Departmental News Letters: Nov/Dec 2006, No. 165

Staff and Students

Tim Unwin has been appointed as Director of the World Economic Forum's Partnerships for Education programme with UNESCO, on a part-time basis, from 1 January 2007. The World Economic Forum is an independent international foundation, based in Geneva, whose motto is 'entrepreneurship in the global public interest'.

Philip Crang has been invited to join the awarding panel for the 2007 ESRC Research Seminars competition.

Rebecca Edwards defended her PhD on Wednesday, 15th November. The Examiners were Prof. Stephen Pinch (Southampton) and Prof. Andy Thornley (LSE). Becca was an ESRC-funded student, jointly supervised by Klaus Dodds and Rob Imrie. She has recently started work as a Research Associate at the Regeneration Institute at Cardiff University.

Philip Crang acted as external examiner for PhD theses by Viv Cuthill (Sociology, Lancaster University) and Harriet Hawkins (Geography, University of Nottingham).

Ed Derbyshire conducted a viva voce examination of a D.Phil. candidate in the Oxford University Centre for the Environment on Wednesday 15th November.

Outside Engagements

Klaus Dodds gave a lecture 'Antarctica: past, present and future' to the Geographical Association (High Weald) on 7th November. 60 A level students attended from five local schools in Kent.

Mike Dolton gave a lecture on British urban policy to the Guildford Branch of the Geographical Association, on 7th November, entitled 'Tackling Urban Deprivation'.

Scott Elias presented a paper entitled 'Beringian environments: key to the timing of human occupation?' at an INQUA-sponsored workshop on Pleistocene Human Colonization of the Arctic, held in the Anthropology Department of Texas A & M University, 17-19 November.

Vandana Desai presented a paper on 'India's prospects in the next 25 years', at a workshop on The Continent of Asia: Focussing Interest organised by the Royal Society for Asian Affairs on 24th November 2006 at the Brunei Gallery at SOAS, London. The papers were chaired by His Excellency Mr. Kamalesh Sharma, High Commissioner for India.

Luiza Bialasiewicz gave a seminar presentation entitled 'Traces of Europe' to the Department of Geography, University of Cambridge, 8 November.

Simon Armitage, **Clive Gamble** and **Danielle Schreve** presented papers at NERC's Final event for the EFCHED programme held at the British Museum, 10-11 November.

Tim Cresswell gave the keynote address entitled ‘Place, mobility and memory at Maxwell Street, Chicago’, at a colloquium on Géographies Identitaires: lieu, mémoire, ancrages (Geographies of belonging : place, memory, identity) at the University of Provence in Aix en Provence, France, 30 November to 2 December.

Mustafa Dikeç gave a seminar at the School of Geography, University of Nottingham on 15 November 2006. The title was 'Revolting geographies: French urban policy and the question of banlieues'.

Clive Gamble chaired the 21st Albert Reckitt lecture at the British Academy on November 15th. The Lecture, on 'Discovering the Maya', was given by Professor Norman Hammond FBA.

Claudio Minca gave a talk entitled ‘Biopolitical Blackholes and the New Geographies of Darkness’ at the London Group of Historical geographers seminar series, 21 November.

Tim Unwin participated in the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission's Welcome Day for Scholars and Fellows held at Central Hall Westminster and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on 13th November, during which he led discussions on Leadership and on the Academic Fellowship scheme.

Tim Unwin chaired the Opening Plenary Session at Online Educa Berlin (29th November-1st December), as well as two other sessions on the ‘MDGs and ICT4D’ and ‘Partnerships in ICT4D initiatives in education’.

Philip Crang was an invited panellist at an RGS-IBG Social and Cultural Geography Research Group Workshop on the 'Geography of matter and materiality' at Birmingham University, 18 December.

David Hilling participated in the Thames Gateway seminar and workshop on the role of water transport in regional development, 31 October.

David Hilling lectured on ‘Waterborne freight in the UK’ to the South Essex Institution of Mechanical Engineers and Chelmsford Engineering Society, 9 November.

