

# Geography Department News

Monthly Newsletter  
Royal Holloway, University of London

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## STAFF AND STUDENTS

**C**ongratulations 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 **Barnaby 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 Sorlin 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 consultants 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

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## NOTICES

🗨️ Departmental Seminar - Prof. Itay Fischhendler, Hebrew Univ. of Jerusalem & Visiting Professor at Geography Dept., RHUL - 'Spatial and temporal dynamics of linkage politics: Arab-Israeli Water Negotiations' - 21<sup>st</sup> October, 1pm, Room 136.

🌐 CEDAR Seminar - Trevor Parfitt University of East London, 'Development ethics, well-being and democratic agency' - 20<sup>th</sup> October, 12 to 1:30pm - QLT.

Connected Communities programme, Science Museum, 20 September.

**Cristiana Zara** presented a paper at the RGS-IBG Annual Conference on 1-3 September. Session: Landscapes and the visual experience. The title of the paper: "Spiritual Landscapes of India: Visual Experiences and Spatial Practices in Varanasi".

On 1<sup>st</sup> September **Varyl Thorndycraft** was elected onto the Executive Committee of the British Society for Geomorphology as Vice-Chair of the Publications Committee, the role of which includes representing the BSG at editorial board meetings for the journal *Earth Surface Processes and Landforms* and liaising with Wiley-Blackwell in relation to geomorphology books.

**Varyl Thorndycraft** presented a talk at the 'Grand Challenges' British Society for Geomorphology 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Annual Conference, 31<sup>st</sup> August - 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2010, Royal Geographical Society, London. V.R. Thorndycraft, A. Field, F. Godfrey, A., Griggs and S. Armitage. Towards a quantification of flood response to long-term autogenic and allogenic drivers.

**Jenny Kynaston** attended the 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer School of the Society of Cartographers at the University of Manchester from the 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> September 2010. Jenny is now the Membership Secretary for the Society.

**Dorothea Kleine** presented the paper "Chains, Networks and Brand Value Mapping economic and moral power in the production of "ethical surplus value" at an EGRG/DARG sponsored session at the Annual Conference of the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG), London, Sept 3, 2010

**Philip Crang** examined the PhD thesis of Franklin Ginn, Department of Geography, Kings College, London, entitled:

"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 14<sup>th</sup>. **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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> International Sedimentological Congress (ISC) 2010 in Mendoza, Argentina between 26<sup>th</sup> of September and 1<sup>st</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> 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 it's 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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Photo: the RESET party on 20th September, 2010, near Vesuvius' crater.

**Clive Gamble** attended a Board meeting of the Trustees of the British Museum in Copenhagen 24 - 25th September and a visit to the Nationalsmuseet.

**Andrew Brooks** presented his research on the used clothing trade in Maputo, Mozambique in a panel on informal urban livelihoods in Africa at the 7<sup>o</sup> Congresso Ibérico de Estudos Africanos (The the 7th Iberian Congress of African Studies), University of Lisbon, 9-11th September.

**Christiana Zara** Presented a paper in the "Tourism and Seductions of Difference" International Conference in Lisbon, 19-12 September 2010. The conference was jointly organised by the Centro em Rede de Investigação em Antropologia (CRIA) in Lisbon, the Tourism-Contact-Culture Research Network (TOCOCU) and the Centre for Tourism and Cultural Change (CTCC) in Leeds. Special Session: Rethinking pilgrimage, seduction, and difference. The discussant was Professor Nelson Graburn, University of California, Berkeley. Title of the paper: "The Seduction of the Sacred: Visual Experiences and Spatial Practices in Varanasi (India)"

**Varyl Thorndycraft** was invited to attend the following international workshop: Glacial hazards under accelerated change and climate uncertainty: Impacts on population, infrastructure and ecosystems, 6-10th September 2010, Santiago, Coyhaique & Baker River field visit (Chile). Varyl was asked to talk on the following topic Palaeoflood

studies: can they indicate what will occur in the future?

**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

**David Simon** (2010) 'Transboundary urban systems and global environmental changes: the need for effective regional policy integration', *UGEC Viewpoints No 4*: 12-14.

**Marković, S.B., Sumegi, P., Stevens T., Zech, M.**, 2010. The upper and the latest Middle Pleistocene paleoenvironment and paleoclimate of the brickyard section at Crvenka (North Serbia), based on Quaternary mollusc remains. *EQMal 2010*, Szeged, Hungary, 23, September 2010.

**Ramadan, A. Fregonese, S. And Foxall, D.** (2010) "AAG 2010 And The Volcano: Negotiating strandedness in New York City" Photo-Commentary, *The Geographical Journal Online* <http://geographicaljournal.rgs.org/>.

**Engelbrecht, J.P. and Derbyshire, E.** 2010. Airborne Mineral Dust. *Elements 6*: 241-246.

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

**Felix Driver** and Bill Schwarz, 'History workshop journal:

widening the circle', *History Workshop Journal 70* (2010) 1-3.

**Felix Driver** and Bill Schwarz (eds), *History Workshop Journal 70* (2010), 1-313.

**Garrett, Bradley L.**, Urban Explorers: Quests for Myth, Mystery and Meaning, *Geography Compass, Volume 4, Issue 10*, October 2010, pp. 1448-1461.

**Kleine, D.** (2010) "How Fair is Fair Enough? Negotiating Alterity and Compromise within the German Fair Trade Movement". In: Fuller, D., Lee, R. and Leyshon, A. (eds): *Alternative Economic and Political Spaces*, Aldershot: Ashgate, 113-131

**Kleine, D.** (2010): ICT4What? Using the Choice Framework to Operationalise the Capability Approach to Development, *Journal of International Development, 22*(5), 674-692.

**Beward C, CRANG P & Crill R** (eds) 2010 British Asian Style. Fashion & Textiles / Past & Present (V&A Publishing, London), 200pp.

**Coles B & CRANG P** (2011 - but published now!) 'Placing alternative consumption: commodity fetishism in Borough Fine Foods Market, London', in T. Lewis & E. Potter (eds) *Ethical Consumption: A Critical Introduction* (Routledge, London), pp. 87-102

**CRANG P** (2010) 'Diasporas and material culture', in K. Knott & S. McLoughlin (eds) *Diasporas. Concepts, Intersections, Identities* (Zed Books, London), pp. 139-144.

## Conference Abstract

**Schmidt, E.D., Murray, A.S., Stevens, T., Buylaert, J-P., Marković, S.B., Tsukamoto, S., Frechan, M.**, 2010. Elevated temperature IRSL dating of the lower part of the Stari Slankamen loess sequence (Vojvodina, Serbia) - investigating the

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saturation behaviour of the post-IR IR 290°C. UK Luminescence and Electron Spin Resonance Dating Conference, Oxford, September 2010.

**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.

**Stevens, T., Watson, T., Carter, A., Sevastjanova, I., Cottam, M., Lu, H., 2010.** Variability of provenance across the Mu Us Desert (Northern China) from analysis of heavy minerals and single zircon grains. International Sedimentological Congress, Mendoza, Argentina, September 2010.

**Stevens, T., Smith, M.J. and MacArthur, A.M., 2010.** Loess spectroscopy: a comparative assessment of reflectance and destructive geochemical techniques as proxies for past climate change. Remote Sensing and Photogrammetry Society Annual Conference, 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.