Welcome to the tenth edition of the Centre for the GeoHumanities newsletter. Please get in touch with us at geohumanities@rhul.ac.uk if you have news you would like to share or would like your work featured.

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6th Denis E. Cosgrove Lecture
Save the Date: Wednesday 7th June 2023

The Centre for the GeoHumanities is delighted to announce that the 6th Denis E. Cosgrove Lecture will be given by Professor Stephen Daniels (University of Nottingham).

Linnell Foundation of Stratton's Chapel.

Landscapes in the Making: John Linnell (1792-1882) and the Environs of London
Questions on the making and meaning of landscape are central to the work of Denis Cosgrove, in studies of maps and artworks as well as places on the ground. This lecture explores views of landscapes in the making on the edge of early nineteenth century London, a period and place of rapid urban redevelopment. It focuses on meanings of such landscapes in the art of John Linnell. How did Linnell’s sketches and paintings depict places and processes such as building sites and gravel pits? What wider material and imaginative worlds are envisioned in these art works? How do they relate to longer histories of landscape formation? Staged in a major gallery of nineteenth century art, including work by Linnell, the lecture also reflects on the place of art in geographical enquiry.

The Lecture will take place in the Royal Holloway Picture Gallery. Booking details to follow.

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**New Projects in the Centre**


![Protest against fossil fuels at the G20 Summit, London (2009). Photographer: Max Deyne](image)

The project’s core objective is to create an accessible and high-quality national archive of environmental activism over the last fifty years through the methods of oral history. By so doing we seek to create a valuable resource for the future, documenting the history and lived experience of environmental campaigns through the words of those most intimately involved, including those whose contributions have been overlooked. The project seeks to contribute to a greater awareness of the diverse forms of engagement with environmental issues in the past, to enrich the collective memory of contemporary environmental activism and to create a lasting resource for new thinking and new forms of action in the times to come.

Working closely with the British Library Sound Archive, the project will record life story interviews with 100 people involved in environmental protests, policies and practical action since the early 1970s, from direct actions at power stations, through parliamentary work, the Climate Act and UN agreements, to the promotion of city farms, cycle ways and community-owned wind farms. Interviewees will be selected after extensive consultation and will include grassroots activists and social
entrepreneurs as well as radical campaigners and pioneers of major environmental groups - forgotten voices as well as leading lights. Some of these activists worked for national and global change, while others focussed on the local level. Some fought to protect their environment from destruction, others created something quite new. All have worked for what they believed in. This is a heritage that matters.

The three-year, AHRC funded project will be delivered by a research team combining academic expertise in the study of grassroots movements and oral history with high-level professional experience in environmental organisations. Key partners include National Life Stories at the British Library, Friends of the Earth and the Royal Geographical Society (RGS). In addition to creating an entirely new archive, freely available and searchable in both audio and transcript form via the British Library website, we will convene a series of witness seminars and workshops in collaboration with our partners in England, Wales and Scotland. A freely-downloadable, Open Access book telling the story of environmental activism through the words of campaigners themselves will be produced on the basis of the research. We will also be developing teaching and learning resources for schools with the RGS, based on the real-world experience of environmental activists in order to inspire and inform the active citizens of the future. We will also be involving Masters level students in the Geography department and media organisations such as the Guardian and the BBC to make project material widely available in a variety of forms, including podcasts, blogs, profile articles and feature stories.

For more details please contact Dr Toby Butler: toby.butler@rhul.ac.uk

AHRC Fellowship: Advancing Feminist and Creative Methods for Sensing Air and Atmosphere

The environmental emergencies of our time require thinking and working across disciplines, engaging communities and privileging multiple forms of knowledge, from the sensual to the scientific. Whether by forming new networks across cultural, academic and public spheres, or utilising citizen-science and open data practices, researchers are challenging black-boxed environmental knowledge making. However, doing so does not come hand in hand with equity and justice, and creative-arts practice is rarely recognised as a legitimate contribution to environmental monitoring programmes.
The aim of Sasha Engelmann’s two-year AHRC fellowship is to advance feminist and creative methodologies for citizen-led research on i) air quality in the Global South and ii) weather patterns in the Global North. In a first research strand, this fellowship will evolve an Argentina based collaboration between Sasha, anthropologist Dr. Débora Swistun (UNDAV), residents of Villa Inflamable (the ‘Flammable town’, situated next to the largest petrochemical facility in Argentina) and the artistic Aerocene Community, among others, to develop a model of air quality sensing informed by feminist principles and creative-arts methods. In a second research strand, Sasha will collaborate with Sophie Dyer to expand open-weather, a feminist and creative practice-driven initiative that employs DIY radio technology to facilitate direct public access to transmissions from weather satellites. Having validated the project’s hardware requirements in 2020-21, the fellowship will enable Sasha and collaborators to codesign new software for citizen-led weather monitoring and grow open-weather on an international scale through cultural venues and community science networks. In a third research strand, Sasha will collaborate with Public Lab community organiser Liz Barry to co-author an open access report and articles for academic venues on the value of feminist and creative-arts methodologies for community-led environmental sensing.

