Centre for the GeoHumanities

Newsletter No. 11
April 2023

Centre for the GeoHumanities

Welcome to the eleventh 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.

6th Cosgrove Lecture

Please note the change of date:
Tuesday 6th June 2023
17:45 - 20:30

This year the 6th Denis 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 focusses 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.

For further information and to book your place, please click here.

Recordings of previous Cosgrove Lectures have been collected, and can be accessed by following this link for the Cosgrove Lecture Archive and entering your email address. 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.

Ongoing and Upcoming Events

Music, Migration & Mobility – The Story of Émigré Musicians from Nazi-Europe in Britain

Until 17th April 2023

Credit: Giada Peterle.

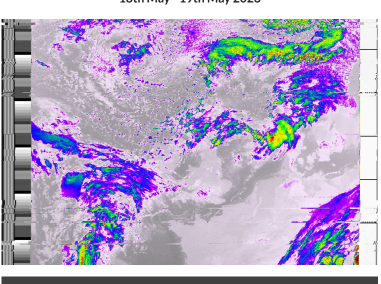
Music, Migration & Mobility – The Story of Émigré Musicians from Nazi-Europe in Britain, the Royal College of Music Museum's latest exhibition, explores the lives and legacies of musicians who fled the Nazi regime and the ravages of war. From annotated scores and costumes to recordings and concert programmes, alongside photography and personal items, *Music, Migration & Mobility* invites visitors to delve into the lives and experiences of the musicians who settled in Britain as a result of the Nazi regime.

Both Professor Peter Adey and Dr Michael Holden (Department of Geography, Royal Holloway, University of London) have been involved in the project, while much of the exhibition design and illustration was done by visual artist Giada Peterle, who was also a visiting fellow within the RHUL Geography Department. Several project outputs, including storymaps, are available on the project's educational resource page.

The *Music, Migration & Mobility* exhibition is now open and will run until 17th April 2023. The RCM Museum is open Tuesday–Friday, 10.15am-5.45pm and Saturday–Sunday, 11am-6pm. For further details about the exhibition please click here.

Spring School: Weathering Mobilities

18th May - 19th May 2023



A weather capture image of the UK created using DIY radio technologies. Credit: Maddie Joyce and NOAA-15, December 2022.

In this upcoming 'Spring School', organisers Peter Adey, Sasha Engelmann, Maddie Joyce, Rachael Squire, and Giada Peterle invite post-graduate and early career researchers to participate in two days of discussion, experimentation, listening, reading, sensing and writing around (im)mobilities (of people, wildlife, satellites, water, and other materials) and 'weathering', at the Department of Geography, Royal Holloway University of London. The Spring School will explore how weathering or weathered (im)mobilities might be sensed and made palpable in bodies and assemblages of bodies and machines, and expressed and articulated in a multitude of practices, such as in writing, walking, photography, and other artistic and creative practices.

Over the course of two days attendees are invited to take part in small reading group sessions; practical workshops, including a collective experiment in capturing an image of the weather from an orbiting NOAA satellite using DIY radio technologies (led by Sasha Engelmann and Maddie Joyce); and a collaborative writing and visual exercise which will lead to a zine or article type publication. The Spring School will feature two keynote presentations by Dr Kaya Barry (Senior Lecturer and ARC DECRA fellow, Griffith University), and Dr Stephanie Sodero (Lecturer in Climate Crises at the Humanitarian and Conflict Response Institute, University of Manchester).

The school will run from **10:00** on the **18th May** until **17:00** on the **19th May**. For more information or to apply, applicants should email peter.adey@rhul.ac.uk **by Friday 21st April** with their full name, current position, disciplinary affiliation(s), Institution, email contact, and a short 100 word (max) outline of their research interests, or a link to an academic webpage if relevant. Small travel and accommodation bursaries are available for PhD students or Early Career Researchers at UK Higher Education Institutions who have a background in the arts, humanities, or social sciences, and are currently engaged in novel research or public engagement within the field of mobilities.

