

Geography Department News

Monthly Newsletter
Royal Holloway, University of London

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STAFF AND STUDENTS

Congratulations to **Eriko Yasue** who successfully discussed her PhD entitled "The Practice and the Reproduction of Tourist Landscapes in Contemporary Japan". The two external examiners were Tim Edensor (Manchester Metropolitan) and Paul Waley (University of Leeds) who approved the thesis subject only to minor corrections. **Claudio Minca** was her supervisor and her advisor was **Phil Crang**.

Congratulations to **Rong Zheng** who was awarded her PhD subject to minor corrections yesterday. Tracy's thesis title was 'Producing the Water Conservation Subject in China's Urban Areas: Public Service Messages, Household Dynamics and Geographies of Adoption'. Her examiners were Professor Tony Allan from King's College, London and Dr Jessica Budds from the Open University. Tracy was supervised by **Klaus Dodds**, **Mary Dengler** and **Alex Loftus**. She was funded by the University of London KC Wong Postgraduate Scholar Programme and a Thomas Holloway Studentship.

Congratulations to **Sorayya Khan** who on 28th January successfully defended her PhD thesis, subject to minor corrections. Her thesis was entitled 'Community participation in malaria management in the decentralized health system of rural Mali'. Her examiners were Professor Susan Rifkin (LSE) and Dr Rachel Tolhurst (Liverpool School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine). Sorayya was supervised by **Prof Katie Willis** and advised by **Dr Vandana Desai**.

Congratulations to **Philip Hatfield** who successfully examined on his

PhD Thesis, entitled 'Colonial Copyright and the Photographic Image: Canada in the Frame', on 25 February. His examiners were Prof James Ryan (Exeter) and Prof Richard Dennis (UCL). Philip's thesis was funded by the ESRC under a CASE studentship in which the British Library was the collaborative partner. The supervisors were **Felix Driver** and **Carole Holden** (at the British Library), and the advisor was **David Lambert**. Philip is now employed as a Curator of Canadian and Caribbean Collections at the British Library.

Congratulations to **Charles Howie** who has been awarded his PhD. His revised thesis, entitled "Cooperation and contestation: farmer-state relations in agricultural transformation, An Giang Province, Vietnam", has been recommended for the award of a PhD by the examiners (Jonathan Rigg, Durham; and Raymond Bryant, King's College London). His supervisor was **Tim Unwin** and the advisor was **Katie Willis**.

Congratulations to **Uduak Okon** who has been awarded her PhD, subject to minor revisions. Her thesis was entitled "ICTs and sustainable community development in the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria" and her examiners were Reginald Cline-Cole, Birmingham; and Niall Winters, Institute of Education/London Knowledge Lab. **Tim Unwin** was her supervisor and her advisor was **David Simon**.

Welcome to **Even Smith Wergeland**, who is a visiting PhD student being supervised by **Tim**

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NOTICES

🌍 CQR Lecture - Mark Hardiman, RHUL 'Extending the Tephrochronological Framework Across Southern Europe During the Last Glacial; The Potential for Synchronizing Palaeo-Records' - 17th March at 5pm, Room 170

Learning From Egypt (Special Workshop on the 'Arab Spring') - Jessica Jacobs, RHUL. Monday 21st March at 12 noon, Room Q170

End of Term - Friday, 25th March 2011

Start of Summer Term - Tuesday, 26th April 2011

Cresswell for 6 months. He is visiting from the Oslo School of Architecture and Design and conducting research for his thesis: "From Futuristic Vision to Urban Reality - the Motorway as a Work of Art".

A belated welcome to **Blaise Dupuis** who is a visiting PhD student being supervised by **Tim Cresswell** for 9 months. He is visiting from the University of Neuchatel in Switzerland and conducting research on the global mobility of ideas surrounding neo-traditional town planning.

Congratulations to **Thomas Barton** who has been awarded his PhD. The title of his thesis was 'Music, place, and the creation of cultural memory: a study of Benjamin Britten's War Requiem, John Adams' On the Transmigration of Souls, and Steve Reich's Different Trains'. It's a fine piece of work that pulls together ideas about music, memory/memorialisation, place and social trauma - highly ambitious and distinctive for a geographer, particularly in the way that it deals with technical composition of music as well as its social and cultural context. The thesis centres on case studies of three pieces of modern classical music: Benjamin Britten's War Requiem and its relationship with Coventry Cathedral; John Adams's The Transmigration of Souls and the public memory and memorialisation of 9/11; and Steve Reich's Different Trains and the commemoration of the Holocaust. The examiners were George Revill of the Geography Department at the Open University and Daniel Grimley of the Music Department and Merton College, Oxford University. Thank you to **Karen Till** for her work on Tom's Masters thesis that drew him toward this topic, and her contribution towards securing his ESRC studentship and to **Felix Driver** for his work as advisor on the project after Karen. His supervisor was **David Gilbert**.