For more details on the project please contact Dr Sasha Engelmann: sasha.engelmann@rhul.ac.uk

Objects from Home: Storytelling the changing geographies of home from the Middle East and North Africa

How do objects narrate the past, the everyday, and interrogate im/possible futures? How do they undo our ‘ideas of home’? What affects do they gather and what subjectivities and different forms of intimacy do they call into conversation? With support from HARI, Aya Nassar (RHUL) in collaboration with Mayada Madbouly (Université Paris Nanterre) organised a storytelling workshop conducted in the
The workshop invited 7 academics (across geography, politics, law, anthropology, and architecture), Amira al-Wakil, an independent digital archivist, and Azza Eazzat a visual artist from Egypt. Eazzat’s practice relies on unpacking urban elements and recreating an alternative geography to urban space.

The aim of the project is to experiment with modes of storytelling ‘home’ that starts from what might be overlooked or discarded as insignificant. The project is now working towards a compendium article which brings Eazzat together with nine early career academics researching and archiving fragments from homes in Egypt, The Sudan and Palestine (and their global connections). In doing so, the piece offers different practices of narrating and visualizing stories of/from home. The stories move from bridges and infrastructure to food, clothes and walls. Through attending to these fragments, the storytellers invoke questions about the ways in which objects archive colonialism, resistance, revolts, neoliberalism, consumerism, and dispersion, migration, and exile. The core of the project is the visual artist Azza Ezzat’s creative interpretation of these nine stories. In this visual rendition we ask: how do fragments of home get interwoven aesthetically?

For more details, please contact Dr Aya Nassar: aya.nassar@rhul.ac.uk

UKRI Connections Grant with South Korea on the mobility humanities for social justice and the climate emergency

In February the Centre for the Geohumanities started a new grant with the Academy of Mobility Humanities at Konkuk University, Seoul, South Korea, and both Lancaster University and Aberystwyth University with a remit to explore how mobilities research can be used to help tackle the global challenges relating to mobility futures such as the climate emergency, displacement and mobility justice. The first event of the grant, funded within the UKRI Connections with South Korea programme, was the conference ‘Auto/biography, Mobilities and the Climate Emergency’, held at Lancaster University and hosted by their Centre for Mobilities Research (CeMoRe). The UKRI grant is designed to enable UK and Korean researchers to meet and collaborate during an 18-month period both virtually and in-person. The activities include writing projects such as an edited blog, an intensive programme of conferences, seminars and exchange opportunities, as well as a winter school. The programme is also designed to support ECR and PhD students.
The grant is led by CGH colleagues, Peter Adey (PI), Caroline Cornish, Veronica Della Dora, Sasha Engelmann, Harriet Hawkins and Simone Gigliotti, who are also co-convening a major international conference in Seoul in October with the Academy of Mobility Humanities and the Centre for Advanced Studies in Mobility & Humanities at the University of Padua. The grant and the conference build on collaborations the CGH has established with Konkuk University since 2019 when it signed a memorandum of agreement at Royal Holloway, and long standing collaborations with colleagues in Padua. The conference, ‘Mobility, Infrastructure and the Humanities’ is intended to discuss mobility infrastructures including technologies, geographies, histories, cultures, as well as social being, ethics, justice, and affects. The conference encourages studies that contemplate geographic variation, difference and specificity of context across different global regions, national contexts, locations and places.

For more details please contact Professor Peter Adey:
peter.adey@rhul.ac.uk

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Creative Commissions

An update on the third round of the Centre for GeoHumanities Creative Commissions.

Creating Diasporic Worlds | 5 - 19 July 2022 | Cyprus House

The Creating Diasporic Worlds exhibition opened on Tuesday July 5th with a speech given by the High Commissioner of Cyprus, HE Mr Andreas Kakouris. Achilleas Hadjikyriacou, Director at the Centre for Greek Diaspora Studies, RHUL, talked about the selection process of the call, the participating organisations and the overarching concept that runs through the three selected projects. There followed short presentations of the three projects by a representative of each artistic project, namely, Rebecca Jinks, Anastasia Mina and Theopisti Stylianou-Lambert. The speakers were introduced by Marios Psaras, Cultural Counsellor.
Creating Diasporic Worlds marks the third round of GeoHumanities Creative Commissions, in which artists collaborate with researchers to produce creative work focused on geographical themes and questions. Although prior rounds of creative commissions featured artist-led events and showcases, this third round was the first time in which artworks were exhibited.

