

Department newsletter:

Dec 07 & Jan 08, No. 173

Staff and Students

Tim Cresswell has been appointed for a five-year term to the editorship of the journal *Cultural Geographies*. He took over from Phil Crang on January 1st 2008.

Tim Unwin has been appointed as President of the Advisory Board of Eduvision – a Swiss company delivering educational content to mobile devices, especially in Africa.

Felix Driver has been elected an Academician of the Academy of Social Sciences.

Felix Driver has been appointed a Trustee of the J.B.Harley Research Fellowships UK, which supports research in the history of cartography.

Welcome to **Rupert Housley**, who joins the Department as Research Assistant on the NERC-funded RESET project directed by John Lowe, for five years from 1st January 2008; to **Matt Benwell**, who has been appointed as a Teaching Fellow in the Department until the end of June 2008; and to **Professor Li Ming Hsia** (Taiwan University), who is visiting us for 7 months to carry out research on Orientalism in Taiwan's geographical imagination, with **Tim Cresswell**.

Congratulations to **Matt Benwell** successfully defended his PhD on 'Social Geographies of Childhood: outdoor spaces, mobility and "growing up" in post-apartheid suburban Cape Town, South Africa' His examiners were Dr Gareth Jones (LSE) and Dr Sam Punch (Stirling). Matt was supervised by **Klaus Dodds** and his advisor was **Katie Willis**.

David Simon acted as faculty opponent for the PhD thesis defence of Ida-Eline Engh, Dept of Sociology and Human Geography, University of Oslo, 6-7 December 2007. It was entitled 'Developing capacity to realise socio-economic rights: the example of the right to food in the context of HIV/AIDS in South Africa and Uganda'.

David Simon acted as intercollegiate examiner for the PhD thesis of Gareth Johnstone (KCL) on 17 January. It is entitled 'The effects of social capital on property rights: the case of tourism and artisanal fisheries in Mozambique'. The external examiner was Prof. Melissa Leach (IDS, Sussex).

Dr Yutaka Sato, who visited the Department as a postdoctoral researcher in 2006-7, has been appointed as Associate Professor at the Graduate School of Social Sciences, Hitotsubashi University, Tokyo, for two years from 1 March 2008. He will be supervising PhD students as part of a Ministry of Education and Science funded project on the career development of postgraduates in the social sciences.

Outside Engagements

Tim Cresswell gave an invited seminar at the Department of Geography at the National University of Ireland, Galway on 31/1/08. The topic was "Constellations of Mobility".

Tim Unwin presented a paper entitled "[Shaping effective higher education ICT4D partnerships: challenges and opportunities](#)" at the UNESCO Chairs Colloquium on Higher Education and International Development held at the University of Nottingham, 17-18 January 2008.

Tim Unwin participated in the annual meeting of the [World Economic Forum](#), where he led the private session on "Partnerships for Education" on 24th January and participated in the Global Education Alliance Roundtable" on 25th January', as well as the MDG action call'.

Ed Derbyshire chaired a meeting of the External relations Committee of the geological Society at Burlington House, London on 21 January. He then attended a two-day meeting of the Council of the Geological Society on 22 and 23 January.

Ed Derbyshire presented a research seminar on "Natural mineral dust and human health: sources, patterns, toxins and some health problems" in the School of Earth Sciences and Geography at Kingston University on 30 January.

On 6th December, **David Simon** presented a seminar in the Department of Sociology and Human Geography, University of Oslo on 'African cities coping with climate change: approaches and issues.'

Apurba Kundu (Bradford), **Dorothea Kleine** (RHUL), Maria Montero (RHUL), Ian Brown (Oxford) and Ann Light (Queen Mary) participated in the EPSRC Bridging the Global Digital Divide Research Network and presented preliminary findings from the Fair Tracing Project. Cambridge, January 7-8

Dorothea Kleine was invited to give a paper at the interdisciplinary workshop on "Policy, Economy and Development in Latin America" at the Centre of Latin American Studies, University of Cambridge. The title was "Limits to Choice: Microentrepreneurs, ICTs and State Policies in Chile", Cambridge, January 18.

Publications

Bialasiewicz, L. (2008). The Uncertain State(s) of Europe? *European Urban and Regional Studies* 15(1):71-82.

Coward, F., S. Shennan, S. Colledge, J. Conolly & M. Collard 2008. The spread of Neolithic plant economies from the Near East to northwest Europe: a phylogenetic analysis. *Journal of Archaeological Science* 35(1): 42-56.

Guillaume Iyenda (2007) Households' Livelihoods and Survival Strategies Among Congolese Urban Poor; alternatives to Western approaches to development. Lewiston, NY/Queenston, Ont/Lampeter, UK: Edwin Mellon Press (xii n+ 296p) ISBN-13: 978-0-7734-5269-5. This is a revised version of his PhD thesis (2002).