David Hilling attended the International Navigation Association half-day seminar on ‘Safe handling and reception of ships in ports and terminals’, 20 November.

Sorayya Khan presented a poster on her PhD research on Community Participation in Health Service provision in rural Mali at the DSA Annual Conference at the University of Reading on 11th November 2006. Her attendance was supported by a DFID Bursary.

Hilary Geoghegan presented a paper at the TAG (Theoretical Archaeology Group) conference on 16th December at the University of Exeter. Entitled "Tomorrow's World: Technology Enthusiasm and Museum Collections", the paper discussed her PhD work with the Science Museum, London.

Hilary Geoghegan presented a paper at the CHAT (Contemporary and Historical Archaeology in Theory) conference on 11th November at the University of Bristol. Entitled ‘If you can walk down the street and tell the difference between cast iron and wrought iron,

the world is altogether a better place', the paper discussed her work with the Greater London Industrial Archaeology Society.

Duncan McGregor attended the Annual Review Meeting of the External Degrees in Geography in his capacity as Chair of the Board of Examiners, Stewart House, 21 November.

Felix Driver represented the Department at the formal launch of the Tripartite Alliance between Kingston University, St George's and Royal Holloway, at the Royal College of Surgeons, 19 December.

Publications

Armitage, S.J., Botha, G.A., Duller, G.A.T., Wintle, A.G., Rebelo, L.P. and Momade, F.J. (2006) The formation and evolution of the barrier islands of Inhaca and Bazaruto, Mozambique. *Geomorphology 82*, 295-308.

Benito G. and **Thorndycraft, V.R**. (2006). Palaeoflood hydrology: insight into rare events and extreme flood discharges. *La Houille Blanche, 5*, 91-96.

Blockley, S.P.E., Bray, P.J., **Elias, S.A.**, Pollard, A. M., **Lowe, J.J**., Coope, G. R., and Dadswell, L.F., 2006, Climatic Range (MCR) Temperature reconstructions from beetles using a novel type of ubiquity analysis. *Quaternary Science Reviews, 25*, 1865-1876.

Efstratiou, N. Biagi, P., **Elefanti, P.**, Karkanas, P. and M. Ntinou (2006) Prehistoric exploitation of Grevena highland zones: hunters and herders along the Pindus chain of western Macedonia (Greece*). World Archaeology. V. 38 (3)*: 415-435.

Elias, S. A. (editor-in-chief), 2006, *Encyclopedia of Quaternary Science*, 4 volumes, 3365 pp, Elsevier.

Elias, S. A., 2006, Quaternary Beetle Research: The State of the Art. *Quaternary Science Reviews*, 25, 1731-1737.

Elias, S. A., Kuzmina, S., and Kiselyov, S., 2006, Late Tertiary Origins of the Arctic Beetle Fauna. *Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology*, 241: 373-392.

Elias, S. A., 2006, History of Quaternary Science. In *Encyclopedia of Quaternary Science*, Elsevier, pp. 10-18.

Elias, S. A., 2006, Late Pleistocene Beetle Records from North America. In *Encyclopedia of Quaternary Science*, Elsevier, pp. 222-236.

Elias, S. A., 2006, Insect Fossils: Late Tertiary/Early Quaternary Records In *Encyclopedia of Quaternary Science*, Elsevier, pp. 163-172.

Elias, S. A., 2006, Overview of Fossil Beetles. In *Encyclopedia of Quaternary Science*, Elsevier, pp. 153-163.

Elias, S. A., 2006, Postglacial Beetle Records from North America. In *Encyclopedia of Quaternary Science*, Elsevier, pp. 275-286.

Elias, S. A., 2006, Societal Relevance of Quaternary Research. In *Encyclopedia of Quaternary Science*, Elsevier, pp. 1-10.

Elias, S. A., 2006, Plant macrofossils from rodent middens. In *Encyclopedia of Quaternary Science*, Elsevier, pp. 2356-2367.

