

Geography Department News

Monthly Newsletter
Royal Holloway, University of London

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Number 195

STAFF AND STUDENTS

Congratulations to **Yuhui Cheng** who has been awarded her PhD, subject to some minor revisions. Her thesis was entitled 'Grounding migrant belonging: Taiwanese expatriates in the Yangtze River Delta (YRD), China'. Her examiners were Professor Alison Blunt (QMUL) and Dr Johanna Waters (Liverpool). Her Supervisor was **Katie Willis** and **David Lambert** was her advisor.

OUTSIDE ENGAGEMENTS

Thomas Stevens visited the Qinghai state key laboratory of salt lake research in Xining, Qinghai, China on the 22nd to 24th of August and gave two talks to staff and students at the institute on dust and past climate.

Tim Unwin has accepted an invitation to be an Honorary Vice President of the Commonwealth Youth Orchestra and Choir

Katie Willis was an invited lecturer for a PhD workshop on 'Qualitative methods in development research' run by the Copenhagen Business School, Denmark.

UK FIELDWORK

Rupert Housley undertook one day of fieldwork on a Lateglacial site on Howburn Farm, near Biggar in Lanarkshire. The site, a former loch which survives now as a valley mire, is situated adjacent to the earliest known human habitation site from Scotland, from where lithic artefacts believed to be analogous to those found in north Germany have been excavated. The organic sedimentary sequence from the loch and mire includes about 3 m

of Lateglacial and 7 m of Holocene sedimentation. The older deposits relevant to the RESET project were sampled for tephrochronology analysis. The sampling was carried out in conjunction with Richard Tipping of Stirling University and members of the Biggar Archaeology Group.

Simon Blockley and **Ian Matthews** undertook fieldwork at the Star Carr Mesolithic site in North Yorkshire. The site is one of the most famous sites of this period in Britain and has the oldest house structure in the country. During the fieldwork Blockley and Matthews took cores from several locations around the site to sample former lake sediments that date to the period of Early Holocene human occupation. It is hoped the cores will provide useful samples for palaeoenvironmental reconstruction of the Early Holocene and Lateglacial of the area (the work was co-funded by English Heritage and NERC).

OVERSEAS FIELDWORK/ CONFERENCES

Katherine Brickell organised and presented at the session 'Tourism in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region' as part of the 6th European Association for South East Asian Studies (EuroSEAS) Conference at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden. Katherine's paper was entitled, 'Host-Employed Photography: Visual Critiques on Tourism in Hue, Central Vietnam'.

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NOTICES

Autumn Term 2010-2011 - 20th
September to 10th December 2010

Scott Elias spent ten days in Alaska, where he travelled to two remote archaeological sites to collect fossil insect samples. The first site, Little Takli Island, is in Katmai National Park, in southern Alaska. Here Scott collaborated with Jeanne Schaaf from the National Park Service of the USA, and other NPS workers, to collect a 2.3-m column of peat that spans the postglacial interval. Little Takli Island is adjacent to another small island where extensive Late Holocene archaeology has been discovered by the park service in recent years. The second leg of the trip took Scott out to Cape Espenberg on the Seward Peninsula in northwest Alaska. Here Scott collaborated with a multinational team of archaeologists, lead by Dr. John Hoffecker from the University of Colorado. The team excavated three ancient Inupiat Eskimo houses that they found on the cape. Scott collected organic-rich sediments from the house excavations, and multiple columns of peat from an adjacent swale. These samples, plus the samples from Little Takli, will keep Scott busy throughout the next academic year. Photos of the two field sites are posted outside his office door.

Thomas Stevens joined the Chinese Quaternary Conference (CHIQUA) in Lanzhou University, Gansu, China on the 16th to 22nd of August where he gave a lecture to the conference, and a training course on luminescence dating to graduate students. The trip also involved an excursion on to the Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau.

Rupert Housley, Alison MacLeod and **Peter Morgan** visited western Poland again to take samples from a series of six archaeological and palaeoenvironmental Lateglacial localities for tephrochronology analysis. The sites mostly consisted of slightly elevated sand dunes with palaeosol horizons and lithic distributions, and neighbouring less elevated waterlogged mire or in-filled former channel deposits. It is hoped the new sites visited on this fieldwork trip will build on the successful results of earlier

analyses at Wegliny. The work was done in collaboration with Jan Michał Burdukiewicz and Adam Szykiewicz of the University of Wrocław.

PUBLICATIONS

Keighren, Innes M. (2010) Bringing geography to book: Ellen Semple and the reception of geographical knowledge. London: I.B.Tauris.