Duncan McGregor & Andrew Tate (2007) "Hazard and vulnerability in a small island state: Impacts and lessons from recent Jamaican experience" *CEDAR Research Papers*, 44, December 2007, 25pp. (also on CEDAR website)

Cresswell T, 2008 "Hobos." International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences. Ed. William

A. Darity, Jr.. Vol. 3. 2nd ed. Detroit: Macmillan Reference USA,. 494. Gale Virtual Reference Library. Gale. Public Trial Site. 22 Jan. 2008
<http://go.galegroup.com/ps/start.do?p=GVRL&u=pub_gvrl>

Lambert, D., (2007), 'Captivated by Africa's Geography: James MacQueen, Thomas Fowell Buxton and the abolition of slavery', *British Academy Review*, 10, 35-38.

Bialasiewicz, L. (2008). The Uncertain State(s) of Europe? *European Urban and Regional Studies* 15(1):71-82.

Grants and Awards

Al Pinkerton has been awarded the 2007 Twentieth Century British History Essay Prize for his submission 'Strangers in the night: the Falklands Conflict as a radio war'. This prize is open only to recently qualified graduate students in any discipline and the winner of the prize has their essay published in a future issue of the journal.

Andrew Bullock, our final-year students in 2007, has been awarded the RGS-IBG's Participatory Geography Working Group's undergraduate dissertation prize for his dissertation on 'Sounds of steel: finding an identity through the British steelband culture'.

Luiza Bialasiewicz was awarded a grant from the College's Research Strategy Fund for the organisation of an international workshop dedicated to the question of 'A Global Europe'.

Fieldwork-Conferences-Overseas

Luke Dickens spent the Autumn term, 2007, as a visiting scholar at the City University New York (CUNY) Graduate Center. Supported by the ESRC under their institutional visits scheme, this was an excellent opportunity to further develop Luke's PhD research into the geographies of post-graffiti, and establish contacts with faculty and students in the United States. Luke gave a talk - entitled 'Pictures on walls: managing creativity from the inner-city' - at the University of Minnesota's Department of Geography, and again to the Department of Environmental Psychology, at the CUNY Graduate Center. He was also invited to host an advanced methods laboratory on behalf of Dr. Karen Till, and taught two classes on 'the arts of urban exploration' to first year urban planning students at Hunter College, CUNY.

Andrew Storey is currently visiting Texas A&M University - Kingsville, USA, for three months from January to April, 2008. Part of the rationale for the visit is to liaise with undergraduate students at this institution who are planning to travel to Royal Holloway this academic year for a semester's study.

Tim Unwin participated in the 4th meeting of the EuroAfrica-IC Group held in Brussels on 31 January 2008.

Dorothea Kleine participated in the ESRC Participatory Video Training Workshop at Northumbria University. Newcastle, January 16-17

Visitors/meetings in the department

The Politics and Environment Research Group hosted a one-day closed workshop entitled 'A Global Europe?', on 12 January 2008. The invited participants, from the UK, Ireland and the US, debated Europe's role as a 'global actor', and discussed the new geographies of European influence, from the Mediterranean to the Black Sea and Central Asia. The workshop also involved colleagues from the newly inaugurated Centre for European Politics in the Department of Politics and International Relations

Elaine Ho organised an interdisciplinary workshop titled, 'Globalisation, Migration and Citizenship: Shifting Boundaries, Changing Forms', on 25 January 2008. The roundtable discussion generated lively debates and interdisciplinary exchanges about the impact of migration on citizenship as a normative concept and in practice. The event was supported by a grant from the ESRC postdoctoral fellowship, SCG and PERG.

The ICT4D Network for African Higher Education Institutes held a CEDAR Workshop entitled 'Contemporary Issues in African Higher Education' on 4th December.

Derek Fabel presented the Quiss Seminar on 4th December entitled 'Dating the LGM in Scotland: a work in progress'.

Lucy Farr, PhD student, RHUL, presented the Quiss Seminar on 12th December entitled 'Enhancing our Understanding of Mesolithic Environments and Human Resource Exploitation in SE England'.

Ed Soja, UCLA presented the Departmental Seminar series on 6th December. The title of his presentation was 'Putting Space First'.

Leah Horowitz from the Sustainability Research Institute, University of Leeds, presented the CEDAR Seminar on 3rd December entitled 'The Micropolitical ecology of an indigenous environmental protection group in New Caledonia'.

Dr. Simon Potter, Department of History, National University of Ireland, presented the Politics and Environment Research Group Seminar on 17th December. The title of his presentation was 'Cultural Imperialism and Public Broadcasting in the British Empire, c. 1922-1970'.

Matthew Gandy of UCL presented the Departmental Seminar on 17th January entitled 'Liquid City'.

Hannah O'Regan from Liverpool John Moores University presented the CQR Lecture on 16th January entitled 'New Sites and Ideas – Recent Research at Hominin Sites in the Sterkfontein Valley, South Africa'.

Jamie Lorimer from the University of Oxford presented the Departmental Seminar on 31st January entitled 'After the King of Beasts: elephant hunting in (post)colonia ceylon'.

Any Other News

Congratulations to **Nick and Karen Branch** on the birth of their baby boy William, who was born on the 28th of November and weighed in at 6lb 15oz.

Congratulations to **Mustafa Dikeç and Claire Hancock**, who have become proud parents of twins, Elif and Félix.