Elias, S. A., and Brigham-Grette, J., 2006, Late Pleistocene Glacial Events in Beringia. In *Encyclopedia of Quaternary Science*, Elsevier, pp. 1057-1066.

Elias, S. A., and Schreve, D., 2006, Late Pleistocene Megafaunal Extinctions. In *Encyclopedia of Quaternary Science*, Elsevier, pp. 3202-3216.

Gröcke, D. R., **Elias, S. A**., Miller, R. M., and Schimmelmann, A., 2006, Hydrogen isotopes in chitin. *Quaternary Science Reviews*, 25, 1850-1864.

Lambert, D. and Lester, A. (eds), 2006, Colonial Lives across the British Empire: Imperial Careering in the Long Nineteenth Century (Cambridge University Press).

Minca C (2006) Giorgio Agamben and the new biopolitical nomos. *Geografiska Annaler B 88 (4):* 387-403.

Mulder, E.F.J. de, Nield, T., & **E. Derbyshire** (2006): The International Year of Planet Earth (2007-2009): *Earth Sciences for Society. Episodes, 29* (2): 82-86.

Stevens, T., Thomas, D.S.G., **Armitage, S.J**., Lunn, H.R. and Lu, H. (2007) Reinterpreting climate proxy records from late Quaternary Chinese loess: A detailed OSL investigation. *Earth Science Reviews 80*, 111-136.

Grants and Awards

Nick Branch, Rob Kemp and Katie Willis have been awarded £446,121, plus an attached PhD studentship (valued at £54k), for their project on Inca ushnus: landscape, site and symbol in the Andes, under the AHRC Landscape and Environment Programme. This project is in collaboration with colleagues at the British Museum.

Fieldwork-Conferences-Overseas

David Simon undertook ethnographic interviews for his British Academy project on Holocaust Survivors in Development Studies in Canada and the USA from 1-8th November. He also gave a seminar on Development Studies in the UK to the departments of Anthropology and Geography at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, on 3rd November, organised by Arturo Escobar and John Pickles. From New York, David flew to Vientiane, Laos to serve as co-chair of the Policy and Practice Panel at the international Forum of the CGIAR's Challenge Programme on Water and Food from 12-17th November. The panel reviewed how effectively research within the Challenge Programme is being (or is planned to be) utilised to inform policy and practice in line with the Programme's objectives. While there, he managed to explore Vientiane and a nearby reservoir and fisheries research station for comparison with research in northeast Thailand a few years ago.

David Simon was in Lagos, Nigeria from 7-12th December to present the Fourth Annual Democracy Lecture of the Centre for Constitutionalism and Demilitarisation on 11th December. Entitled 'Global change and urban risk: the challenge for African cities', it raised direct interest among academics and local government officials and representatives, and was covered in the local media. David and **Sylvester Odion-Akhaine** (PhD 2004) also gave a live 30-minute discussion on this theme on Africa Independent Television on 8th December. AIT has wide coverage in West and Central Africa, and also in Europe and the USA via cable. On 8th December, David also visited the Dept of Geography, University of Lagos, which has experienced a major renewal of staff in the last few years following a wave of retirements.

Visitors-Meetings in the Department

The London Quaternary Lectures were held on the 22nd of November in the Department. Dr. Eric Wolff from the British Antarctic Survey presented his lecture entitled 'European Project for Ice Coring in Antarctica: 800,000 years of climate & environmental change from ice cores' [LQL No. 76) and Dr. Takeshi Nakagawa from the Geography Department at Newcastle University presented his lecture entitled 'Orbital forcing & climate response in monsoon regions: new light from Lake Biwa, Japan' [LQL No. 77]. This event was organised by the Centre for Quaternary Research and sponsored by Quaternary Science Reviews.

Sugata Mitra gave the first Cisco - ICT4D Collective Lecture entitled 'Outdoctrination: Self Organising Systems and the challenge of "no child left behind"' in the Main Lecture Theatre, 23 November.

