

Geography Department News

Monthly Newsletter
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STAFF AND STUDENTS

Madeleine Hatfield (née Dobson) has been appointed Managing Editor: Journals at the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG). She looks forward to continuing to work alongside colleagues from RHUL in her new role.

OUTSIDE ENGAGEMENTS

Simon Blockley has been appointed as one of two UK members of the steering committee for the new EU COST initiative integrating Ice Core, Marine and Terrestrial Records. The initiative, as previously mentioned, gives the COST committee -euro 400k for 4 years to organise focussed international workshops, which will bring European scientists together to test the relationship between past records of climate change in order to better understand natural responses to abrupt climate change.

Simon Blockley has taken over the role of producing podcasts for the Journal of Quaternary Science. The podcasts will act as a forum to interview Quaternary scientists to discuss their work and views on future directions in Quaternary science and also to present overviews and highlights from major conferences. The first podcast is an interview with Professor Takeshi Nakagawa and will be available on the JQS website shortly.

Tim Unwin gave the following two invited lectures in April:

- Keynote at Computer Science Days and SciFest, entitled "Unleashing the potential: ICTs for Development",

University of Eastern Finland, Joensuu, Finland, 15th April 2010.

- 'Open Educational Resources and ICT for Development', Beyond Borders - Oxford University Open Content Conference, 20th April 2010 (video presentation as a result of Icelandic volcanic eruption).

Felix Driver visited Elsevier's UK headquarters at Kidlington, Oxford, on 7 April to discuss publishing strategy for the Journal of Historical Geography.

Tim Cresswell gave a closing keynote lecture to the "Cultures of Movement" conference in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada on 10th April 2010. His talk was titled "The Politics of Turbulence".

Clive Gamble attended the 75th Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, St Louis, Missouri April 14-18. He was a discussant in the symposium The roots of the Middle Palaeolithic: an unlikely Eurasian evolutionary experiment, and presented a paper 'From Baby Grayling to Greybeard: Lewis Binford as an archaeological learning strategy' in the Symposium Archaeology is anthropology: Celebrating 50 years with Lewis R Binford.

Louise Henderson gave a paper entitled, 'The Art of Travel Publishing: Going Beyond the History of the Book' at the 'Correspondence: Travel, Writing, and Literatures of Exploration, c. 1750 - c.1850' Conference, organised by the University of Edinburgh and National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh 7th - 10th April 2010.

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NOTICES



Graduation Ceremony -
15th July at 6pm



ICT4D

Seminar - Roberta Bernardi, School of Management, RHUL - 'The Impact of Aid Policy onto HIV/AIDS Monitoring & Evaluation System in Africa' - 21.5.10 at 1pm, Room 136.

Ed Derbyshire chaired a meeting of the External Relations Committee of the Geological Society of London in Burlington House, Piccadilly, on 18 March. He also attended a meeting of the Secretaries of the Standing Committees of the Society and its Management and Finance Committee on 31 March.

Ed Derbyshire chaired a meeting of the UK Chairs' working group on the Intergovernmental/International Science Programmes of UNESCO in Whitehall on 1 April.

Ed Derbyshire attended a meeting of the Council of the Geological Society of London on 21 April.

Stephen Jones organised a postgraduate workshop 'Sharing Fieldwork Experiences' at UCL on 22nd-23rd April on behalf of the Developing Areas Research Group of the RGS-IBG.

Stephen Jones gave a presentation 'Can NGOs help promote community participation in water governance?' at WaterAid on 4th May, to WaterAid staff and students from Cranfield University's MSc in Community Water Management.

FIELDWORK- CONFERENCES- OVERSEAS

Scott Elias went with his PhD student **Peter Heintzman** (co-supervised by Ian Barnes in Biology) to the Canadian National Collection of Insects in Ottawa, Canada from 13-18 April. They were stranded in North America until the following weekend, but before that they managed to sample 350 beetle specimens from three beetle species in the collection for DNA. This will enable them to build up a phylogenetic reconstruction of the modern populations of these beetles in North America. While at the CNC, Scott was asked to give a talk on his Beringian paleoecology work at Agriculture Canada in Ottawa.

Adrian Palmer attended the PAGES-1st Varve Working Group meeting at Palmse, Estonia from the 7th-9th April 2010 and presented an invited talk entitled: 'Developing an annually-resolved record for the Lateglacial period in the UK: challenges and progress'; and a poster entitled . This was based on data generated through the RAPID Thematic Programme with **Alison MacLeod**, **John Lowe** and **Jim Rose**. This first workshop was organised to establish the foundations and structures of the working group with three further workshops proposed in subsequent years.

John Lowe, **Simon Blockley** and **Adrian Palmer** lead the MSc Quaternary Science Field Training Programme to Glen Roy, Scotland from the 10th April-21st April 2010. The group basked in uncharacteristically warm weather for the majority of the trip whilst considering the geomorphological and sedimentological evidence for the Loch Lomond (Younger Dryas) Readvance approximately 12, 000 years ago.