Multimedia Everests - Centre for Audiovisual Research

Half Day Event, 23rd May 2023

On 23 November 2022 the Royal Geographical Society hosted a roundtable event focussed on documenting the first Everest Expeditions. The event was chaired by the BBC's Martine Croxall, who was joined by Felix Driver (CGH) as well as Dr Jonathan Westaway (Senior Research Fellow, University of Central Lancashire) and Atem Lemtur (PhD student, Göttingen University).

The event was one of several to mark the centenary of the first mountaineering expeditions on Mount Everest. It drew attention to the histories of labour migration, colonialism, infrastructure and media culture that shaped the planning, logistics and representation of these expeditions. A video of the talk is available here.

A related half-day event exploring the audiovisual perspectives of the 1922 silent film 'Climbing Mt. Everest' will take place in the **Windsor Auditorium, Royal Holloway, University of London** on the afternoon of **23 May 2023**. The programme will include panel discussions and live performances marking 100 years since the film was first presented and toured. Further details and **booking information** can be found here.

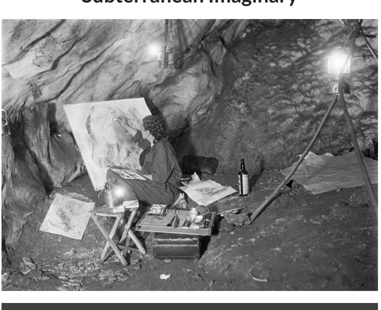
Other Activities

Science Through the Keyhole: Revealing Scientific Practices Through Workspaces

The attic "work-room" of the Scottish engineer James Watt. Acquired by the Science Museum in 1924 and now on display in the Museum's Energy Hall. © Science Museum/Science & Society Picture Library.

"Science Through the Keyhole" is a new AHRC-funded research network led by Jane Desborough of the Science Museum and Innes M. Keighren of the RHUL Department of Geography. Throughout 2023, the interdisciplinary network will bring together museum professionals and academics from a range of disciplines to explore three key questions: What is a scientific workspace? How does space constitute scientific practice (and vice versa)? And how can historical workspaces of scientific practice be recreated, evoked, and interpreted for museum visitors? The network will meet for a series of workshop events that will be hosted by the project's partners: the Science Museum, the Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge, the Museum of Home, and Royal Museums Greenwich. The organisation of these events will be supported by the Department of Geography's Beth Williamson, who will be working as project administrator.

Hollow Earth: Art, Caves & The Subterranean Imaginary



Unknown photographer, Elisabeth Pauli at work in Northern Spain, 1936. Giclee print. Courtesy: The Frobenius Institute.

Between Sept. 2022 and Jan. 2023, Nottingham Contemporary exhibited '*Hollow Earth: Art, Caves and The Subterranean Imaginary*', a major thematic exhibition bringing together a wide range of responses to the image and idea of the cave. The exhibition highlighted paintings, photography, sculpture, sound, installation and video, as well as archives and architectural models, stretching from 1960 to today, alongside works from the 18th and 19th centuries. Mapping specific sites and imaginary underworlds, the Hollow Earth exhibition considered what draws us to the subterranean.

Organised in collaboration with Hayward Gallery Touring, the exhibition featured major works by René Magritte, Santu Mofokeng, Kaari Upson, Jeff Wall and Aubrey Williams, as well as new commissions from Sofia Borges, Emma McCormick-Goodhart, Goshka Macuga, Lydia Ourahmane and Liv Preston. The exhibition was supported by the Centre for the GeoHumanities, as part of a project funded by the European Research Council (ERC) and the Leverhulme Trust.

In 2023, the exhibition will continue on tour with showings at The Glucksman in Cork and RAMM in Exeter.

Breaking the Frame Film Festival

Credit: Judith Weik

The Centre recently co-organised a successful evening of film screenings at the Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (CRASSH), University of Cambridge.

