Welcome to the fifth 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)

9th May, GeoHumanities Creative Commissions Event, Raven Row, London

9th - 10th May, Collections in Circulation: Mobile Museum Conference, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

18th May, Border Crossings: Creativity, Performance, and the Transnational, TATE EXCHANGE

23rd May, Shakespearean Territories, 4th Denis Cosgrove Lecture, British Academy, London

24th May, Making diaries, making archives, making blogs, Bedford Square

12th June, Moving Literary Geographies: narrative forms and practices of mobilities, Bedford Square

Upcoming GeoHumanities Events

Creating Earth Futures Event
9th May
Raven Row, London

The Centre for the GeoHumanities is delighted to announce "Creating Earth Futures"; this event, co-organized with Matterlurgy Studio, will feature finished work and work in progress from the inaugural GeoHumanities Creative Commissions in which artists and researchers collaborated on themes of global environmental change.

The event (doors 6.30 to start 7.00pm), and the drinks reception afterward are free to attend, but please do book a place via the eventbrite site.
Collections in Circulation: Mobile Museum Conference, 9-10 May, 2019

We are pleased to announce that this Conference, organised in association with the Mobile Museum project, will take place at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, on Thursday 9th and Friday 10th of May 2019.

The conference will bring together scholars from the UK and overseas with a shared interest in the mobility of museum collections, past and present. Their papers will address various aspects of the history of the circulation of objects and their re-mobilisation in the context of object exchange, educational projects and community engagement.

Confirmed speakers include Claudia Augustat, Paul Basu, Joshua Bell, Martha Fleming, Sally Gregory Kohlstedt, Luciana Martins, Wayne Modest, Catherine Nichols, Jude Philp, Daniel Simpson, Alice Stevenson, and members of the Mobile Museum project team.

Details of the programme are available here

Registration for the conference (via the project website below) will open in early December.

Felix Driver & the Mobile Museum team

Webpage: https://royalholloway.ac.uk/mobilemuseum

Email: mobilemuseum@kew.org
Twitter: @KewMobileMuseum #KewMobileMuseum
Border Crossings: Creativity, Performance, and the Transnational
Saturday 18th May 2019, 12 – 5pm
Tate Exchange, Tate Modern, London

Join us for a day of workshops, installations, and performances exploring creative border crossings and the politics of performance-making in the contemporary city. The day brings together diverse communities of practice based in London, including makers of Bolivian panpipe music, traditional Polish and Ecuadorian dance, and contemporary dance improvisation, to explore the creative processes, material cultures, and politics of making performance through transnational connection. Pick up some steps in practical dance workshops and see them performed in group presentations, have a go with traditional instruments and dress and learn about the groups’ creative work, join a participatory procession from the Turbine Hall, and be part of a synchronised movement score between London and Quito (Ecuador).

For further information please see the GeoHumanities Forum
4th Denis Cosgrove Lecture- Shakespearean Landscapes
23rd May, The British Academy, London

23rd May, 6.30 pm (doors from 6.15pm), Lecture Hall, The British Academy, London

The Centre for the GeoHumanities is delighted to announce that the fourth Denis Cosgrove Lecture will be given by Professor Stuart Elden (University of Warwick).

Stuart's lecture is entitled: ‘Shakespearean Landscapes’.

The lecture, and the drinks reception after it are free to attend, but please book a place on Eventbrite.
Making diaries, making archives, making blogs: accounting for everyday life online and exploring the spaces and practices of social media

Friday May 24 2019, 13:00-17:00, 11 Bedford Square

The purpose of this interdisciplinary afternoon workshop is to bring together scholars from the UK and overseas with a shared interest in methodologies for exploring social media, specifically blogs, vlogs and blog/vlogospheres and the opportunities and challenges involved in both their production and their examination. A further focus of the workshop is understanding these activities and spaces, as spaces where women can, and are, writing their own history. Here there is a multitude of questions that can be explored - such as: Why do women create such spaces of memory? In what ways do these creative spaces matter? How can we understand and approach these spaces? How do women’s pre-digital-era detailed accounts of everyday life – such as travel diaries, pocket diaries and photo albums – compare and contrast with their online equivalents? Are we in need of new tools and perspectives? How can we balance our understanding of the personal elements of such constructions with their professional and commercial aspects?

Please see the Centre for the GeoHumanities website for further details. Closing date for expressions of interest 30th April 2019.

If you want to join please send an email with a brief statement of your current/future work connects to the topic to Jenny Sjöholm (jenny.sjoholm@rhul.ac.uk) by the 30th of April, 2019.
Moving literary geographies: narrative forms and practices of mobilities
An interdisciplinary one-day colloquium

Date: Wednesday 12th of June 2019
Location: Room 1-03, 11 Bedford Square, Bloomsbury, London, WC1B 3RF
Hours: 10.00 a.m. - 15.30 p.m.

