

# Geography Department News

Monthly Newsletter  
Royal Holloway, University of London

December 2009/January 2010  
Number 188

## STAFF AND STUDENTS

**G**ood luck and best wishes to **Sue May** who retired at the end of December after 26 years with the College. She worked in the physics department as a photographic technician until 2000 when she transferred to the Geography Department. During Sue's time here she was instrumental in the creation of the Humphries Graphics Suite, provided advice on and sourced many of the equipment acquisitions during the more recent development of the Qualitative Methods laboratories and built an archive of many of the photographic images produced by members of the department.

**Naomi Riddiford** successfully completed her PhD on 1st December. The title of her thesis was 'Paleoenvironmental history and the public understanding of scientific research: Prehistoric salt production in the Seille Valley, Northeast France.' Her Supervisor was **David Gilbert**, co-supervised by **Nick Branch** and **Varyl Thorndycraft** and advice from **Chris Green**. The examiners were Professor Martin Bell of Reading University and Dr Nicholas Merriman, Director of the Manchester Museum.

**Nhung Nguyen** successfully defended her thesis and was awarded her PhD with only two minor amendments. **Peter French** was her supervisor and the examiners were Prof. Mike Parnwell (Leeds) and Dr Julian Thompson (UCL). Her thesis was entitled 'Integrated Coastal Zone Management in Vietnam: Governance, Information, and the Applicability of Participatory Geographic Information

**Anthony Ford-Shubrook**, an undergraduate who completed his

degree last year, had his dissertation published on the South African government's Department for Education website

<http://www.thutong.doe.gov.za/Policy/SAResearchReports/tabid/3325/Default.aspx>

He was also shortlisted for Young Disabled Person of the Year. Unfortunately he did not win, but had a special mention in the CEO's closing speech.

**Mick Slocombe** will be working on a part-time basis, in order to maintain the vital work of the Earth Life Sciences Workshop.

**Liz Dodsworth** will be staying with the Department until the end of March.

**Sean Pyne O'Donnell** left the Department and is now at the University of Bergen in Norway is on the Yggdrasil scheme.

**Katherine Brickell** attended a one-day event on feminist geographies at the University of Reading.

Two members of our research staff have concluded their work for AHRC-funded research projects based in the Department: **Dr Helen Scalway**, of the Fashioning Diaspora Space project (Jan 2007 to Dec 2009) and **Lowri Jones**, of the Hidden Histories of Exploration project (Oct 2008 to Dec 2009).

**David Simon** gave a lecture on 'The Challenge of Climate Change for Urban Africa' to over 100 Sixth Form Geography pupils of Lady Eleonor Holles and Hampton

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## NOTICES

📍 Departmental Seminar - Dr. A. Pinkerton, RHUL - 'Broadcasting, listening and the long Cold War' - 4.2.10 at 1pm, room 136.

📍 Departmental Seminar - Dr. David Ryves, Loughborough University - 'Climate, disease and environmental change in Western Uganda during the last 1000 years' - 18.2.10 at 5pm, Room 136.

🌐 CEDAR Seminar - Elisa Bignante, University of Torino - 'From Indigenous to situated territorial knowledge: Health remedies among the Maasai and Meru of Uwiro, Northern Tanzania' - 15.2.10 at 1pm, Room 136.

🌐 CEDAR Annual Lecture - Alison Evans, ODI - title t.b.c. - 23.2.10 at 5:30pm, QBLT.

🏛️ PERG Seminar - Federico Caprotti, UCL - 'Between Discourse & Materiality: The Discursive Logic of Sectoral Emergence in the Cleantech Sector, 2003 -2010' - 8.2.10 at 1pm, Room 136.

Royal Holloway Lectures in Geography for Schools - Ian Matthews, RHUL - 'What is a Natural Landscape? Perspectives on Environmental Change' - 8.2.10 at 6.15pm, QBLT.

schools on Thursday 21st January as part of their Geography Enrichment programme, and follows a visit by LEH staff and pupils to this Department last November.