Creating Diasporic Worlds was curated by Marios Psaras, Cultural Counsellor - Cyprus High Commission, Achilleas Hadjikyriacou, Director - Centre for Greek Diaspora Studies (RHUL), Sasha Engelmann, Senior Lecturer in GeoHumanities (RHUL), and Anastasia Christophilopoulou, Head of Antiquities, Fitzwilliam Museum. The exhibition was organised by the Cultural Section of the Cyprus High Commission in partnership with the Hellenic Institute, the Centre for Greek Diaspora Studies and the Centre for the GeoHumanities at Royal Holloway, University of London, and the Fitzwilliam Museum – University of Cambridge, and supported by HARI and the School of Humanities at RHUL.

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**Cosgrove Lecture Archive**

The Centre is pleased to announce that recordings of the past five Denis E. Cosgrove Lectures will soon be available to view at your leisure. Four of these have already been collected into the Cosgrove Lecture Archive which can be accessed by entering your email at the link below. At the request of our presenters, we ask that you do not share any of the links to the individual videos so they remain only accessible via the link below. The archive is not yet complete and is still in the process of being updated. If you have any questions or comments about the Archive please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

[The Cosgrove Lecture Archive](#)
Upcoming Events

Leverhulme Lecture: Photographs, archives, and the geographical imagination
Professor Joan Schwartz
19th October 2022, 16:00-17:15PM, Queen's Lecture Theatre, Royal Holloway University of London.

This lecture, by Leverhulme Visiting Professor Joan Schwartz (Queen’s University, Ontario), is the first of four lectures on the Photo-Geographical Archive by a leading expert on the history of photography and geography. The event is supported by the Centre for GeoHumanities and open to all. Other lectures in the series will be delivered in partnership with the V&A Museum, The National Archives and the Royal Geographical Society. The lecture will be followed by a reception in the Queen’s Building foyer.

All welcome, admission free.

For further information please email f.driver@royalholloway.ac.uk

Global Mobility Humanities Conference 2022

Mobility, Infrastructure and the Humanities
28th-29th October, Konkuk University, Seoul, South Korea

The 2022 GMHC is to be a platform to discuss mobility infrastructures in its technologies, geographies, histories, cultures, as well as its social being, ethics, justice, and affects from the mobility humanities perspective. Indeed, as the humanities are challenged not only by COVID, but structural changes in academia and its funding in many contexts, the conference might reflect upon what new infrastructures and (im)mobilities are possible and necessary in the Humanities? Given the emphasis on (virtual) labs, digital platforms, networks and emerging practices to share and collaborate and engage publics in new spaces (Eccles 2021), what might mobility infrastructures offer for a Humanities under threat?
This conference presents an opportunity for scholars to share their ideas and inquiries at the intersection of mobilities studies and humanities, transcending the sometimes conventional divide between the social sciences and humanities and the arts. The conference theme, “Mobility, Infrastructure, and the Humanities,” enables scholars to engage with the mobility humanities from different academic disciplines. With the advent of a ‘high-mobility’ (Viry and Kauffmann 2015) society, infrastructures come to have more far-reaching power, but are perhaps even more taken for granted. Wary of the dangers that they are assumed as universal and taken as ungrounded or uncritically, we encourage studies that contemplate geographic variation, difference and specificity of context across different global regions, national contexts, locations and places.

The Centre will be sending a delegation to attend and present at the conference, led by Professor Peter Adey. Also in attendance will be Dr Sasha Engelmann, Dr Aya Nassar, Dr Thomas DeKeyser, and PhD Student Maddie Joyce.

For more information and for the whole program please consult the Conference Homepage.

'From Below' film screenings

Covid 19: Mutual aid groups and their lessons for post-crisis community care

COVID-19 and accompanying restrictions on social and economic life has led to increased food poverty and vulnerability. This project examined how mutual aid was enacted during the pandemic, investigating who organised mutual aid initiatives and asking what helped or hindered their enactment of mutual aid. The project team consisted of academics from political geography, health studies and housing studies. They engaged with community mutual aid groups and activists from across the UK to understand the nature of mutual aid support and how it has met local and community needs in a public health emergency.

Their research helped formulate a manifesto for change and a documentary, in collaboration with artist and documentary film maker Matthias Kispert, to celebrate mutual aid and encourage a greater recognition of its potential to respond to future emergencies. You can join for a screening of the film 'From Below' next month, or go to the website as new dates are released:

- 19:30PM Tuesday 22nd November at Zero Carbon Guildford, Guildford
- 19:00PM Friday 25th November at Marsden Mechanics, Marsden.

For more information on the project visit the Mutual Aid website.
In the Spotlight

Introducing the new Research Assistants for the Centre for the GeoHumanities.

