Welcome to the second Centre for the GeoHumanities newsletter. Please get in touch with us on geohumanities@rhul.ac.uk if you have news you would like to share or would like your work featured.
Upcoming Dates for your Diary

(more info below)

18th May: Making Suburban Faith, Tate Exchange


23rd May: 3rd Denis Cosgrove Lecture - Professor Joan M. Schwartz

23rd May: Undergrounds workshop

8th June: Nature's Nickelodeons- Sheffield Documentary Festival

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Upcoming GeoHumanities Events

3rd Denis Cosgrove Lecture, 23rd May

Lives and Afterlives: The Photographic Lens and Legacy of Frederick Dally

Prof Joan M. Schwartz (Queen’s University, Art History and Conservation and Geography) will give the third Denis Cosgrove Lecture on the 23rd May at 6.15 pm in the Moore Building Lecture Theatre, Egham.

Elizabeth Edwards, Visiting Professor at the V&A Research Institute will act as a respondent.

The lecture is free but to ensure numbers for catering please book a place at our Eventbrite site.
Abstract:
In 1866, the young Englishman Frederick Dally opened a photographic studio in Victoria, at the time, capital of the Crown Colony of Vancouver Island. In the remarkable visual legacy he produced over the next four years, we can discern the origins of an enduring vision of British Columbia—as an outpost of Empire, as a gold rush colony, as a Royal Naval station, as the home of Indigenous peoples of the Pacific Northwest. We can also recognize the power of photography as a tool of documentation, visualization, and imagination.

Dally’s images reflect ideas about land and life brought to British Columbia by government administrators, Royal Engineers, and Royal Navy officers; by miners, merchants, and settlers. Compiled into personal narratives of colonial service, commercial enterprise, and individual initiative, his portraits and views helped to reinforce old world values and shape new world traditions. Pasted into albums taken back east, enclosed in letters sent abroad, published as engravings in books and the illustrated press, they have helped to focus our thinking, shape our writing, and construct our ideas about place and progress, identity and belonging in British Columbia.

Many of Dally’s images have become icons of British Columbia history. In this paper, I follow the lives and afterlives of some of these images as they moved through time and across spaces, both physical and digital. With an emphasis on context and meaning, order and materiality, this foray into oeuvre and archive sheds light on the role Dally’s photographs played in shaping both Victorian understandings of the nineteenth-century present and contemporary understandings of the Victorian past.

Making Suburban Faith
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).
Wood and Water, Lines and Sand: Indigenous Mapping
21st May, 7.15- 8.30pm, British Library

This joint talk by Huw Rowlands (Royal Holloway, University of London and AHRC) and Joy Slappnig (Royal Holloway, University of London, RGS-IBG and AHRC) explores a wide range of examples of indigenous mapping practices. With reference to Cook, it considers how Europeans have traditionally thought about maps, and how we might think of mapping more broadly. The talk explores the variety, both physical and conceptual, of different practices and products, including different materials such as wood, sand, and animal hides; and their entanglement in an array of activities, skills, and people, taking on different functions in different places and at different times.

To book a place please go here: https://www.bl.uk/events/wood-and-water-lines-and-sand-indigenous-mapping
CGH Fellow Amy Cutler has won a national commission from the organisation Live Cinema to create the event ‘Nature’s Nickelodeons’ at Sheffield Documentary Festival.

The event brings together experimental composers, musicians, geographers, and even sci-fi writers to lead new re-inventions of the heroes, villains, sounds and spaces of popular nature broadcasts. From new drone laments for deep-sea darkness, to the conducting of “feral singing” by the audience, this is a series of re-animations paying homage to the contexts of nature documentary as produced, invented, and re-invented by live cinema forms - travelling through drowned volcanoes, bio-luminescence, flocking birds and swarming insects.

For further information and to book a place please go to [https://sheffdoctest.com](https://sheffdoctest.com) or [www.geohumanitiesforum.org](http://www.geohumanitiesforum.org)
Mapping Undergrounds
23rd May, 2018, 2-4 pm, Dept of Geography, Queens Building, QB171.

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

For further details please go to geohumanitiesforum.org
Imaginary Explosions – Fieldwork in Patagonia

Caitlin Berrigan and Karen Holmberg, winners of one of the Centre for the GeoHumanities Creative Commissions have been undertaking fieldwork in Patagonia as part of their project 'Imaginary Explosions'. The fieldwork, also funded by the National Geographic, investigates the conservation of cultural heritage and geoheritage in Chaiten, northwestern Patagonia, as the town continues to recover from a volcanic eruption in 2008. Their fieldwork included time spent exploring the excised and painted rock art in the Vilcún cave system. Further information can be found at http://karenholmberg.com/about/
http://caitlinberrigan.com/
Congratulations to Dr. Cecilie Sachs Olsen who has been awarded a British Academy Rising Star Engagement Award with the project ‘Urban Voices: The political arts of listening’. The project focuses on cultivating contexts for listening amongst a range of stakeholders within urban planning processes and involves a series of public workshops, the production of an audio walk, an international conference and a podcast.

Participatory approaches to urban development have come a long way in providing frameworks that enable people to voice their opinions on urban issues. Nevertheless, residents complain that their voices are not heard. While much attention is paid to speaking, listening has gained far less attention. Building on Cecilie’s ongoing research around the potential for arts practices to enable more democratic forms of urban development, ‘Urban Voices’ aims to involve planners, architects, artists and citizens in exploring how we can expand the ways we live in, think about and develop cities.'
Centre for the GeoHumanities European Network Event

The CGH has been awarded RHUL Research Strategy Fund money for an event in Autumn 2018 that will bring together key figures in the GeoHumanities from across Europe to brainstorm on the current state and future directions of the GeoHumanities. We hope this will form the foundation for a longer term European Network for the GeoHumanities.

More information will be announced in late Summer 2018.

Centre for the GeoHumanities Featured Projects

Lived Experiences of Creative City Space: Policy, Economy and Community

Emily Hopkins, ESRC funded PhD student

Emily's PhD explores urban spaces, creativity and ordinariness. Drawing on her interests in citizenship, everyday banality, creative practices and artful geographies, Emily will bring together recent critiques of the creative city with the growing interest in 'mid-sized' cities. Emily has been awarded an ESRC grant to visit CUNY in autumn 2018 to network with leading urban scholars there and develop her work in an American context.
Whispers in White Noise: The Political and Cosmological Dimensions of Radio

Dr Sasha Engelmann, Lecturer in GeoHumanities

The project investigates the radio spectrum as a site for collective investments in atmospheric space. Radio amateurs are experimenters who operate in small, dedicated bands squeezed between corporate, cultural, scientific and institutionally operated communication frequencies. These amateurs test the propagation of waves in the atmosphere, they ‘bounce’ radio waves off the surface of the moon and hold international competitions in long-distance (DX) communication. This project considers such active, creative experimentation on the fringes of science, technology and communication infrastructures as a vital site for investigating the aesthetics and politics of atmosphere. Part of the project has involved studying for an amateur radio license and operating a portable listening station. On the airwaves, Sasha's callsign is M6IOR.