**Amanda Rogers** organised the second HARC sponsored roundtable on the theme of 'Moving Performers, Travelling Performance' on 28th January. The panellists were Henry Stobart (Music), Liz Schafer (Drama) and Robert Hampson (English) with Phil Crang moderating. The session was co-organised with Matthew Cohen (Drama) and Shzr Ee Tan (Music). The following event will be held on 25th February.

## OUTSIDE ENGAGEMENTS

**Felix Driver** presented an evening lecture on 'Hidden histories of exploration' at the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG), Monday 9 November, attended by 520 people.

**Peter French** acted as UoL examiner at QMUL for a PhD thesis entitled 'Physiochemical changes to soil and sediment in managed realignment sites following tidal inundation.

**Fiona Coward** gave a talk (with RHUL alumnus Matt Grove) on 'Hominin neural ontogeny and socialization' at a British Academy-sponsored Visual Display seminar at the Department of Archaeology, University of Southampton.

## PUBLICATIONS

Lukić, T., Marković, S., Stevens, T., Vasiljević, D.A., Machellett, B., Milojković, N., Basarin, B., Obreht, I., 2009. The loess 'cave' near the village of Surduk - an unusual pseudokarst landform in the loess of Vojvodina, Serbia. *Acta Carsologica* 38(2-3), 227-235.

**Felix Driver**, 'Modern explorers' in S. Naylor & J. Ryan (eds) *New Spaces of Exploration: Geographies of Discovery in the*

*Twentieth Century* (IB Tauris, 2010), 241-249.

**Felix Driver**, 'Charles Darwin and the geographers: unnatural selection' (commentary), *Environment & Planning A* 42 (2010), 1-4.

**Felix Driver & Graeme Wynn**, 'Historical geography in Kyoto', *Journal of Historical Geography* 36 (2010), 105.

**Tim Unwin** with Beate Kleessen, **David Hollow**, James Williams, Leonard Mware Oloo, John Alwala, Inocente Mutimucuo, Feliciano Eduardo and Xavier Muianga (2010) *Digital Learning Management Systems in Africa: rhetoric and reality*, *Open Learning: The Journal of Open and Distance Education*, 25(1), 5-23.

**Amanda Rogers** (2010) 'Geographies of Performing Scripted Language' *Cultural Geographies*, 17, 1, 53-75.

**Clive Gamble** (2009) 150 years of cutting edge research. In, R.Hosfield, M.Pope and F.Wenban-Smith ed. *Great Prehistorians: 150 years of Palaeolithic research, 1859-2009. Lithics* 30:8-11.

**Derbyshire, E.** (ed.) 2009. *Planet Earth*. Boston & Hannah International, London and New York, 67pp.

**McGregor, D.** D Dodman and D Barker (eds) (2009) *Global Change and Caribbean Vulnerability: Environment, Economy and Society at Risk?* University of the West Indies Press, Kingston, Jamaica, xix + 389.

**Barker, D., D. Dodman and D. McGregor** (2009) 'Caribbean Vulnerability and Global Change: contemporary perspectives', 3-21 in McGregor, D, D Dodman and D Barker (eds) (2009) *Global Change and Caribbean Vulnerability: Environment,*

*Economy and Society at Risk?* University of the West Indies Press, Kingston, Jamaica.

**McGregor, D.** Barker, D and D Campbell (2009) 'Environmental Change and Caribbean Food Security: recent hazard impacts and domestic food production in Jamaica', 197-217 in McGregor, D, D Dodman and D Barker (eds) (2009) *Global Change and Caribbean Vulnerability: Environment, Economy and Society at Risk?* University of the West Indies Press, Kingston, Jamaica.

**Dodman, D, McGregor, D** and D Barker (2009) 'The Research Agenda: Caribbean vulnerability and global change', 365-384 in McGregor, D, D Dodman and D Barker (eds) (2009) *Global Change and Caribbean Vulnerability: Environment, Economy and Society at Risk?* University of the West Indies Press, Kingston, Jamaica.