The Breaking the Frame Film Festival featured a selection of video art films and experimental documentaries that engage resistance to digital technologies or imagine alternative technological futures. The experimental film Machines in Flames (2022; 50min) topped off the evening with a deep dive into an anonymous group – CLODO – who bombed computer companies in early 1980s France and disappeared after three years without ever being caught. Co-directed and produced by Dr Thomas Dekeyser, a member of the Centre for the GeoHumanities, the film looks to expose the links between cybernetics, archiving, and violence.

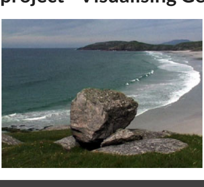
The full film will be released online for free on 10 May 2023. For a look into the exciting and often cryptic texts that CLODO left behind, as well as a trailer for the film, you can visit the official Machine in Flames webpage here.

UERJ Partnership

The Centre has recently established a new partnership with the State University of Rio de Janeiro (UERJ). The initiative has been led by Professor Felix Driver and Dr André Reyes Novaes. André is a Brazilian geographer and an Honorary Research Associate of the Social, Cultural, Historical Geography Group in the RHUL Geography Department. This partnership will provide a framework for future research collaborations including staff and postgraduate student visits across both institutions.

The Department is currently hosting Dr. Patrícia Silveira, also from UERJ. Patrícia is working in the RGS and Kew archives for a project exploring British travellers to the Brazil in the first half of the nineteenth century, sponsored by the Brazilian Research Council CNPq.

Landing project - Visualising Geography



Matthew Dalziel, Louise Scullion + Jean-Luc Schwenninger - The Drowned Sea

In June and July 2002 eight collaborative projects between artists and geographers were displayed in the RHUL Department of Geography. The exhibition ('*Landing*') was one part of the Visualising Geography creative research project.

The restored website and recently updated project archive for the exhibition, curated by Ingrid Swenson, now includes details and photos of each of the collaborative projects. The projects were between Royal Holloway geographers and artists Jeremy Deller, Kathy Prendergast, Juan Cruz, Mathew Dalziel & Jean-Luc Scullion, Janice Kerbel, Jacqueline Jeffries, Nils Norman and Richard Wentworth. Included in the archive are images from the subsequent artist book, as well as artworks, essays (by Gillian Rose, Ingrid Swenson, Felix Driver, Catherine Nash and Kathy Prendergast) and conversations from three project workshops about art, geography, collaboration and practice.

You can access the Landing exhibition archive here.

Prof. Joan Schwartz Lecture Series

'The photo archive: documentation and interpretation' workshop. Credit: L. Martins.

In late 2022, the Centre for the GeoHumanities welcomed Prof. Joan Schwartz as Leverhulme Visiting Professor. During this visit Joan delivered a four-part lecture series at Royal Holloway, the V&A Museum, The National Archives and the Royal Geographical Society around issues of archival authenticity, the materiality of images and their transformation in an era of digitisation.

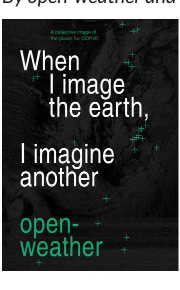
On Thursday 24th November 2022 Joan also contributed to a workshop on 'The photo archive: documentation and interpretation', which was co-organised by Felix Driver (CGH) and Alasdair MacLeod (Head of Collections at the Royal Geographical Society).

Prof. 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 will return to Royal Holloway for a second visit as Leverhulme Visiting Professor for a period between May and June 2023.

New book releases

When I image the Earth, I imagine another

By open-weather and Rectangle



On the first day of the COP26 climate conference in Glasgow, a network of people operating DIY satellite ground stations around the world captured a collective snapshot of the earth and its weather systems: a 'nowcast' for an undecided future. This book, created by open-weather (Sophie Dyer and Sasha Engelmann) and Rectangle (Lizzie Malcolm and Daniel Powers) is an archive of the nowcast and a set of lenses on the materials that compose it, considering what it means to collectively image, and in doing so, reimagine the planet.
The book is open access, for more information and to read the book, click here.

