentation to staff and postgraduate students in the Department of Geography, QMW University of London on December 2nd. The talk was entitled 'Disability, embodiment and the meaning of the home'.

David Gilbert has been appointed to a Visiting Fellowship in the School of Anthropology, Geography and Earth Sciences in the University of Melbourne during his sabbatical in the first part of 2004.

David Gilbert, Fiona Henderson and Felix Driver attended a reception held at The Museum of London, 28th November 2003, for the 'London, Hell or High Water' conference, and to mark the publication of Joe Kerr and Andrew Gibson eds. *London from Punk to Blair* (Reaktion : London, 2003).

David Gilbert gave an invited public lecture in the Elmbridge Borough 'Royston Pike' series, on 'London, Capital of Empire,' at Esher College, on 4th December 2003.

PUBLICATIONS

Tim Unwin (2003) ICTs for education in Sub-Saharan Africa, in: Paul Brookes (ed.) *Modernising Commonwealth Government*, London: Commonwealth Business Council, for CHOGM Abuja, pp.128-132

Imrie, R., 2004, From universal to inclusive design in the built environment, in Swain, J., French, S., Barnes, C. and Thomas, C., (eds.), *Disabling Barriers, Enabling Environments*, Sage Publications, London, 279-285.

Imrie, R., 2003, The Potential Impact of Part M, Site Lines (the journal of local authority building control), pp. 32-33.

David Simon (2003) Regional development-environment discourses, policies and practices in post-apartheid southern Africa, Chapter 5, pp. 67-89, in J. Andrew Grant and Fredrik Ssderbaum (eds) *The New Regionalism in Africa*. Aldershot: Ashgate.

DFM McGregor (2003) *Tropical Land Management in a Changing Environment*. University of London External Programme, 92pp.

Henderson, F., (2003) '*Staging Royal London*' in Kerr J. & Gibson, A. (eds) London from Punk to Blair (Reaktion Books, London) pp123-130.

Gilbert, D., '*London of the Future: The Metropolis Reimagined after the Great War*' Journal of British Studies 43 **2004**, pp. 11-14 and 91-119.

David Gilbert 'Sex, Power and Miracles: A Suburban Triptych' in Joe Kerr and Andrew Gibson eds. London from Punk to Blair (Reaktion: London, 2003), pp. 139-148.

Tim Unwin and John Pickles (2003) Transition in context : theory in post-socialist transformations, in : van Hoven, B. (ed.) Lives in Transition, Harlow: Pearson, 9-28

Betina van Hoven, **Tim Unwin**, and Alienka Jansen (2003), Introduction, in: van Hoven, B. (ed.) Lives in Transition, Harlow: Pearson 1-7.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Kathryn Yusoff has been awarded an international collaborative research grant to work with Dr Christy Collis at the University of Queensland on Anglo-Australian polar cultures in 2004. She has also been awarded a programme leader sabbatical by Surrey Institute of Art and Design for 2004.

Alasdair Pinkerton was given a travel award from the Shackleton Scholarship Fund to support his research on the socio-cultural importance of radio in the Falkland Islands.

VISITORS/MEETINGS IN THE DEPARTMENT

On November 4th, **Rob Imrie** gave the inaugural lecture in the 'Royal Holloway Lectures in Geography' series, a lecture programme designed to appeal to students taking AS/A2 levels and part of the department's WP agenda. The talk was about the 'Management of cities' and attracted 40 people from 5 different schools.

On November 19th, 46 school pupils (and three members of staff) from Ellen Wilkinson Comprehensive School (Acton, West London) were participants in a conference organised by the department. A series of lectures, derived from the AS/A2 AQA curriculum, were given

by, respectively, **David Gilbert, Don Thompson, Rebecca Edwards, Richard Hodgkins, Katie Willis, and David Simon.**

The feedback from the pupils has been very positive and has already resulted in one of Ellen Wilkinson's pupils declaring that she will be applying to study for a degree in the department.

On November 24th, **Scott Elias** gave the second lecture in the 'Royal Holloway Lectures in Geography' series (aimed at AS/A2 students). His topic was about the 'Ecology of Beringia'. 30 people attended, including students from four different schools.

Ranjith de Silva from the International Forum for Rural Transport & Development, Sri Lanka Office presented the CEDAR Seminar on 10th November entitled 'Rural Transport in Asia and Africa;

Professor David Faulkner, Management Department presented the Departmental Seminar on Thursday, 6th November entitled 'Sustainability at Royal Holloway'.

Dr. Greg Brooks, Research Scientist with the Geological Survey of Canada presented the Departmental Seminar on Thursday, 13th November entitled 'The July 1996 Floods in the Seguenay Valley, Quebec, Canada : A Case study of the effects of extreme flooding.

Dr. Tim Coles from the Field Research Organisation Operation Wallacea gave a presentation regarding opportunities available for students next summer in the Rainforests and Coral Reefs of Honduras and South East Sulawesi, Indonesia.

Professor Dave Thomas (Sheffield) presented the Gordon Manley Lecture on Tuesday 11th November and the title of his talk was 'Land degradation and livelihoods in drylands: received wisdoms, land user interpretations and the impact of external disturbances'.

CONFERENCES-FIELDWORK-OVERSEAS

The Social and Cultural Geography Group held its autumn 'Day of culture' on 7th November. Staff, PhD students and MA students visited the Bill Viola exhibition at the National Gallery, and the 1920s exhibition at the Museum of London. The curator of the 1920s exhibition and director of the 'Later History' Department of the Museum, Cathy Ross, gave a seminar on exhibiting metropolitan history. In the evening, a group attended an exhibition entitled 'Archive' at the Euroart Gallery, Tottenham, a collection of drawings by Helen Scalway, recently appointed an Honorary Research Associate of the College.

ANY OTHER NEWS

Kevin Dobbyn left the Department to work for the private sector.

Dr. Catherine Nash has taken up a new position at Queen Mary, University of London and left the Department at the end of December.