Welcome to the first newsletter of the Royal Holloway Centre for the GeoHumanities. We are excited to be able to share Centre news with you, advertise upcoming events, and feature members' projects. Please send anything you would like us to include to geohumanities@rhul.ac.uk.

Upcoming dates for your diary

22 March: So you want to change the world? Creative Methods for Social Change, TECHNE event, Bedford Square

20th April: Landscapes, memories places: Remembering Denis Cosgrove, Venice

18th May: Making Sacred Space, Tate Exchange, London

23rd May: 3rd Denis Cosgrove Lecture - Joan Schwartz
Order and Materiality in the Photo-Geographical Archive
Egham

23rd May: Mapping Undergrounds workshop, Egham

More information on these events can be found below and on the GeoHumanities Forum.

3rd Denis Cosgrove Lecture, 23rd May, 6.15 pm

Order and Materiality in the Photo-Geographical Archive

Professor Joan M. Schwartz

Moore Building Lecture Theatre, Egham Campus

Joan is a Professor of Art History and Geography at Queen's University, Canada.

She is currently working on a SSHRC funded project "Picturing Canada: Photographic Images and Geographical Imaginings in British North America, 1839-1889".

Further information as well as recordings of the past Denis Cosgrove lectures can be found on the GeoHumanities Forum.
Upcoming Events

So you want to change the world? Exploring Creative Methods for social change
22nd March, 11am-7pm, 11 Bedford Square, London, Room 1-01
AHRC PhD training day

Facilitated by the urban performance collective zURBS, this TECHNE Training Day invites PhD researchers to explore the use of creative practices to develop research that imagines the world differently. In the format of a “research game”, participants will playfully explore the possibilities and challenges of developing creative research for social change by sharing experiences, testing strategies and evaluating methods in response to relevant research scenarios.

The event is free, but places are limited so please register here. For any queries about the event, please email cecilia.sachsolsen@rhul.ac.uk

Landscapes, Memories, Places: Remembering Denis Cosgrove, Cultural Geographer
April 20th, Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere and Arti, Palazzo Loredan

This symposium will commemorate 10 years since Denis Cosgrove’s death and will feature reflections on Denis’ influential work and Italian legacy, as well as personal reminiscences by some of his closest colleagues. It will be followed by the presentation of the volume ‘Villa Landscapes: Architecture and Gardens of Veneto’, edited by Giuseppe Rallo, Maria Pia Cunico and Margherita Azzi Visentini. Speakers will include Francesco Valierani from the Ca’ Foscari University of Venice (the organiser of the event), David Atkinson (Hull University), Paul Carter (RMIT University, Melbourne), Maria Pia Cunico (IUAV, Venice), Stephen Daniels (Nottingham University Emeritus), Veronica della Dora (RHUL), Stefano Soriano (Ca’ Foscari University of Venice). For more information please see the GeoHumanities Forum.
Making Sacred Space
18th May, 12 pm-9pm, Tate Exchange, Bankside

An exploration of faith and creativity as part of Royal Holloway's contribution to Tate Exchange. Art-in-progress, workshops, performances and talks through the day and evening – including architecture, textile arts, music, food, kite making and garland making. Collaborative co-production with artists, cultural geographers and local faith groups from Ealing, West London. This CGH event is part of the Making Suburban Faith project (AHRC-funded based at Royal Holloway and UCL).

Mapping Undergrounds
23rd May, 2-4 pm, Dept of Geography, Queens Building, Room TBC.

A workshop bringing together scientists, social scientists and arts and humanities researchers and practitioners to discuss underground spaces.

Further details on the GeoHumanities Forum.
Centre for the GeoHumanities Creative Commissions

We are pleased to announce the inaugural round of Creative Commissions sponsored by the Centre for the GeoHumanities. A committee selected five teams of creative practitioners and environmental scholars to co-produce new work on the theme of Creating Earth Futures. The selected projects are as follows:

1) Imaginary Explosions
Dr. Karen Holmberg, Visiting Scholar, NYU Institute for Public Knowledge and Caitlin Berrigan, Artist, Full-time Faculty, NYU Tisch Photography & Imaging, Research Affiliate, NYU Tandon School of Engineering, Science, Technology & Culture

A video exploring the measurement of historic and current volcano activity and the regional relationships between humans and volcanoes.

