

Department Newsletter
December 2005 & January 2006, Number 156

STAFF AND STUDENTS

Klaus Dodds has been conferred with the title of Professor of Geopolitics.

David Gilbert has been conferred with the title of Professor of Urban and Historical Geography,

Fernando Garcia started his ESRC Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in January 2006. His project, "Café Culture: Creating the Convivial City ", investigates the urban and cultural geographies of conviviality and hospitality in London , Lisbon and Madrid .

Caroline Juby has been appointed as a Research Assistant on the Leverhulme AHOB project for 9 months from January 2006.

Alasdair Pinkerton has joined the staff as a part-time Teaching Assistant until 31st March, with particular responsibility for the GG2051 Changing Worlds course.

Luiza Bialasiewicz has been appointed as a Lecturer in Human Geography, with effect from 1st July 2006.

Tim Cresswell has been appointed to a Chair in Human Geography, with effect from 1st July 2006.

Mustafa Dikeç has been appointed as a Lecturer in Human Geography, with effect from 1st September 2006.

Claudio Minca has been appointed to a Chair in Geography, with effect from 1st July 2006.

Varyl Thorndycraft has been appointed as a Lecturer in Physical Geography, with effect from 1st September 2006.

Esther Bertram, Mike Dolton, Becky Fox, Adrian Palmer and Fayyaz Vellani have all been successfully examined on their PhDs.

Starr Douglas , awarded her PhD last year, has been appointed as Research Assistant working on William Hunter's entomological collection at the Hunterian Museum, Glasgow, funded by the Leverhulme Trust.

OUTSIDE ENGAGEMENTS

Felix Driver took part in a meeting of the University of London in Paris (ULIP) Consortium to discuss the strategic development of research and teaching at ULIP, in Paris, 2 December.

Alex Loftus presented a seminar to the Environment and Society Research Unit at UCL entitled "Towards a Relational Understanding of the Urban Waterscape", 19th January.

David Simon was a guest of the Foreign Office's Research Analysts' Department, 8 December.

VISITORS-MEETINGS IN THE DEPARTMENT

Dr Grzegorz Adamiec (Silesian University of Technology, Poland) is visiting the Department in January and February to work on neural networks and numerical modelling of quartz luminescence. His main contact is **Richard Bailey**.

Dr Sonia Zakrewski (Southampton University) is visiting the Department from 1st February for six months, to work on the British Academy-funded Social Brain project. Her main contact is **Clive Gamble**.

Dr Wang Xulong (Institute of Earth Environment, Xian, China) is visiting the Department in February and March to work on extending the age range of luminescence dating methods. His main contact is **Richard Bailey**.

Professor Gi Young Jeong (Andon National University, South Korea) will be visiting the Department from 20 February 2006 for one year, to pursue a research project on the micromorphology and mineralogy of loess-palaeosol sequences. His main contact is **Rob Kemp**.

Professor Joseph Salukvadzi (Tblisi State University , Georgia) will be visiting the Department from 26 February to 7 March, as part of the British Academy programme of support for the development of geography in Georgia . His main contact is **Tim Unwin**.

Fr. Patrick Shanahan and Felix Holman (Street Child Africa) visited **David Simon, Katie Willis and Ruth Payne** on 13th December for the annual review of Ruth's ESRC CASE Award and to explore possibilities for broadening SCA's relationship with the Department.

Alex Loftus, RHUL, presented the CEDAR Seminar on 5th December. The title of his presentation was 'A political ecology of water struggles in Durban, South Africa '.

Katie Walsh , RHUL, presented the Departmental Seminar on the 8th of December. The title of her presentation was 'I felt disproportionately angry: Emotional geographies of ethnographicresearch'.

Professor David Barker (University of the West Indies) visited **Duncan McGregor** in the Department on 5 January to take forward planning for their conference (with David Dodman, UWI and David Howard (Edinburgh)) on the nature and implications of climate change in the Caribbean Basin (Jamaica , 24-28 July 2006).

James Sidaway, Loughborough University , presented the Departmental Seminar on the 19th of January. The title of his presentation was "'Confused somewhere along the line": the Irish border in the context of Europe an integration'.

David Lambert , RHUL presented the CEDAR Seminar on the 30th of January. The title of his presentation was 'Creating a National Hero: Surrogacy, History and Memory in the Postcolonial Caribbean'.

