Centre for the GeoHumanities

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Centre for the GeoHumanities

Welcome to the tenth edition of the Centre for the GeoHumanities newsletter. Please get in touch with us at geohumanities@st-andrews.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.

Lionel Crosskey of Bradley'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. Landscape, he argued, is a way of seeing, a process on the ground. The lecture explores ways of landscape as the making on the edge of early nineteenth century London, a period and place of rapid change. Linnell's landscape drawings and paintings of landscapes in the art of John Linnell. Most did not exhibit, sketches and paintings depict places and processes such as building sites and ground work. Linnell's landscapes were commercial, but how did his patrons see his landscapes, and what did they mean to them? Landscape as landscape formation? Stopped in a unique 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.

New Projects in the Centre

An Oral History of the Environment in the UK, 1970-2020

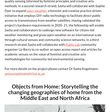
Protest against fracking at the Cuadrilla site, Lancashire, 2018. Photographer: Mike Hulme

This project is a rare objective to create an accessible and high-quality national archive of environmental activism over the last fifty years. Based at the Centre for the GeoHumanities, it will make a rich and valuable resource for the future, documenting the history and lived experience of environmental campaigns through the words of those who have organised, participated in, and sometimes opposed, what have been overheated. The project seeks to contribute to a greater awareness of the diverse forms of engagement with environmental issues in the past, to revisit the collective memory of contemporary environmental activism and to create a lasting resource for new thinking and new forms of action in the climate crisis.

Working closely with the British Library Sound Archive, the project will collect and preserve oral histories of environmental campaigners, organisers and environmental journalists. Together, we will develop a leading digital archive of these activists worked for national and global change, with others who have worked at the local level, and those who have emerged from obscurity to bring their stories to the public. We will also be training Masters level students in the Geography Department and media professionals in oral history methods, so that they can conduct oral history interviews with people in a variety of forms, including journalism, blogs, profile articles and feature stories.

For more details please contact Dr. Toby Butler: tobyjbutler@st-andrews.ac.uk

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



Left to right: Sophie Hope, Lucy Kimbell, Lisa Mckenzie, Stephen Pinkerton, Jonathan Lovell, Sophia Depeck and Jane Trotter at Creative Res, Photo: Rob Wilson, Photography for SOAS, Photography

The environmental emergencies of our time require thinking and working across disciplines and communities and privileging multiple forms of knowledge. How do we sense the air? How do we make the invisible visible? How do we bring together social and public spheres, by utilising citizen science and open data practices, researchers are challenging black-boxed environmental knowledge-making. However, the complex, technical, and abstract nature of air pollution data creates an practice in rarely recognised as a legitimate contribution to environmental monitoring programmes.

The art of Sophia Eugenia's two-year AHRC Fellowship is to advance feminist and creative methods for citizen-led research on I-at-Home Sensing Air and Atmosphere. Working with Lucy Kimbell, Lisa Mckenzie and Jane Trotter, the Fellowship will create an Algorithmic based collaboration between Sophia, anthropologist Dr. Gideon Sundan and Dr. Stephen Pinkerton, Director of Sensing Spaces, to develop an open-source toolkit for the project and beyond.Sophia is Organiser and the artistic Backyard Community, among others, to develop a model of air quality sensing that is rooted in feminist and creative research methods. In a second research phase, Sophia will collaborate with Sophia Depeck to expand open weather, a feminist and creative practice-driven platform for weather data, to include air quality data. This will provide access to harmonised from weather platforms. Having validated the project's hardware requirements in 2020-21, the fellowship will enable the team to develop a feminist and creative approach to open weather monitoring and grow open weather as an international node through cultural venues and community science networks. It is critical that this work is rooted in feminist and creative practice, bringing together Citizens to co-author an open-source report and artifact for academic venues on the value of feminist and creative arts methodologies for community monitoring.

For more details on the project please contact Dr Sophia Engelmann: sophiaengelmann@st-and.ac.uk

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

Detail from 'Objects from Home', Rana Elnemr, 2020

How do objects narrate the past, the everyday, and intergenerational memories? How do they shape our sense of home? How do they affects the day-gather and adjustment and different forms of intimacy do they call into conversation? With support from AHRC Arts and Humanities Research Council, Dr Rana Elnemr, Lecturer in Arab Feminism in organised a storytelling workshop conducted in the summer. The workshop invited 7 academics (across geography, politics, anthropology, and Arabic literature) to bring an object that tells a story about global challenges relating to mobility Rooms such as the climate emergency, displacement and mobility justice. The first event of the workshop was a public-facing event, part of the Glasgow Refugee programme, was the conference Rituals/Mobilities, Mobilities and the Climate Emergency, held at Lancaster University and hosted by their Centre for Mobilities Research and Policy. The second event was a three-month UK and Ireland-wide tour to meet and collaborate during an 18-month post-doctoral artistic and co-genesis. The activities include workshops with artists, a film screening, a photo exhibition, a public conference in Lancaster and Belfast, a film screening, as well as a video school. The programme is also designed to support ECR and PhD students.