This is the fourth edited collection produced by David Barker and Duncan (with Sally Lloyd-Evans (*Geography*, Reading - book 2) and David Dodman (IIED - book 4)) as outputs from the RGS-IBG Anglo-Caribbean Research Seminar series. There were also four Special Issues of *Caribbean Geography* arising from the series.

## Review

**Bradley L. Garrett**, 2009, *Are We There Yet? The Golden Age of American Family Vacations*, reviewed in *The Journal of Tourism and Cultural Change* Vol. 7, Issue 3, September 2009.

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**Felix Driver**, review of J. Duncan, *In the Shadows of the Tropics: Climate, Race and Biopower in nineteenth-century Ceylon* (2007), *Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography* 30 (2009) 140-1.

## GRANTS AND AWARDS

**Felix Driver**, Leverhulme Trust, Major Research Fellowship, 2010-13 (£162,858), *The visual culture of exploration*.

**Bradley L. Garrett**, **Michael Anton**, **Amy Cutler**, **Hugh Crosfield**, **Terri Moreau**, **Alison Hess** and **Ellie Miles** have been awarded a London 2012 Olympics Creative Campus Initiative documentary film grant from the Higher Education Funding Council for England for a piece entitled "London's Olympic Waterscape".

**Simon Blockley** and **John Lowe** have been awarded £4,500 to pump prime ongoing research into the internationally important site of Lake Suigetsu, Japan. The grant will test the potential for tephrochronology to be used as a tool for dating the record to help provide a high precision chronology for past climate change at the site and will also be important in the international effort to produce a long term radiocarbon calibration curve. Additional funds for directly dating some of the tephra found in Suigetsu at their volcanic sources have been secured by RHOXTOR colleagues in Oxford. The results of this joint pump priming exercise are expected to lead to a major grant application to the NERC in late 2010.

**Katherine Brickell** has been awarded a British Academy Overseas Conference Grant of £700 to attend the international conference 'Contextualising Geographical Approaches to Studying Gender in Asia' at the University of Delhi, India in March.

## VISITORS-MEETINGS IN THE DEPARTMENT

Dr David Brayshaw, University of Reading presented the QUISS Seminar on 20th January entitled "Bringing Life to the Desert: Storm Tracks, Climate Change, Wadi Water and Farming at the Dawn of Civilisation".

Dr. Andrew Wyatt, Department of Politics, Bristol University and Dr. M. Vijayabaskar (MIDS) presented the Departmental Seminar on 21st January entitled 'Using Finance to Drive Change: World Bank Support for Urban Reform in South India'.

**Uduak Akpan Okon**, Dept of Geography, Royal Holloway presented the CEDAR/Centre for ICT4D Seminar entitled 'ICTs & Sustainable Communities in Nigeria: Building on Indigenous Knowledge Systems' on 18th January.

**Simon Berry**, Colalife - <http://www.colalife.org> presented the Centre for ICT4D Seminar on 25th January. The Seminar was entitled 'Colalife'.

**Janet Longmore**, President and CEO Digital Opportunity Trust, <http://www.dotrust.org/> presented the Centre for ICT4D Seminar on 27th January. Janet talked about the exciting work that the DOT have been doing leveraging innovative ICT partnerships.

## FIELDWORK- CONFERENCES- OVERSEAS

**David Simon** was in Copenhagen for the UNFCCC COP15 climate summit from 13-15 December as part of the UN-HABITAT delegation. On Monday 14th December, he chaired and moderated a key side event on Cities, Population Dynamics and Climate Change: a UN System perspective on the role of sub-national authorities, with speakers including two UN Under-Secretaries General (the heads of UN-HABITAT and UNECE), an Assistant Secretary-General (the

Assistant Administrator of UNDP), the new First Minister of Wales, the Environment Minister of Mexico City, and senior officials of several other UN agencies. On Tuesday 15th, David also presented a related research seminar at the Dept of Geography and Geology, University of Copenhagen, on 'The challenge of global environmental change for urban Africa'

**Bradley L. Garrett**, 2009, I think it's unlocked: exploring remnants of industry presented at the 2009 Theoretical Archaeology Group (TAG) conference, Durham, UK, December 17th-19th 2009.

