

Geography Department News

Monthly Newsletter
Royal Holloway, University of London

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STAFF AND STUDENTS

Congratulations to **Ruth Waghorne** (formerly Ruth Sowa) who successfully defended her thesis on 6th December, with only minor corrections. Ruth's PhD was entitled "Rapid climate change during the Lateglacial in southern England: A multi-proxy study at Sproughton, Suffolk" and was funded as part of the Leverhulme "Ancient Human Occupation of Britain" project". Her supervisors were **Ian Candy** and **Jim Rose** and the examiners were Dr Keith Wilkinson (University of Winchester) and Prof Jonathan Holmes (UCL).

Congratulations to **Madeleine Hatfield** who successfully defended her thesis on 15th December. Her examiners, Dr Claire Dwyer (UCL) and Professor Adrian Bailey (Hong Kong Baptist University) have recommended that she be awarded a PhD subject to some minor revisions. Her thesis is entitled: 'Moving Home?: Exploring the domestic geographies of British migrants returning to the UK from Singapore.' Her supervisor was **Katie Willis**.

Congratulations to **Mark Ruddy** who on 16th December successfully defended his PhD thesis "The Western Palaeartic evolution of the water vole *Arvicola*" with only minor amendments required. His examiners were Professor Thijs van Kolschoten (Leiden University) and Dr Anjali Goswami (UCL). His supervisor was **Danielle Schreve**.

Congratulations to **David Hollow** who on 17th December successfully defended his viva for his PhD thesis entitled "Evaluating ICT for education in Africa". His examiners were

David Lambert from the Institute of Education and Jo Tacchi from the Queensland University of Technology in Australia. They are recommending that his thesis be accepted without amendments. His supervisor was **Tim Unwin**.

Vandana Desai was an examiner for a PhD on "Social Capital in Poor Communities: A Case Study from Rural Northern Peru" at the London School of Economics on 7th December 2010.

OUTSIDE ENGAGEMENTS

Tim Unwin was a guest of the Foreign Secretary at his Christmas Reception held at Lancaster House on 21st December 2010.

Klaus Dodds appeared on Radio 4 Questions Questions to answer a listener's query about the term 'Near East' 30th November http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b00wr9vg/Questions_Questions_30_12_2010/

Klaus Dodds appeared on an Al Jazeera programme entitled 'Hollywood and the War Machine' talking about Hollywood and the war on terror 23rd December <http://english.aljazeera.net/programmes/empire/2010/12/2010121681345363793.html>

FIELDWORK- CONFERENCES- OVERSEAS

Tim Unwin led a workshop on 'Effective monitoring and evaluation of the use of new technologies in education' and chaired a panel on 'Appraising the

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NOTICES

🗣️ Departmental Seminar - Prof. Simon Cottle, Cardiff School of Journalism, Media & Cultural Studies, Cardiff University - 17.2.10 at 1pm, Room 136. Title TBC.

🌐 CEDAR Seminar - Pat Noxolo, Univ. of Sheffield - 'Postcolonial economies of development volunteering' - 19.1.10 at 1pm, Room QB170

🗣️ PERG Seminar - Prof. Joan Johnson-Freese, Dept. of National Security Studies, US Naval War College - 'the Geostrategic Implications of an East Asian Space Race' - 17.2.11 at 5pm, Room QB170.

Careers - First Years Presentation - 'Making the Most of your Degree' - 9.2.11 at 1pm, QB171

Postgraduate Open Day, 2nd February 2011, 1-3pm in Q170.

impact of ICT' at the World Innovation Summit for Education, held in Doha on 8th December 2010.

Sara Fregonese gave a Lecture on 29th November for 3rd and 4th year architecture students titled : "Beirut: Urban Geopolitics & Hybrid Sovereignties" at the Lebanese American University, Byblos campus, Lebanon.

In November **Sara Fregonese** acted as judge at mid-term project reviews for 3rd and 4th year architecture students at Lebanese American University, Beirut campus, Lebanon.

During November-December 2010, **Sara Fregonese**, as part of her British Academy post-doctoral Fellowship, conducted 6 weeks of fieldwork in Beirut, Lebanon. She explored the everyday, urban and infrastructural implications of civil strife taking as a case the armed clashes that took place in Beirut in May 2008. The methods used included 20 semi-structured interviews with residents and journalists involved in the strife in various ways, photography, and archive research.