Cynthia Nkiruka Anyadi, RHUL, Geography

Cynthia is a PhD student in the Geography Department at RHUL, working as one of the Centre’s Research Assistants. Cynthia’s PhD is an exploration of the materialities of transnational deathscapes. Her research focuses on the emergence of fetish objects in the memorialising practices of Igbo Nigerians living in both Nigeria and the diaspora in particular seeking to understand their role in fixing fractured connections to land or loved ones. The project will identify how emotional and spiritual meanings are embodied, imbued in, and interpreted through these everyday domestic objects such as keyrings, mugs, and bottle openers. It will use a combination of sensory ethnographies, interviews, and oral histories to do so, which alongside 3D object mapping will create a story that is accessible and interesting to her participants and their communities. Cynthia is interested more broadly in West African spiritual traditions and death practices, diaspora and domestic spaces, as well as alternative creative approaches to producing and sharing research.
Maddie Joyce, RHUL, Geography

Maddie is a PhD student in the Geography Department at RHUL and works alongside Cynthia as one of the Centre's Research Assistants. Her doctoral project, funded by Royal Holloway, explores the Korean Demilitarised Zone (DMZ) and aims to disrupt hegemonic understandings of the borderland which consider the space solely as a stagnant no-man's land. Through the application of voluminous approaches and creative methods the project intends to ‘enliven’ the borderland in distinctive yet interrelated ways, with a particular focus on the animals, elements, sounds, and bodies which constitute, inhabit, and abound within the space. In doing so, the project hopes to demonstrate the complexities of and possibilities for the DMZ, moving beyond separation and exclusion to instead consider exchange, solidarity, and perhaps even reconciliation. Maddie previously completed her undergraduate and masters degrees within the Geography Department. Her broader research interests are centred around feminist geopolitics, with a particular focus on volume, non-human agency, assemblages, resilience, and Buffer Zones.
Visiting Researchers

The Centre will be welcoming a number of International academic visitors over the coming weeks.

Professor Francisco Klauser is Chaire de Géographie politique at the Institut de Géographie, Neuchâtel University. His work explores the socio-spatial implications, power and surveillance issues arising from the digitisation of present day-life. His main research topics include video surveillance, mega-event security, smart cities, airport surveillance, civil drones, and big data more generally. Francisco will be visiting the department from the 3rd of October until the 7th of October, and will be presenting on the ‘Spatialities of Surveillance’ to the Geopolitics, Development, Security and Justice and the Social, Cultural and Historical Geography Research Groups on Thursday 6th October at 1PM.

Dr Patricia Silveira is a historical geographer with an interest in archives, geographical imagination, traveller’s writing, and the Portuguese Empire. She is currently running a postdoctoral project funded by CNPq (Brazil) concerning British travel writing and its role in the production and circulation of geographical imagination about the Brazilian backlands in the 19th century. This research in the British archives will contribute to the historiographical and geographical literature that deals with representations of nature and territory produced in British travel writing. Patricia is a member of Brazilian Network for the History of Geography and Historical Geography.

Professor Joan Schwartz is an expert on photo archives, a geographer and former head of the Department of Art History & Art Conservation at Queen’s University, Ontario. She has been recognized nationally and internationally for her work as an historical geographer, archival theorist, and photographic historian. Co-editor of Picturing Place and of Archives, Records, and Power, her research has focused especially on photography and the geographical imagination and on archives as spaces of power. As Leverhulme Visiting Professor based in the Centre for the GeoHumanities, Prof Schwartz will deliver a series of lectures at Royal Holloway, the V&A Museum, The National Archives and the Royal Geographical Society. These Leverhulme Lectures and the wider programme of events associated with her visit will foreground issues of archival authenticity, the materiality of images and their transformation in an era of digitisation.

Dr Maria Rosaria Marchionibus is a Fellow in Byzantine and Medieval Art at the University of Naples “L’Orientale”. Her research spans art history, theology, cultural geography and anthropology. More specifically, it explores the relationship between landscape and architecture, as well as between images and words in Byzantine and Western medieval art. Her studies have focused on Italo-Greek monasticism in Southern Italy, the connections between apophatic theology and art, the role of colours in
(Rede Brasilis) and Conference Officer of the Historical Geography Research Group (HGRG/RGS).

Patricia will be visiting the department during the Autumn 2022 term.

Dr Shuaike Yin is an Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture in Huazhong Agricultural University, China. He will be visiting the Centre for the GeoHumanities on a China Scholarship Council and will be based in the Department of Geography from November 2022 through the end of October 2023. Dr Yin specializes in the history of Chinese traditional gardens and architecture, with a specific focus on the spatial organization of gardens in the south of the lower reaches of the Yangtze River since Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) and in royal gardens and architecture in the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911). More broadly, his research interests include the relationship between ancient cities, mountains and rivers.

Dr Marchionibus will be visiting the Centre for the GeoHumanities in November 2022. During her stay she will work on a project on experiences of the Divine and sacred space in Byzantium.