For 2023-4, we welcome three new members of the Centre's Steering Group. There were ten papers on subjects as diverse as tree stories (including a discussion of the plants used in the making on the edge of early nineteenth century London, a period that saw John Everett Millais, William Frith, Edwin Landseer and John Linnell, amongst others, depicted planting trees on the banks of the Thames) and funded by the UKRI grant "Plant Mobilities and a partnership agreement providing a framework for future mobilities research in the arts and humanities.

From April to September 2023, Mariana Lamego, the Department of Geography at RHUL as part of their BA Visiting Fellowship. The project is supported by Horizon 2020 News; Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions and the Academy of Mobility Humanities.

The network involved three workshops between April and September, which contributed to a research partnership led by Simone Gigliotti and Harriet Della Dora, an RGS conference session on transnational academic mobility and a partnership agreement providing a framework for future mobilities research in the arts and humanities.

The programme was notably international and as cultural geography.

The final grant meeting was held the 1st of November 2023 at the Science Museum in London, with a delegation of researchers from the Academy of Mobility Humanities. The conference, on 1st November, included a session on "Researching the Archive: Geological and the moon on Apollo 14). The programme was notably international and as cultural geography.

The program included a presentation by the author Kate Teltscher. The final grant meeting was held the 1st of November 2023 at the Science Museum in London, with a delegation of researchers from the Academy of Mobility Humanities.

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Kate Lewis Hood, Postdoctoral Fellow, RHUL

Dr Kate Lewis Hood is joining the Centre on an ESRC Postdoctoral Fellowship, with a project titled ‘Overlapping currents: navigating (anti)colonial water geographies via geopoetics’. During this one-year fellowship, Kate will be preparing a monograph based on their PhD thesis, which considered how Black and Indigenous poetic work registers colonial processes of dispossession, extraction, and exhaustion in watery geographies in Turtle Island/North America and the Pacific islands, and configures other socio-ecological relations. Kate also plans to host interdisciplinary reading and creative practice group on geopoetic and anti-colonial, feminist, and queer methodologies, and would love to be in conversation with anyone working on related topics or approaches.

Toby Butler, Reader in Geography, RHUL

Toby joined Royal Holloway in September 2022 to lead on a three-year AHRC funded research project entitled ‘An Oral History of the Environmental Movement 1970 – 2020’. The main aim is to create a new archive of post-history interviews with environmental activists that will be part of the National Life Stories Collection at the British Library. Currently a seven-strong research team will be recording whole-life history interviews with 100 environmentalists across the UK. The British Library have a large collection of oral history recordings covering diverse sectors and industries, but the team have identified a significant gap that will now be filled. The project will produce a book with the edited highlights of the interviews, academic papers, policy and educational materials that will be developed in partnership with the Royal Geographical Society. Currently the project is in the interviewing phase and staff have undertaken training in oral history interviewing techniques, digital recording and summarising interviews to the standards required for cataloguing in the British Library.

In the past Toby has devised collaborative oral history projects in India, the UK, Wales and England and previously studied at Royal Holloway for his PhD in cultural geography that involved creating oral history audio trails along the river Thames with the Museum of London. He led directed 8A and 2RM programmes and devised place-based trails around the Royal Docks and London parks. Toby directed ‘Groundbreakers’, a web-based guide and augmented-reality trail for the Queen Elizabeth Park in East London interpreting the past of the Olympic site. Prior to joining RHUL Toby undertook 17 interviews with museum founders for the Mapping Museums project at Birkbeck, University of London where he advises on digital education. He co-authored a book entitled ‘Stories from Small Museums’ which was recently published by Manchester University Press and favourably reviewed in the Oral History Journal.

Visiting Researchers

Judith Bastie is a doctoral student in philosophy at Université Paris Cité, working on an Archéology of Plants, a thesis which deals with the history of knowledge of plants and questions of plant biopolitics. She is visiting PhD researcher at Kingston University and Royal Holloway in 2023-2024, joining research initiatives on the philosophy of plants.

Mariana Lamego is Associate Professor of Human Geography at UERJ (State University of Rio de Janeiro), where she has been Head of the Human Geography Dept. Her research interests are in the history of quantitative geography, scientific conferences, gender and international mobility. She is also Editor in Chief of the journal Espaço e Cultura.

Previous Newsletters back to 2016 are archived and available here.