Katherine Brickell spent April (and May) in Luang Prabang, Laos conducting field research on gender, tourism and domestic life.

In conjunction with the EU-EDULINK Grant, **Dorothea Kleine** conducted fieldwork in Kenya with Prof Charity Gichuki of Kenyatta University. Together they worked on evaluating telecentres' effectiveness and financial sustainability. March 31st-April 9th, Nairobi, Kenya.

Rupert Housley undertook fieldwork on two Lateglacial sites in south-eastern Denmark. One site, a kettle hole at Lundby Mose on the island of Zealand, had been discovered in 1999 when pre-Boreal butchered elk bones were found by students from the local agricultural school. The second site was at Hasselø on the island of Falster is another kettle hole. This was found in the mid 1990s through the activities of local archaeologists collecting

flints of Federmesser-Bromme age from a field. Organic deposits were revealed in the two sites and samples were taken for tephrochronology analysis. The sampling was carried out in conjunction with Morten Fischer Mortensen and colleagues from the National Museum of Denmark, 12-16 April.

Rupert Housley, **Alison MacLeod** and **Peter Morgan** visited south-western Poland in order to take more core samples from the former lake site of Węgliny (near Gubin), where a 8m core was obtained. Analysis of previous samples taken in August 2009 had show the location was promising for tephrochronology analysis and the new cores will further our collaboration with Dorota Nalepka (Polish Academy of Sciences, Krakow) and Miroslaw Mirek (Institute of Archaeology, Wrocław University), 24-29 April.

Students undertaking the GG3077 ICT4D course gave their presentations at the World Economic Forum's offices in Geneva on 8th April. Alex Wong (Senior Director, World Economic Forum), Joanna Gordon (Associate Director responsible for the ICT sector at the World Economic Forum) and Daniel Stauffacher (Chairman ICT4Peace Foundation) also gave short presentations on their work, as well as providing feedback on the student presentations.

In April, **Katie Willis** spent nearly two weeks in Taiwan giving lectures, participating in workshops and meeting colleagues at National Taitung University, National Taiwan University, National Dong Hua University and National Taiwan Normal University. The visit was funded by a National Science Council of Taiwan grant.

AAG Conference

David Simon attended the annual conference of the American Association of Geographers in Washington DC from 15-18 April, and presented a paper entitled 'The climate change challenges for regional integration in southern Africa' in the session on Post-apartheid Geographies of South Africa and its Region. Thereafter, he was a guest of the Geography Dept at the University of South Carolina, where he presented an interdepartmental lecture on 'The challenge of global environmental change for urban Africa: working between academia and policymakers' and held an informal postgraduate discussion on 19th April. His stay was extended due to the Icelandic volcanic ash cloud, so he also led a Yr 3 and postgraduate political ecology seminar on discourses and practices of national parks and conservation on 22nd April.

Amanda Rogers gave a paper entitled "Spreading Theatrical Wings: The transnational circulation of creative practice" at the AAG in Washington.

Bradley L. Garrett presented a paper entitled Transgressive mobilities and place hacking: embodied experiences of urban exploration in the session "Urban Bodies/Embodied Urbanism 2: Geographies, Rhythms and Everyday Life" at the 2010 American Association of Geographers conference, April 14th-18th in Washington D.C.

Mustafa Dikeç presented a paper entitled 'Politics is sublime' at the Association of American Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting, Washington DC, USA, April 14-18.

Mustafa Dikeç participated in an Author Meets the Critics panel organised around his book *Badlands of the Republic: Space, Politics and Urban Policy* (2007, Blackwell) at the Association of American Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting, Washington DC, USA, April 14-18.

Dorothea Kleine attended the Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers in Washington, DC. With Dr Ann Light (Sheffield Hallam University) she presented a paper on "Hybrid Products - The marketing of ethical food production processes". She was also an invited panellist on "Placing Place, placing Food - Adventures in (Agri-) culture". Washington, DC, USA, April 13-18.

Alasdair Pinkerton participated in two sessions at the AAG in Washington. He organised and chaired a lively session on The Geographies of Rumour and Conspiracy, and presented a paper entitled "Running rings around Eurasia: broadcasting and listening during the early Cold War" in a themed session on the historical geographies of the Cold War.

Klaus Dodds presented at the AAG on 'Frontier vigilantism? Australia and representations of Australian Antarctic Territory', co-chaired four sessions on polar geopolitics and was a discussant on a session entitled 'Religion and critical geopolitics'.

David Lambert presented a paper on 'Worlds with(out) slavery that might have been' at a session on 'Geographies of Slavery' at the AAG conference in Washington, DC. He was also a panellist on the 'Common/place Enlightenment' session at the same conference.