Felix Driver and Sonia Ashmore, 'The mobile museum: collecting and circulating Indian textiles in Victorian Britain', *Victorian Studies* vol 52, no. 3 (2010), pp. 353-385

Stevens, T., Lu, H., 2010. Radiometric dating of the late Quaternary summer monsoon on the Loess Plateau, China. Geological Society, London, Special Publication; Monsoon Evolution and Tectonics-Climate Linkage in Asia. (Clift, P.D., Tada, R., Zheng, H., Eds), v. 342, 87-108.

Scott, A.C., Pinter, N., Collinson, **M.E., Hardiman, M.,** Anderson, R.S., Brain, A.P.R., Smith, S.Y., Marone, F., Stampanoni, M. (2010) Fungus, not comet or catastrophe, accounts for carbonaceous spherules in the Younger Dryas 'impact layer'. *Geophysical Research Letters*, 37, L14302.

Dikeç, Mustafa 2010 'Colonial minds, postcolonial places', *Antipode* 42(4): 801-05

Blockley, S. P. E. and Pinhasi, R. (In Press) A revised Chronology for the Adoption of Agriculture in the Near East and the Role of Lateglacial Climatic Change. *Quaternary Science Reviews*.

Bourne, A.J., Lowe, J.J. Trincardi, F., Asioli, **Blockley, S.P.E.** Bowen, S.W., **Matthews, I.P.,** Piva, A., Vigliotti, L. (2010) Distal tephra record for the last c. 105,000 years from core PRAD 1-2 in the central Adriatic Sea: implications for marine tephrostratigraphy. *Quaternary Science Reviews*.

Felix Driver & Lowri Jones, 'hidden histories? Local knowledge and indigenous agency in the history of geographical exploration', in Akihiro Kinda, Taisaku Komeie, Shinsuke Minamide, Tsunetoshi Mizoguchi & Kazuhiro Uesugi (eds) Proceedings of the 14th International Conference of Historical Geographers, Kyoto (Kyoto University Press, 2010).

BOOK REVIEWS-ABSTRACTS-CONFERENCE REPORTS

Stevens, T., Watson, T., Carter, A., Sevastjanova, I., Cottam, M., Lu, H., 2010. Single-grain analysis of the provenance of loess and desert sediments in China. CHIQUA conference abstracts, Lanzhou, China, 104.

Ellie Miles (2010) The Great, outdoors: Exploring the history of New York's preservation movement Review of R. Mason, 2009 'The Once and Future New York: Historic Preservation and the Modern City' in City: analysis of urban trends, culture, theory, policy, action, 1470-3629, Volume 14, Issue 4, 2010, Pages 473 - 475

Katie Willis (2010) Review of L. Briones 'Empowering Migrant Women: Why Agency and Rights are Not Enough', *Gender and Development*, 18:2, pp. 353-355.

Katie Willis (2010) Review of I. Choo 'The Chinese Exotic: Modern diasporic femininity', *Pacific Affairs*, 83:3, pp. 584-585.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

The Department has been successful in attracting two postgraduate students who have won the prestigious ESRC Open Competition Awards. Thank you to **Alex Loftus** and **Phil Crang** for helping these candidates put together their applications. These awards are on top of two quota awards from the ESRC, an AHRC block grant award, two AHRC collaborative awards and a

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NERC award making a total of eight RCUK funded students starting postgraduate careers in our Department this year. In addition a further five have been awarded College funding.

Katherine Brickell has been awarded with co-applicants Brenda Yeoh and Shirlena Huang, \$22,000 (£10,000 approx) from the Asia Research Institute (ARI). In conjunction with CEDAR and the IGU the international conference will be held in Singapore in July 2011, entitled: "Householding in Transition: Emerging Dynamics in 'Developing' East and Southeast Asia".

'Global Change and Caribbean Vulnerability: Environment, Economy and Society at Risk', edited by **Duncan McGregor**, David Dodman and David Barker (2009) has just been awarded the prize (via independent assessment) for Best Environmental Studies book produced by the University of the West Indies Press over the period 2007-2010. The prize will be presented as part of the 50th anniversary celebrations of the University of the West Indies, at St Augustine Campus Trinidad & Tobago on October 14.

Simon Armitage has been awarded €30,000 to participate in an EU 7th Framework Programme project entitled "Tracing the evolution of symbolically mediated behaviours within variable environments in Europe and Southern Africa (TRACSYMBOLS)", led by Professor **Christopher Henshilwood** and Professor **Francesco d'Errico**. He will be producing chronologies for two Middle Stone Age sites in the de Hoop Nature Reserve, South Africa, an area associated with the earliest development of *H. sapiens* behaviour. The first phase of fieldwork for this project will begin in October 2010.

Blockley, S.P.E., Matthews, I.P., Candy, I., Palmer, A. have received £2700 to support palaeoenvironmental reconstruction related to Star Carr, an internationally famous Mesolithic site in Yorkshire. The work is part of and NERC and English Heritage funded emergency award led by the Universities of York and Manchester.