OUTSIDE ENGAGEMENTS

David Simon presented the opening session of the LSE Development Studies Institute's annual MSc retreat at Cumberland Lodge on 5 January on the theme of 'Tackling Climate Change: are the solutions part of the problem?' David introduced the theme and focused on the particular challenges in African contexts.

David Simon visited the Postcolonial Research Group at Newcastle University on 17th February to present a seminar on 'To and through the UK: Holocaust refugee ethnographies of escape, education, internment and careers in development.'

Tim Unwin gave one of the three presentations at the Public Chairs' Forum seminar on "How to be a great Chair in the Public Sector" held at the Institute for Government on 10th January 2011.

Leonhardt van Efferink gave a four-hour lecture-workshop at Maastricht University. He discussed with 40 students alternative ways to conceptualise, analyse and model country risk.

Amanda Rogers co-organised an event on Geography and the New Empirics on 20-21 January on behalf of the RGS Social and Cultural Geography Research Group. Held at UCL and the RGS, the event address the changing nature of the empirical in terms of new forms of data (such as the emotional and the affective), the new scales and quantity of data that Geographers deal with, and the practical/ethical issues of communicating this data to publics beyond the academy. Following workshop discussions and activities on the first day (Amanda organised and led one on Experimental Encounters), day two comprised a series of paper presentations. The event's themes were drawn together and expanded on through a keynote address by Alan Latham (UCL) and a final panel discussion with Ben Anderson (Durham), David Demeritt (King's), Malcolm

Fairbrother (Bristol) and Celia Lury (Goldsmiths). The event was a great success attracting around 50 participants from Geography, Sociology, Anthropology and Art.

Duncan Depledge delivered a presentation entitled 'The role of the UK in EU-Arctic relations. An honest broker?' at the British Library on 15th February as part of the third seminar in the ESRC Seminar Series titled 'Knowledges, Resources and Legal Regimes: The New Geopolitics of the Polar Regions' (<http://polargeopolitics.wordpress.com/>).

On 15th February 2011 **Tim Unwin** gave two seminars at Oxford University: one for the MSc in Education (Learning and Technology) students; and the second, entitled "Learning technologies in development practice: rhetoric and reality" at Oxford University Computer Services.

Dorothea Kleine was an invited speaker at the Berkman Center for Internet and Society, Harvard University, where she is currently a visiting researcher. The talk, part of the Berkman Luncheon Series, was titled Whose Choice? ICT for "development" and the lives people value. It was webcast live and audio or video recordings are available here: <http://cyber.law.harvard.edu/events/luncheon/2011/02/kleine>, 15 Feb.

Dorothea Kleine spoke as a member of a citizen-expert panel on Open Source programming and participatory technology design at The Bocoup Loft collective hacker space, Boston, 24 Feb

Andrew Brooks was invited to speak in the evening seminar series at The Centre for African Studies, University of Cambridge on 7th February. The seminar he gave was entitled "Threads Fall Apart: The International Trade in Secondhand Clothing and Inequality in Mozambique

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OVERSEAS ONLY – FIELDWORK AND CONFERENCES

David Simon was an invited discussant at the international workshop, 'Developing Africa: Development Discourse(s) in Late Colonialism' organised by the Dept of African Studies, University of Vienna, 13-15 January.

Katherine Brickell is in Siem Reap, Cambodia, conducting research funded by the Royal Geographical Society on 'Home Dissolution and Family Change: Gendered Experiences of Separation and Divorce in Rural Cambodia'.

Dorothea Kleine is currently a Visiting Research Fellow at the Berkman Center for Internet and Society, Harvard University, Jan-Apr 2011.