Hosting institution:
Centre for the Geohumanities, Royal Holloway University of London In collaboration with Centre for Advanced Studies in Mobility and the Humanities, DiSSGeA, University of Padova and UNAM-United Kingdom, Centre for Mexican Studies

Convenors:
Nattie Golubov (CISAN, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México)
Giada Peterle (DiSSGeA, University of Padua)
Veronica della Dora (Royal Holloway, University of London)

The purpose of this colloquium is to think about the ongoing reciprocal exchange between the ‘new mobilities paradigm’ and literary geographies. In particular, the event aims at interrogating the diverse ways in which the theories and methodologies triggered by the ‘mobility paradigm’ interact with literary geographies, including both texts and narrative practices. In our perspective, the focus on ‘mobilities’ suggests a move beyond the mere analysis of literary texts as representations, to read narratives as practices that encourage an unceasing critical movement; an open-ended engagement with the human and non-human worlds; an ongoing exploration of new mobile methodologies and forms of narrations (fictional/non-fictional, verbo-visual, cartographic). We foresee this as an opportunity to establish a network of scholars working across the disciplines, in the fields of literary geography and mobility.

For further information please see the GeoHumanities Forum
The Department DiSSGeA of the University of Padova (in the framework of the Department of Excellence Project ‘Mobility and the Humanities’ financed by the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research) and the Royal Holloway Centre for the GeoHumanities are in the process of funding up to four (4) Creative Commissions on the theme of ‘variations on mobility’.

Virtual, physical, potential and corporeal fluxes; networks, routes, circulation and stasis of human and non-human entities: Mobilities have become a frame through which we sense spatial practices and relations at multiple scales and levels (local, urban, national, transnational, global; intimate, intersubjective, interobjective, social, collective). This joint edition of Creative Commissions calls for creative collaborations that explore the relationship between mobilities and the humanities experimenting with the potential of art and creative methodologies in the study, imagination and expression of mobility issues. This call especially welcomes proposals addressing mobilities’ spatialities, practicalities, and temporalities. In particular, applicants are invited to consider the arts and humanities as a frame through which to explore the historical implications of mobility, as well as the constitution of mobile phenomena in both space and time (from antiquity to contemporary history, from present times to possible futures).

For further information and ongoing updates about the project please see the GeoHumanities forum.
In 2018, the Palais de Tokyo, Paris invited Studio Tomás Saraceno to take over its exhibition spaces for the fourth edition of its “Carte Blanche” series. The exhibition, entitled On Air, is Saraceno’s largest project to date, bringing a selection of his major works together with ambitious new productions that transform Palais de Tokyo into a uniquely sensory experience of webs, cosmic dust, particular matter, radio waves and corridors of free aerial movement.

In the context of On Air, Tomás Saraceno and Rebecca Lamarche-Vadel, curator of the exhibition, invited Sasha Engelmann to curate a series of public program events at the Palais de Tokyo relating to the Aerocene project. Aerocene is an activist network of citizen scientists, researchers and creative practitioners who make, launch and fly solar powered balloon-like sculptures to carry out novel forms of environmental research and to post new questions of our relationship to Earth’s atmosphere. The Aerocene Symposium, curated and moderated by Sasha, took place at the Palais de Tokyo on 26 October and included performances and contributions from Aerocene community members and esteemed scholars and researchers. A series of Aerocene-focused workshops accompanied the formal program, including hands-on sessions on sculpture fabrication, payload design, radio amateurism, an Aerocene Human Flight, and Aerocene Explorer launches. For further information and documentation on this program and to get involved, visit the Aerocene Forum.
I’m an expert in the history of science, with a specific focus on natural history museum and the visual and material cultures of collecting, especially during the nineteenth century. I’m an assistant professor in history of science and naturalistic museology at the University of Padua (Italy) and associate editor at *Nuncius: Journal of the Material and Visual History of Science*. Among my latest works, I’m editing a volume for the Smithsonian Institution Scholarly Press on artefacts, scientific museums and exhibitions along the twentieth century, to be published in April 2019. I collaborate with many Italian scientific museums, such as the Leonardo da Vinci National Museum of Science and Technology in Milan and the Muse, the Museum of Natural Sciences in Trento. My home institution, the University of Padua’s Department of Historical and Geographic Sciences and the Ancient World (DiSSGeA), has been recently nominated ‘Department of Excellence’ and has been awarded a large grant by the Italian Government for a project titled ‘Mobilities and the Humanities’ (2018-2022), for which the CGH is listed as an international partner. In this regard, I’m starting a new project on the history of the Botanical Garden, found in 1545, and rich in plants and algae herbaria and botanical collections. During my stay as academic visitor at the Royal Holloway (16 January-4 February 2019) I’ve taken part to various activities organized by the Geography Department’s Social, Cultural and Historical Research Group (SCHG) and the Centre for the GeoHumanities (CGH), exploring other possible collaborations on the topic of mobility of natural history objects and botanical collections in connection with the history of the Botanical Garden of Padua.
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