Bradley L. Garrett presented the photograph installation *Ascension/descension: liminal verticalities* at the 2010 Urban Verticality conference, Royal Holloway, University of London, 10th December, Bedford Square, London as well as at the 2010 RGS-IBG Urban Geography Research Group. University College London 11th-12th November, London.

Bradley L. Garrett attended a funded place in a week-long workshop *Working Creatively with Sound and Image*, University of Edinburgh, Dundee, Scotland - in November 2010 and produced the film *Jute* during the week (located at <http://www.placehacking.co.uk/2010/11/27/jute>).

In December **Leonhardt van Efferink** presented his paper "Polar Partner or Poles Apart? How two US think tanks represent Russia" at Oxford University,

during a Post-Graduate Network conference of the Political Studies Association. During the same event, he chaired a panel discussion on Human Security.

Dorothea Kleine was an invited speaker at the EU Geo Fair Trade Half-Time Conference at the EU Commission in Brussels, reporting experiences from the Fair Tracing Project. Brussels, 5 Nov, 2010

Successful ICTD2010 conference was hosted from 13th-16th December 2010 - Tim Unwin (Conference Chair) and **Dorothea Kleine** (General Programme Chair) co-organised ICTD2010, one of the largest conferences in the field of Information and Communication Technologies for Development (ICT4D). The conference was held in the Windsor Building and attracted over 500 delegates. The conference consisted of 2 days of peer-reviewed paper presentations and 2 days of open participatory sessions in which academics, practitioners and policy-makers exchanged their views and experiences. Colleagues from the Geography Department who helped included **Win Tun, Jenny Kynaston, Peter Dell'Osa, Caitlin Bentley, Andrea Burris, Ugo Vallauri and Thao Nguyen**.

David Grimshaw (Honorary Professor) chaired the technical demonstrations. **Kostas Stathis** (Computer Science) co-chaired the sessions committee and **G. Harindranath** (Management) co-ordinated the publishers exhibition and chaired a session on publishing in ICT4D. **Jay Mistry, Katherine Brickell and Vandana Desai** collaborated with **Sara Asadullah** from the NGO *Insightshare* to put on a Participatory Video workshop at the conference. **Katie Willis** and **David Simon** offered a "Development Teach-In" in the Windsor Auditorium.

The Principal **Paul Layzell** hosted a drinks reception for the delegates which was co-sponsored by Cisco. At this event, he also launched the new Masters specialism in ICT4D to run as part of the MSc Practicing Sustainable

Development from September 2011.

Recordings from the conference can be viewed at www.ictd2010.org

PUBLICATIONS

Tim Unwin (2010) ICTs, citizens and the state: moral philosophy and development practices, *Electronic Journal on Information Systems in Developing Countries*, 44(1), 1-16.

Bradley L. Garrett had his new article *Videographic Geographies: Using Digital Video for Human Geography Research* published in *Progress in Human Geography* (available now through Online First).

BOOK REVIEWS-ABSTRACTS-CONFERENCE REPORTS

Fregonese, S. (2010) 'Review of "Urbicide: The Politics of Urban Destruction" by Martin Coward', *Global Discourse* [Online], 1: 11, available from: <[http:// global-discourse.com/contents](http://global-discourse.com/contents)>

F Driver, Review of **J. Cavell**, *Tracing the Connected Narrative: Arctic Exploration in British Print Culture, 1818-1860* and **R. Potter**, *Arctic Spectacles: The Frozen North in Visual Culture, 1818-1875*, *Victorian Studies* 52 (2010), pp. 625-8.

VISITORS-MEETINGS IN THE DEPARTMENT

Elizabeth Armstrong, Student Counsellor, RHUL presented the Departmental Seminar on 2nd December entitled 'How to support students with Mental Health issues'.

Professor **Mary C. Stiner** (with **Natalie D. Munro**), School of Anthropology, Curator of Zooarchaeology, Arizona State Museum, University of Arizona Tucson presented the CQR Seminar on 8th December entitled 'On the Evolution of Diet and Landscape during the Upper

Paleolithic through Mesolithic at Franchthi Cave (Peloponnese, Greece)'. At the same Seminar Professor Steven L. Kuhn (with

Luke Premo) School of Anthropology, University of Arizona Tucson presented 'Modelling the effects of local

extinctions on culture change and diversity'.