Claudio Minca, Jessica Jacobs, and Harg Luh Sin convened three sessions on Critical Heritage & Tourism at the AAG in Washington, D.C. The sessions brought together a series of paper and panel discussions offering a critical review of heritage and its many discourses in tourism. **Harg Luh Sin** presented a paper on 'The (White) Elephants of Thailand: Between National Heritage and Begging in the Streets', while **Jessica Jacobs** presented a paper on 'Re-branding the past. Tourism and Heritage in Amman and Damascus'. **Katie Willis** was invited as a discussant in the

panel session Critical Heritage III: (Ir)responsible Tours.

Jessica Jacobs chaired a screening of three of her films (as part of ESRC-funded project Re'Branding the Levant') at the AAG in Washington.

Cristiana Zara gave a paper entitled 'Performing the Sacred: Varanasi, the City of 'Living Heritage'' at the AAG in Washington.

PUBLICATIONS

Stevens, T., Palk, C., Carter, A., Lu, H., Clift, P.D., 2010. Assessing the provenance of loess and desert sediments in northern China using U-Pb dating and morphology of detrital zircons. *Geological Society of America Bulletin* 122, 1331-1344.

Palmer, A.P., Rose, J., Lowe, J.J. and Macleod, A. (2010) Annually-resolved events of Younger Dryas glaciation in Lochaber (Glen Roy and Glen Spean), Western Scottish Highlands. *Journal of Quaternary Science*, 25, 581-596 10.1002/jqs.1370.

Livingstone, S.J., Ó Cofaigh, C., Evans, D.J.A, and Palmer, A.P. (2010) Sedimentary evidence for a major glacial oscillation and proglacial lake formation in the Solway Lowlands (Cumbria, UK) during Late Devensian deglaciation. *Boreas* 10.1111/j.1502-3885.2010.00149

Haira'u Umar (2010) 'Man-Induced Land Degradation in Ribadu Cantonment Kaduna State Nigeria VDM Verlag Publishing House Ltd, Germany. pp 124.

Brickell, K. & Chant, S. (2010). 'The Unbearable Heaviness of Being': Expressions of Female Altruism in Cambodia, Philippines, The Gambia and Costa Rica. *Progress in Development Studies*. 10(2): 145-159.

Andrew Brooks has an article published in the *Journal of Southern African Studies*, this

was based on a development of his MSc thesis.

Andrew Brooks, 2010, Spinning and Weaving Discontent: Labour Relations and the Production of Meaning at Zambia-China Mulungushi Textiles, *Journal of Southern African Studies*, 36, 1, 113-132.

Dunbar, R., **C. Gamble**, and J. A. J. Gowlett. Editors. 2010a. Social brain and distributed mind. Oxford: Oxford University Press, Proceedings of the British Academy 158. 528pp.

—. 2010b. "The social brain and the distributed mind," pp. 3-15. Oxford: Oxford University Press, Proceedings of the British Academy 158.

Gamble, C. 2010. "Technologies of separation and the evolution of social extension," in Social brain and distributed mind. Edited by R. Dunbar, C. Gamble, and J. A. J. Gowlett, pp. 17-42. Oxford: Oxford University Press, Proceedings of the British Academy 158.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Simon Blockley has been awarded an additional £8,000 as part of a Joint Southampton/RHUL research project working on Holocene climate change in Patagonia.

Bradley L. Garret was awarded a funded position at the experimenting with geography workshop at the University of Edinburgh from May 3rd-7th.

VISITORS-MEETINGS IN THE DEPARTMENT

Melissa Ho, TIER Group, University of California, Berkeley presented the Centre for ICT4D Seminar on 7th April entitled 'Communication and Computing in Health Facilities of South Western Uganda'.

Heather Channon (QMUL) visited the department to make thin sections using the Centre for Micromorphology's facilities at

RHUL, under the collaborative arrangements between the two departments.

ANY OTHER NEWS

Once again this year Geography made a huge effort in contributing to Science Open Day, held on Saturday 27 February. This year was a huge success with several thousand visitors making it to the geography department. The event this year was coordinated by **Simon Blockley** and **Alex Loftus** and Geography's range of activities included: A day in the Ice Age; Flintknapping; University Challenge; Exploring a World of Sound; Hidden Histories of Exploration and an ICT4D exhibition. All four research groups contributed brilliantly and thanks are due to all the technical and academic staff as well as postgraduates who gave up their time to make sure it was such a success. In no particular order: **Elaine Turton**, **Alison Hess**, **Alasdair Pinkerton**, **Robyn Christie**, **Jenny Kynaston**, **Win Tun**, **Liz Dodsworth**, **Thao Nguyen**, **Tim Unwin**, **Stella Blockley**, **Simon Armitage**, **Danielle Schreve**, **Pierre Schreve**, **Chris Satow**, **Mark Hardiman**, **Lowri Jones**, **Felix Driver** and **Bjorn Everts**.

Congratulations to **Madeleine Dobson** and **Philip Hatfield** who were married on the 17th of April on a beautiful day in Kent.