**Sorayya Khan** presented a paper on Community Participation in Malaria Management in Mali, at the session on "Socio-economic Aspects" at the 5th Pan-African Malaria Conference "Building Knowledge for Action" organized by the Multilateral Initiative on Malaria (MIM) in Nairobi, on 2nd November 2009. Her participation at the conference was supported by a grant of the National Institute of Health (NIH)/National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) (USA) and WHO's Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR).

**Simon Blockley** will be sampling the 100,000 year long Lake Suigetsu record from Japan in January (currently stored in Newcastle University) to undertake the first detailed analyses of tephra from the site.

**Mustafa Dikeç** gave a keynote address at a conference on Urban Violence in Stockholm, Sweden, 19-20 November.

**Mustafa Dikeç** ran a seminar on 'Doing research in sensitive places' with PhD students of the Department of Geography, Lund University, Sweden on 16 December. This was followed by a talk entitled 'Politics of space and urban policy: the case of French banlieues'.

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**Mustafa Dikeç** ran a seminar on 'Space and politics' with the Nordic Research Network on Youth and Suburbs in Malmö, Sweden on 17 December. This was followed the next day by a public lecture entitled 'Riots and "immigrant youth" in the French banlieues' at Malmö University.

On 7th January, **David Simon** hosted and chaired a closed workshop on Managing a Marine Protected Area in the Chagos Archipelago: Socio-economic Considerations at RHUL. Convened by the Marine Educational Trust, this followed a similar scientific workshop on the MPA in Southampton last year and formed an important part of the current consultation by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on whether to establish this MPA. Key to the success of this workshop was bringing together diverse stakeholders, including representatives of the Chagossian communities forcibly expelled by the UK some 40 years ago to make way for the US military base on Diego Garcia and who are fighting for the right of return through the courts.

**David Simon** represented RHUL at the Academy of Social Sciences' conference on 'Research Impact? It all depends on the users now' at the Academy's offices in London on 14th January. This was of strategic importance in preparation for the REF.

**Tim Unwin** led a workshop session on 'Understanding theory in ICT4D' at the ICT4D Consortium workshop held in Eduardo Mondlane University, Maputo, Mozambique, 18th January 2010, and a keynote address entitled 'On the richness of Africa: implications for e-learning', at the Technology for Innovation and Education in Developing Countries 2010 Conference in Maputo on 21st January 2010.

**Ed Derbyshire** attended a meeting of the Canarian Group on Saharan dust and health in the Universidad de Las Palmas, Gran Canaria, on 18 December 2009.

**Ed Derbyshire** attended a two-day residential meeting of the Council of the Geological Society in London on 27 and 28 January 2010.

## ANY OTHER NEWS

Congratulations to **Barbara Silva** and Scott on the birth of their little girl Elliana, who weighed in at 9lb 2oz and was born on Saturday 5th December. We are looking forward to welcoming her back in October on the AHOB3 project.

Congratulations to **Adrian Palmer** and Ruth on the arrival of their baby girl Madeleine Grace (Maddy) who arrived in the early morning of January 13th, weighing in at 7lb12oz.



**Felix Driver** was interviewed about his work on cultures of exploration for a science, history and exploration website, <http://timetoeatthedogs.com/2009/11/04/interview-with-felix-driver/>

**Clive Gamble** described object 1 in the BBC/British Museum project The History of the World in 100 objects read it on <http://www.bbc.co.uk/ahistoryoftheworld/objects/ykHw5-oqQEGFvat1gavxA>

**Simon Blockley, Adrian Palmer, John Lowe and Sean Pyne-O'Donnell** - are listed as Participating Experts in a new Concerted Action approved by the European Science Foundation under its COST initiative (intergovernmental framework for European Co-operation in Science and Technology). The initiative builds on the work of the INQUA-INTIMATE initiative, inaugurated by John Lowe and on which Blockley is a co-applicant (led by Chris Turney, Exeter) will to enable all Participating Experts

and invited personnel to attend strategic meetings and share data on the nature of abrupt climate change over the last 50,000 years.