2) In The Future Perfect
Jol Thomson, Artist, University of Westminster and Julian Weaver, Artist, Fine-tuned Ltd

A pataphysical exploration of the media ecologies, archives and narratives of Europe’s leading fusion research site, the Fulham Centre for Fusion Energy (CCFE) (UK).

3) Mapping the Sound: Charting Deep Time through New Lenses
Anne Bevan, Artist, University of the Highlands and Islands, Department of Art & Design Orkney College and Dr Carina Fearnley, Lecturer, University College London, Department of Science and Technology Studies

An engagement with ecological, social and historical datasets to create a series of ‘cultural maps’ of deep time along the Orkney coastline.

4) Begin with Noticing
Helena Hunter, Artist, and Mark Peter Wright, Artist and Lecturer at (CRiSAP, London College of Communication)

A project experimenting with arts of signalling and attunement in the context of global environmental change.

5) Harena
Dr Julian Brigstocke, Lecturer in Human Geography, Cardiff University and Victoria J. E. Jones, Artist

A project exploring the politics of sand mining through experiments with the materiality and poetics of sand.
CGH Fellow - Cecilie Sachs Olsen to curate Oslo Architecture Triennial, OAT, 2019

In collaboration with Maria Smith and Matthew Dalziel of Interrobang architecture and engineering and architecture critic Phones Harper, Cecilie Sachs Olsen, British Academy Post-Doctoral Research Fellow in the Centre for the GeoHumanities has won the bid for chief curator of the Oslo Architecture Triennial 2019. Read more on the GeoHumanities Forum.

First Centre for the GeoHumanities Summer School

Listening to the FIELD, the VOICE, and the BODY

The Centre for the GeoHumanities is very happy to announce the first GeoHumanities Summer School to take place in Bude, Cornwall in July 2019.

In collaboration with Dr. Mark Peter Wright and Professor Angus Carlyle at the University of Arts London, as well as doctoral students Tim Smith (UAL), Claire Louise Staunton (RCA) and Carolyn Roy (Roehampton), Dr Cecilie Sachs-Olsen, Dr Sofie Narbed and Dr Sasha Engelmann were successful in an application for a two-year TECHNE Conflux grant to support a series of training activities for doctoral students.

In particular, the summer school will experiment with methods of listening to ecologies, communities and bodily states, foster dialogue between different theories and concepts of listening, and investigate the ethics and aesthetics of listening in research and pedagogy.

For more information please visit the GeoHumanities Forum.
The Mantle of the Earth: Myth, metaphor and the geographical imagination
Veronica Della Dora, RHUL Department of Geography

The mantle is a powerful metaphor for geographical knowledge. It best expresses geography’s dual nature as a scientific and aesthetic practice. And yet, its usages and representations have changed throughout western history. This project explores how these changes reflect significant shifts in perceptions of global space: from the closed space of medieval mappa mundi to the curtains opening on the expanding world of the Age of Discovery; from Rachel Carson’s ‘green mantle’ and Bruce Bolt’s ‘parted veil’ to the digital mantle in which our existences are being increasingly interlaced. Veronica’s research is currently funded through a British Academy Fellowship.
Volatile Landscapes: Touring Southern Italy in the 18th Century
Jeremy Brown, AHRC funded PhD student, RHUL Department of Geography and the British Library

This project examines the ways in which the expectations, experiences and memories of British travellers to Italy on the Grand Tour (c. 1600-1800) were contingent on the maps that they consulted. The images below of the volcanos around Naples relate to a chapter of my thesis that explores how early modern topographical maps of Southern Italy shaped the British perception of that land as volatile, in part by featuring seemingly static elements of the landscape that appeared and then disappeared in turn – from sinking mountains to mythological islands.
Subterranean Spaces
Flora Parrott, AHRC funded PhD student, Department of Geography RHUL and Printmaking at the Royal College of Art

Flora, previously a Leverhulme Artist-in-Residence in the Geography Department, is currently working on a project exploring subterranean spaces. Her research uses experiences of cave spaces as a framing for thought around haptic, intuitive knowledge. Cave exploration can be slow and physically demanding with long periods of time spent in spaces very low or no light. Unlike perhaps the mountaineer, the caver can never feel a sense of completion; there will always be a crack or space beyond them that remains inaccessible. Interviews and fieldwork with physical geographers, caving clubs in the Mendips, Lake District and a trip to the ice grotto on the Mer de Glace, have produced material that has been transposed into art works in an attempt to map ungraspable subterranean spaces.

More about Flora's work can be found on her [website](#) or follow her on instagram @floraparrott