PUBLICATIONS

Adam-Bradford , A. (2005) 'Hazards and Society in the Peri-urban Interface'. In Laband, D.N. (ed.) *Conference Proceedings, Emerging Issues Along Urban/Rural Interfaces: Linking Science and Society* , 13-19 March 2005, Atlanta , Georgia . Center for Forest Sustainability, Auburn University , National Science Foundation and USDA Forest Service, Southern Center for Wildlife-Urban Interface Research and Information, pp. 288-292.

A digital photograph taken by **Adam-Bradford, A.** depicting urban farmers trading bags of compost in Accra , Ghana has been used for the cover of Drechsel, P., Giordano, M. and Gyiele, L. (2004) Valuing nutrients in soil and water: Concepts and techniques with examples from IWMI studies in the developing world. Research Report 82. International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Ashton, N., Lewis, S., Parfitt, S., Candy, I., Keen, D., **KEMP, R.**, Penkman, K., Thomas, G., Whittaker, J. & White, M. (2005). Excavations at the Lower Palaeolithic site at Elveden, Suffolk , UK . *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* 71 , 1-61.

David Simon (2005) '(Post)Development and Postcolonialism: Separated by Common Ground?' *Forum for Development Studies* 32(2): 321-340.

Charles Howie (2005) High dykes in the Mekong Delta in Vietnam bring social gains and environmental pains. *Aquaculture news*, October 2005, pp13-15 [available at www.aqua.stir.ac.uk/aquanews/32P15_17.pdf]

Charles Howie with Vo Tong Anh and Doug Van Nha, Department of Soil Science, An Giang University, Vietnam poster for the British Council workshop in Hanoi, Vietnam to celebrate 25 years of HE links between the UK and East Asia: Agricultural cooperation for integrated rural development higher education. [available at <http://www.britishcouncil.org/vietnam-education-hel-9-posters.pdf>]

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Leverhulme Trust have approved in principle a further grant of £ 1m to the Ancient Human Occupation of Britain project team led by **Chris Stringer**, of the Department of Palaeontology at the Natural History Museum, who is a Visiting Professor in the Geography Department. This grant will enable the appointment of a three-year RA/PhD to work with **Danielle Schreve** on European Pleistocene and modern rodents, a two-year RA to work with **Jim Rose** on the palaeogeography of early Middle Pleistocene landscapes, and a three-year PhD to work with **Jim Rose** and Ian Candy at Loughborough on late glacial climate change and humans. This grant brings the total awarded to the AHOB project to more than £2.2m.

Mary Dengler and **Danielle Schreve** have been awarded a grant of £7k under the new Research Programme Proposals Scheme established this year by the Royal Geographical Society (with the Intsitute of British Geographers). This is in support of a project on 'The use and perception of large wild herbivores to manage landscapes sustainably in different biomes and cultures of the European Union'.

Clive Gamble is co-investigator on a £500k grant awarded by NERC in support of a project on 'Pleistocene to Holocene extinction dynamics of Northern Eurasian megafauna, in relation to human activity and environmental change'. The value of the funds coming to RHUL, which include employment of a postdoc for two years, is in the region of £90k.

NERC have awarded 5 fully-funded studentships to the MSc in Quaternary Science every year for 3-5 years.

The Quaternary Research Association's undergraduate dissertation prize for 2005 has been awarded to recently-graduated **Matthew Bullen**, whose dissertation on 'The sedimentology of the West Runton freshwater bed' was described by the judges as a 'thorough and clearly-directed study successfully combining field and laboratory work'. A full synopsis withh be prepared for publication in Quaternary Newsletter.

Duncan McGregor, **David Simon** and **Donald Thompson** obtained funding of £2300 from the Natural Resources Systems Programme of DFID to enable 150 copies of "The Peri-Urban Interface" (Earthscan, 2006, see November Newsletter) to be distributed to Developing Areas institutes through the Book Aid scheme.

ANY OTHER NEWS

There was wide media coverage concerning a paper in Nature, whose authors include **Jim Rose** and **Chris Stringer**, on the earliest records of human activity in Europe (which have pushed back the first known human activity in Britain by 200,000 years).

You can see a video of the Press Conference held at the Royal Institution on Wednesday 14th December (which consists mainly of an extract of a talk on the palaeogeography of southern England by Jim Rose!) by going to:

<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v438/n7070/extref/nature04227-s5.html>

You can find summaries, and the paper itself, at the Nature website.