The grant is led by CDH colleagues Peter Adey (PI), Caroline Cartwright, Veronica Della Dora, Sasha Engelmann, Harriet Hawkins and Simeon Digkilis, who are also co-convening a larger international conference in Lancaster in June 2023 on Mobility Justice, co-sponsored by the Centre for Advanced Studies in Mobility & Humanities at the University of Padua. The grant and the conference build on collaborations the CDH has developed with Lancaster University, Padua, and Belfast, and the internationalisation of department at Royal Holloway, and long-standing collaborations with colleagues in Padua. The conference, 'Mobility Justice: Geographies of Inclusion and Exclusion', will explore mobility infrastructures including technologies, geographies, histories, cultures, as well as social lives, ethics, justice, and affects. The conference will also explore how mobility justice is a concept, a movement, a theory 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

Creative Commissions

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

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

Creating Diasporic Worlds exhibition opening. Photography by Benjamin Chapman

The Creating Diasporic Worlds exhibition opened on Tuesday July 5th with a special gloria by the High Commissioner of Cyprus, HE Mr Andrew Palmer.Dr. Anthiee Papathyrou, Director at the Centre for GeoHumanities, said: "The Creative Commissions programme is a vital UK-and participating organisations and the overarching concept that runs through the three selected projects. There followed short presentations by the artists on their respective creative and artistic project, namely, Rebecca Attia, Annamaria Pastore and Panayioti Stylianou Lambert. The speakers were introduced by Marina Psara, Cultural Counsellor.

Creating Diasporic Worlds was the third round of Commissions which ran from January to June 2022 and commissioned three artists to produce creative work focused on geographical themes and questions. Although other rounds of creative commissions featured artist-led events and showcases, this third round was the first time to collect artworks into an exhibition.

Creating Diasporic Worlds was curated by Marina Psara, Cultural Counsellor - Cyprus High Commission, Anthiee Papathyrou, Director at the Centre for GeoHumanities, Dr. Ioanna Kakoudaki, Senior Lecturer in Contemporary British Art, and Anastasia Christophoulopoulou, Head at Metapolitics, Fitzwilliam Museum. The exhibition was organised in collaboration with the Cyprus High Commission, Metapolitics, and with the Hellenic Institute, the Centre for Greek Diasporic Studies and the Centre for the GeoHumanities at Royal Holloway, University of London. Creating Diasporic Worlds was funded by the Cyprus High Commission, and supported by HAR and the School of Humanities at RHUL.

Cosgrove Lecture Archive

Denis Cosgrove, 1st of the Cosgrove Lectures, Lecture Theatre, Royal Holloway University of London, Photo: Rob Wilson, Photography for the Centre for GeoHumanities

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 lectures are already available to view on our YouTube channel and more will soon 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 lectures with anyone outside of the academic community. Please. This 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

Mobility, Humanities and the Humanities

19th October 2022, 16:00-17:30PM, Queen's Lecture Theatre, Royal Holloway University of London

This lecture, by Leverhulme Visiting Professor Joan Schwartz (Queen's University Ontario), will explore the ways in which photos and geographical fictions by a leading expert on the history of photography and geography. The event is supported by the Centre for GeoHumanities and the Centre for Mobility and Humanities and will be delivered in partnership with the Mark Hakansson, The National Archives and the Royal Geographical Society. The lecture will be followed by a reception in the Queen's Building foyer.

All welcome attendance.

For further information please email tobyjbutler@leverhulme.ac.uk

Global Mobility Humanities Conference 2022

Mobility, Humanities and the Humanities

28th-29th October, Grand Hotel Stamp, Seoul, South Korea

The 2023 GMHC is to be a platform to discuss mobility infrastructures in its technologies, geographies, histories, cultures, as well as social lives, ethics, justice, and affects. Critical mobilities perspectives, indeed, as the humanities are challenged not only by COVID, but structural changes in academia and its funding in more neoliberal ways, the conference will explore how mobility infrastructures and (im)mobilities are a profile of the Humanities Tomorrow Given the emphasis on cultural, data, platforms, networks and emerging technologies, the conference will also explore how mobility justice (Adey 2021), and digital mobility infrastructures offer for a Humanities under threat?

The conference provides an opportunity for scholars to share their ideas and research at the intersection of mobilities studies and humanities, transcending the sometimes conventional divide between the humanities and the social sciences. The conference welcomes fellowship, scholars and students. The Conference welcomes engage with mobilities research from the humanities and related disciplines. With the advent of, in Stephen Greenblatt's (Harvard University) words, Infrared scholarship comes to have more for reaching power, and more sensitive to the ultraviolet end of the spectrum. Infrared light, they are assumed or universal and taken as unprovoked or uncritical, we encourage studies that combination geographic variation, difference and specificity with the ultraviolet end of the spectrum: global regions, national contexts, locations and places.

The Centre will be sending a delegation to attend and present at the conference, led by Professor Mary Mills, Also in attendance will be Dr Sasha Engelmann, Dr Ana Nascari, Dr Thomas Dekleyn, and PhD Student Pamela Joyce.

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

'From Below' film screenings

Covid 19 Physical and digital shut downs 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.

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 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 (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 Maria Rosaria Marchionibus is a Fellow in Byzantine and Medieval Art at the University of Naples "L'Orientale". Her research spanss 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 Byzantine and Western art, pre-Christian practices (such as incubatio) in Christian shrines, among other things. 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.

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.

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