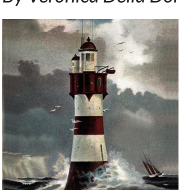
Ice humanities: Living, working, and thinking in a melting world

Edited by Klaus Dodds and Sverker Sörlin

Drawing on sources ranging from oral testimony to technical scientific expertise, this path-breaking collection, co-edited by Prof. Klaus Dodds (CGH), sets out a highly compelling claim for the emerging field of ice humanities, convincingly demonstrating that the centrality of ice in human and non-human life is now impossible to ignore.
Click here for further details about Ice Humanities

Where Light in Darkness Lies: The Story of the Lighthouse

By Veronica Della Dora



Engineered to draw the gaze of sailors, lighthouses have likewise long attracted the attention of soldiers and saints, artists and poets, novelists and filmmakers, colonizers and migrants, and, today more than ever, heritage tourists and developers. Their evocative locations, isolation, and

resilience, have turned these structures into complex metaphors, magnets for stories. This book explores the rich story of the lighthouse in the human imagination.

Click here for further details about 'Where Light in Darkness Lies'

In the Spotlight

Dr. Aya Nassar, Warwick University

In December 2022, Dr. Aya Nassar, Lecturer in the GeoHumanities, left RHUL to begin a three year British Academy post-doc fellowship at The University of Warwick.

Aya's research is animated by a broad question of how the space of the city informs us about urban living and endurance in the aftermath of political hope. Her PhD research (Warwick, 2019) focused on the politics of urban space in Cairo as a site for examining postcolonial ambition, order, and sovereignty in post-independence Egypt. Her current research focuses on the poetics and aesthetics of the Arab city in the contemporary representation of the Arab World, drawing on decolonial and postcolonial thinking. Aya is fascinated by creative practices that negotiate built environment and infrastructural ruination. She published "To stand by the ruins of a revolutionary city" (2020) in the *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, and more recently also co-edited an interdisciplinary special issue on Memory, Space and Storytelling (2021), which brings together early career academics and writers who break the conventions of doing memory-work in Egypt.

Aya's post-doc research project is entitled "When the city stands still: curfews and urban life in the Middle East". It examines how urban life is reshaped and how attachments to the city unfold within interruptions to everyday life in the form of curfews in Egypt and Lebanon.

Agostinho Pinnock, Lecturer in Geohumanities, RHUL

In January 2023 Agostinho Pinnock joined the RHUL Geography Department as Lecturer in the GeoHumanities.

Agostinho joins the department from Loughborough University, where he completed a trans-disciplinary PhD in Geography and Art History. His thesis is on the topic 'Geographies of Struggle: History, Art and Nationhood in post-independence Jamaica, 2000-Present'. Agostinho's research traces the links between contested histories, artmaking and visuality as tools for Black identity and place-making. He is particularly interested in how visual and kinaesthetic cultures recover systematically excluded identities in post-independence Jamaica through monuments, visual arts and street dance, including dancehall music and culture.

In addition to his research, Agostinho co-convenes the Global Black Geographies (GBG) Collective, a transnational network and reading group of Black, early career researchers and independent scholars engaging Black Studies and postcolonial theory. In 2021, Agostinho received an Antipode Foundation Right to the Discipline Grant in which he undertook a collaborative project with the Stephen Lawrence Research Centre (SLRC), entitled 'Creating Joy'. Resulting in a digital film festival and roundtable, the project critically explored Black diasporic life through art.

Visiting Researchers

Dr Patrícia 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. Patrícia 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).

Dr Shuaike Yin is an Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture in Huazhong Agricultural University, China. Shuaike is currently visiting the Centre for the GeoHumanities on a China Scholarship Council until December 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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