Simon Armitage participated in a press conference at Eberhard-Karls-University, Tübingen, Germany, to discuss his new paper entitled "The southern route Out of Africa: Evidence for an early expansion of modern humans into Arabia." The paper, published in the 28th of January edition of *Science*, received international press coverage including: *The Independent*; *BBC*; *Guardian*; *Financial Times*; *Wall Street Journal*; *Washington Post*; *US National Public Radio*; *Scientific American*; *New Scientist*; *Le Monde* and *Die Welt*. He was also interviewed about the research by *Guardian* reporter Ian Sample. The interview is available as part of the 31st of January edition of the *Guardian's* "Science Weekly" podcast.

Stephen Jones took a break from his current PhD fieldwork in Mali to give a presentation on "Community financing of handpump maintenance: a case study of three villages in the rural commune of Yélékébougou in Mali" at the 4th WaterAid Local Millennium Development Goals Initiative Conference in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, 31st Jan - 4th Feb.

PUBLICATIONS

Tim Cresswell and **Peter Merriman** (eds) (2011), *Geographies of Mobilities: Practices, Spaces, Subjects* (Ashgate).

Cresswell T (2011) 'Mobility' in **Agnew J** and **Livingstone D** (eds) *The Handbook of Geographical Knowledge* (London, Sage)

Armitage, S.J., **Jasim, S.A.**, **Marks, A.E.**, **Parker, A.G.**, **Usik, V.I.** and **Uerpmann, H-P** (2011) *The southern route Out of Africa: Evidence for an early expansion of modern humans into Arabia.* *Science*, 331, 453-456.

Drake, N.A., **Blench, R.M.**, **Armitage, S.J.**, **Bristow, C.S.** and **White, K.H.** (2010) Ancient watercourses and biogeography of the Sahara explain the peopling of the desert. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, 108, 458-462.

Unwin, T. 2011 *The role of Geography and Geographers in Policy and Government Departments*, in **Agnew, J.** and **Livingstone, D.N.** (eds) *The Sage Handbook of Geographical Knowledge*, London: Sage, 271-284.

Geldof, M., **Grimshaw, D.J.**, **Kleine, D.** and **Unwin, T.** (2011) *What are the key lessons of ICT4D partnerships for poverty reduction?* <http://www.gg.rhul.ac.uk/ict4d/workingpapers/DFID_ICT_SR_Final_Report.pdf> *Systematic Review Report for DFID.*

Willis, Katie (2011) *Theories and Practices of Development*, 2nd edition, Abingdon: Routledge.

Katherine Brickell (with **Ayona Datta**) have just had their edited book 'Translocal Geographies: Spaces, Places, Connections' published by Ashgate. It also includes a chapter by **Madeleine Hatfield**.

Stevens, T., **Marković, S.B.**, **Zech, M.**, **Sümeği, P.**, 2011. *Dust deposition and climate in the Carpathian Basin over an*

independently dated last glacial-interglacial cycle. *Quaternary Science Reviews* 30, 662-681.

Smith, M.J., **Stevens, T.**, **MacArthur, A.**, **Malthus, T.J.**, **Lu, H.**, 2011. *Characterising Chinese loess stratigraphy and past monsoon variation using field spectroscopy.* *Quaternary International* 234, 146-158.

Gillmore, G.K., **Stevens, T.**, **Buylaert, J.P.**, **Conningham, R.A.E.**, **Batt, C.**, **Fazeli, H.**, **Young, R.** 2011. *Geoarchaeology and the value of multi-disciplinary palaeoenvironmental approaches: A case study from the Tehran Plain, Iran.* *Geological Society of London, Special Publication; Human Interactions with the Geosphere: The Geoarchaeological Perspective* (Wilson, L., Ed), v. 352, 49-67.

Stephen Jones (2011) *Participation as citizenship or payment? A case study of rural drinking water governance in Mali.* *Water Alternatives*, 4(1), 54-71.

The Bundeswehr accepts a contribution by **Leonhardt van Efferink** for their *Geopolitical Yearbook 2010*. The article "Grundlegende Fragen zur Definition der Geopolitik" discusses the similarities and differences between various definitions of geopolitics.

BOOK REVIEWS-ABSTRACTS- CONFERENCE REPORTS

F. Driver, 'Mapping crisis in the "MidEast": geopolitics redux', *History on the Line*, www.historyworkshop.org.uk, Feb 2011.

F. Driver, 'Save the workhouse?', www.historyworkshop.org.uk, Feb 2011.

F. Driver, 'London Group of Historical Geographers: an anniversary note', *HGRG Newsletter* (Winter 2011), 5-6.

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Stephen Jones (2011) Review of "Development, Poverty and Politics: Putting communities in the driver's seat", African Affairs, 110(438), 142-144.

