STAFF AND STUDENTS

Congratulations to Katie Willis who has been promoted to a chair as Professor of Human Geography. This is an outstanding achievement, reflecting the range and calibre of her work and external standing. Katie is the first female professor in this Dept for many years.

Congratulations to Barnbaby Crocker whose PhD “The Evolution and Palaeoecology of the Pleistocene Woolly Rhinoceros, Coelodonta antiquitatis (Blumenbach, 1799)” has been passed by his examiners, Professor Adrian Lister (Natural History Museum/UCL) and Professor Mikael Fortelius (University of Helsinki). Danielle Schreve was his supervisor and Clive Gamble was his advisor. The PhD was funded as a NERC CASE award with the partner institution being the Natural History Museum.

Peder Roberts, who was an academic visitor to the Department in spring 2010, has successfully defended his PhD at Stanford University. The thesis was entitled ‘A frozen field of dreams: Science, strategy, and the Antarctic in Norway, Sweden, and the British Empire 1912-1952’, Peder is now working with Sverker Solorin at the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm.

OUTSIDE ENGAGEMENTS

Klaus Dodds delivered a lecture on ‘Arctic geopolitics’ to the Wimbledon GA on 23 September.

Ed Derbyshire attended the final progress meeting of the consultans and staff advising BP on the extension of its Sangachal refinery oil and gas site in Azerbaijan, held at Atkins Geotechnics, Epsom on 17th August.

Ed Derbyshire attended a meeting of the Sciences Committee of the UK National Commission for UNESCO at the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining in London on 15th September.

Andrew Brooks presented a paper entitled: ‘Riches from Rags or Persistent Poverty? A critical Discussion of the Urban Livelihoods of Used-Clothing Traders in Mozambique’ in a panel on Global Production Networks and Labour at the Royal Geographical Society (RGS-IBG) conference, 1-3rd September.

Andrew Brooks also gave a similar presentation at the ASAUK (The African Studies Association UK) conference at the University of Oxford, September 16-19th.

Felix Driver presented a plenary lecture on ‘Exploration as knowledge transfer? Exhibiting hidden histories’ at a Symposium on the Spatial Mobility of Knowledge held at the University of Heidelberg, supported by the Klaus Tschira Foundation, 14-18 September.

Felix Driver participated in a meeting of grant holders in the AHRC Museums, Libraries & Archives programme to discuss follow-on funding in areas linked to the AHRC’s Caring for the Future theme and the RCUK Article continues on page 2...
‘Gardening in suburbia: nature, culture, memory’.

**Philip Crang** examined the PhD thesis of Adrian Smith, Institute of Geography and Earth Sciences, University of Aberystwyth, entitled: ‘Soft capitalism at work: experiencing management consultancy’.

**Clive Gamble, Fiona Coward and Peter Morgan** attended the final Lucy to Language: the archaeology of the social brain workshop held in Magdalen College Oxford Tuesday September 14th. **Clive Gamble** gave a paper at the Lucy to Language workshop ‘Social brain and socio-ecology a Neanderthal case study’

**Clive Gamble** presented a paper ‘Big brains and the big ideas of 500,000 years ago’ at the British Festival of Science in Aston University, Birmingham on Wednesday 15th September.

At the RGS-IBG Annual Conference, **Jenny Lunn** organised and chaired two sessions: ‘The role of religious organisations in social change in Asia’, in which she also presented a paper about her doctoral research on religious organisations in Kolkata; and ‘Ethical challenges and dilemmas of fieldwork in the Global South’.

**FIELDWORK-CONFERENCES-OVERSEAS**

**Thomas Stevens** attended the 18th International Sedimentological Congress (ISC) 2010 in Mendoza, Argentina between 26th of September and 1st of October. He presented two papers, chaired a session and took part in the General Assembly as a Bureau Member.

6-27 September, Doha, Qatar: **Sara Fregonese** presented the final findings of the project “The built environment: mirror and mediator of radicalisation?” (Running at University of Manchester, 2007-2010), as part of an invitation to the workshop Perspectives on Terrorism, Resistance and Radicalisation, organised by ESRC with Al Jazeera Centre for Studies.

The **RESET programme** held a mid-project review meeting in Salerno, Italy, from 19th to 25th September. This comprised three days of presentations and two field days to visit sites closely related to RESET’s research - Vesuvius for the tephra/volcanology component, and Pompeii and Herculaneum for the archaeological component - though the latter combined both interests, given the manner in which these settlements met their sudden demise. The conference days fulfilled a number of objectives: the RESET team (Pis, post-docs, appointed PhD students - from RHUL Clive Gamble, John Lowe, Simon Blockley, Rupert Housley, Alison Macleod, Anna Bourne, Mark Hardiman and Chris Sato) were able to present summaries of RESET research so far, a number of RESET collaborators and partners based in many European countries were able to participate and thereby strengthen current and planned activities, and invited guest speakers developed important connections between RESET and cognate research initiatives. The members of an independent RESET Advisory Committee also met towards the close of the proceedings and provided valuable feed-back and encouragement. RESET enters its second period with renewed vigour and focus, and will work towards an even bigger closing meeting, open to all, which will present the outcomes of the project. We hope this will be held at the British Museum in London. A fuller report on the meeting will be lodged shortly on the RESET web site (http://c14.arch.ox.ac.uk/reset/).

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Leonhardt van Efferink held a talk on the definitions of geopolitics to German army officers in Fürstenfeldbruck. Subsequently, he led a workshop on the geopolitics of the Arctic.

Dorothea Kleine was an invited speaker at the 8th Leipzig University International Summer School, where she gave a talk titled “Click, Bump and Scan for Change: Actors and Technologies in Ethical Consumption”, Leipzig, Sept 22, 2010.

Simon Blockley was a keynote speaker at the annual Weather Risk management association meeting in Krakow.

**PUBLICATIONS**


Felix Driver, ‘Historical geography at large’, Journal of Historical Geography 36 (2010), 243-44.


**Stevens, T., Paull, C.K., Ussler III, W., McGann, M., Buylaert, J-P., 2010.** Examining the timing of sand transport from land to the abyssal plain. International Sedimentological Congress, Mendoza, Argentina, September 2010.


**GRANTS AND AWARDS**

Dr Stephen Bell (PhD 2008) has been awarded an ESRC Postdoctoral Fellowship to be held at the University of Sussex with Prof. Peter Aggleton, is Head of the School of Education and Social Work as mentor. Steve was supervised by Vandana Desai and David Simon.

**VISITORS - MEETINGS IN THE DEPARTMENT**

Scott Elias hosted Jillian Richie, an Archaeology student from the University of Edinburgh, from 27 September to 1 October. Scott trained her in the extraction, identification and interpretation of insect fossils. They processed a large number of Holocene peat samples, taken last August from Little Takli Island, Alaska.

**ANY OTHER NEWS**

Terri Moreau, Bradley L. Garrett, Amy Cutler, Michael Anton, Allie Miles and Allison Hess have a photograph (titled Informal View) on display at the Thames Discovery Programme Thames21 photography exhibit from Monday 13 September - 30th October at the Miller’s House Café, East London.