Scott Elias presented a Royal Holloway Lecture in Geography on the 11th of December. The talk was entitled 'The Effects of Global Warming in the Arctic' and 40 students from local schools attended, together with 10 Undergraduates from the Department.

Alan Ingram from UCL presented the Departmental Seminar on 7th December. The title of his presentation was 'HIV/AIDS, security and the imperial present'.

John O'Loughlin from the University of Colorado presented the Departmental Seminar on the 23rd of November. His presentation was entitled 'Separatist preferences and inter-ethnic trust in war zones: Survey responses for Bosnia-Herzegovina and the North Caucasus of Russia'.

Scott Elias presented the Departmental Seminar on 9th November. His presentation was entitled 'The Geopolitics of the Movie Casablanca'.

The Politics and Environment Research Group hosted its first Postgraduate Workshop on November 23rd, led by Prof. John O'Loughlin of the University of Colorado, Boulder and entitled 'Doing Research in Dangerous Times: the Ethics of Publication in the War on Terror'.

Scott Prudham from the University of Toronto presented the PERG Seminar on 17th November. The title of his presentation was 'Sustaining Sustained Yield: Class, Politics and Post-War Forest Regulations in British Columbia, Canada'.

Jenny Robinson (Open University) led a postgraduate workshop and a reading group at Royal Holloway on ‘postcolonialism and the city’, 29 November. Both events were organised by David Lambert on behalf of the College’s Postcolonial Research Group.

Stephen Bell, PhD Student at RHUL, presented the CEDAR Seminar on 16th November. His presentation was entitled ‘NGOs/CBOs and Sexual Health: Programmes that Empower Young Rural Ugandans?’.

Sorayya Khan, PhD student in the department, presented the CEDAR seminar on December 4th on 'Community Participation in Malaria Management in Rural Mali'.

Zoe Young, Writer and Independent Film-maker, led a workshop on the World Bank and the Politics of the Global Environment Facility in the CEDAR Seminar Series, 22 November. The workshop included a screening of Zoe’s documentary on the GEF: ‘Suits and Savages – Why the World Bank won’t Save the World’.

The CEDAR Seminar on the 5th of December was entitled ‘Damned by Debt Relief’ (A Riposte to the G8 – Gleneagles process). This was a film and speaker from Ghana, presented by WORLD write.

Dr. Kirsty Penkman from the University of York presented the QUISS Seminar on 30th November. Her presentation was entitled ‘Amino acids in calcite: a tiny time-capsule for the Quaternary’.

On Friday, 24 November, Scott Elias hosted a visit by Tirza Van Daalen and Tracey Mills from the publishing company, Elsevier, who presented him with two copies of the Encyclopedia of Quaternary Science, which has just been published.

Any Other News

Virtual Picture Collection www.rhul.ac.uk/picture-gallery

Thomas Holloway’s picture collection has gone live, courtesy of an AHRC-funded project to create a Virtual Picture Gallery. The site is introduced with a general essay by **Pippa Biltcliffe** (an AHRC-funded PhD student in the Geography Department) on ‘Buying at Christies: Thomas Holloway and the Victorian Art Market’. The main site includes a representation of the Picture Gallery, where you will see the paintings in the context of the gallery space. As well as high-quality images (and close-ups) of all the paintings, the site includes extensive information about each painting and artist, a searchable database and interpretative essays on some of the better-known works, including one by **Felix Driver** on Luke Fildes’ Applicants for Admission to a Casual Ward (1874).

The book launch of Colonial Lives across the British Empire (Cambridge University Press, 2006), edited by David Lambert and Alan Lester, took place at 2 Gower Street on Friday 17th November. It was supported jointly by the Department’s Social and Cultural Geography Group and the Centre for Colonial and Postcolonial Studies at the University of Sussex.

Congratulations to **Will (Weili) Wang** and Jessica (Zhe) on the birth of their little boy Chris. Chris was born on the 29th of November and weighed in at 5lb 9 oz.