Keighren, Innes M. "Review of San Martín: Argentine soldier, American hero, by John Lynch." Bulletin of Latin American Research 30, no. 2 (2011): 256-58.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Klaus Dodds was awarded a £5000 grant by the British Academy/ACU Grants for International Collaboration for a project entitled 'Canada and the contemporary Arctic: action, anticipation and anxiety' which will involve collaborative work with the University of Alberta's Canadian Circumpolar Institute and Professor Mark Nutall in particular.

Thomas Stevens has been awarded a NERC joint standard grant as lead PI on 'Dust storms and Chinese loess sources over the last 22 Myr'. The project aims to constrain the sources of dust that form the largest and longest-lived dust sequences in the Cenozoic record, using a variety of geochronological and geochemical analyses on single heavy mineral grains. The project co-PIs are Pieter Vermeesch (Birkbeck, Earth Sciences) and Randy Parrish (British Geological Survey/NERC Isotope Geosciences Laboratory) and involves support from Project Partners in Nanjing, China (Lu Huayu) and Aberdeen (Peter Clift). The total RHUL RC contribution is £328,675.

Mustafa Dikeç has been successful with an AHRC application on 'Pumping Time: Geographies of temporal infrastructure in fin-de-siècle Paris' to the value of £165,101.

Dorothea Kleine has obtained £12k from The Body Shop as its contribution to a planned ESRC CASE doctoral studentship starting this coming autumn.

Simon Armitage has been successful in a grant application as part of a major 5-year European Research Council project based at Bergen University, with the evocative acronym TRACSYMBOLS. The full title is 'Tracing the evolution of symbolically mediated behaviours within variable environments in Europe and southern Africa'. Research has already commenced but the formalities have only just been finalised. Simon's component is worth €30k (£25.5k).

Sara Fregonese has been awarded from the British Academy Small Grant (£ 7301, 24 months, starting May 2011) titled "Views from the Holiday Inn: landscape, war and memory in Beirut". The project aims at creating a digital archive of the collective memory of the hotel Holiday Inn, a building crucial for the physical division of Beirut during the Lebanese civil war. The project is inserted in a series of other debates and initiatives that counteract Lebanon's state-led amnesia since a generally amnesty was granted at the end of the war in 1991.

VISITORS - MEETINGS IN THE DEPARTMENT

Pat Noxolo, University of Sheffield presented the CEDAR Seminar on 19th January entitled 'Postcolonial Economies of Development Volunteering'.

Andrew Falconer from the Careers Service presented at a seminar aimed at first year students entitled 'do something else in addition to your degree' on 9th February 2011. It was well attended with over 20 first year students in the audience.

Prof. Simon Cottle, Cardiff School of Journalism, Media & Cultural Studies, Cardiff University presented the Departmental Seminar on 17th February. The title of his presentation was 'Taking Global Crises in the News Seriously: Notes from the Dark Side of Globalization'.

Prof. Joan Johnson-Freese, Department of National Security Studies, US Naval War College presented the PERG Seminar on 17th February. The title of his presentation was 'The Geostrategic Implications of an East Asian Space Race'.

Dr. Alvin Yeo, Director of the Centre of Excellence for Rural Informatics and an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak - UNIMAS, presented the ICT4D Seminar on 17th February entitled 'Providing equal ICT access to remote communities in Malaysian Borneo'.

Shruti Vispute, Society for Promoting Participative Ecosystem Management (SOPPECOM), Pune, India presented the CEDAR Seminar on 21st February entitled 'Water Conflicts in India'.

CEDAR held a Reading Group Session on 7th February for the Discussion of issues around research ethics based on the American Geographical Society's 'Bowman Expedition' project 'Mexico Indigena'.

Dr. Mirca Madianou, Department of Sociology, University of Cambridge presented the Departmental Seminar on 24th February entitled 'Mediating Migration: New Media and Distant Mothering in Filipino Transnational Families'.

ANY OTHER NEWS

Congratulations to **Neelopal Adri** and her husband who had a little girl, Mounia Neelopal Ahmed, on Sunday 23rd January. Mother and daughter are doing well.

Leonhardt van Efferink interviews two Professors of Geography: Alexander Murphy and Takashi Yamazaki. The interviews have been published on www.exploringgeopolitics.org.