

# Geography Department News

Monthly Newsletter  
Royal Holloway, University of London

June 2010  
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## STAFF AND STUDENTS

**Caitlin Tickell** joined the department for work experience 22nd-25th June. She was involved in a mini-project with Ian Matthews, testing samples from Blessington in the Wicklow Mountains, Ireland. The data Caitlin collected will contribute to the development of work on that site as part of the Ireland field course for second year undergraduates. Thank you to all who made Caitlin welcome during her brief time here, and to Adrian, Robyn and Iñaki who supervised her in their respective laboratories.

**Lowri Jones** successfully defended her PhD thesis, entitled 'Local knowledge and indigenous agency in the history of exploration: studies from the RGS collections', on 17 June. The PhD was the outcome of an AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Award supervised by **Felix Driver** and Steve Brace at the RGS-IBG. The examiners were Prof. Dane Kennedy, Elmer Louis Kayser Professor of History and International Affairs at George Washington University, and Prof. Miles Ogborn of the Queen Mary Geography Dept..

## OUTSIDE ENGAGEMENTS

**Thomas Stevens** attended the International Association of Sedimentologists Bureau meeting, joint with the Chinese Association of Sedimentologists, at the China University of Geosciences, Wuhan, China. The aim of the meeting was to promote closer cooperation between the international society and the Chinese national association.

On behalf of CEDAR, **Stephen Jones** organised a postgraduate workshop on the theme "A Sustainable Future for Water and Sanitation?" on 17 June at 11 Bedford Square, attended by 20 participants from across the country, including postgraduate researchers, academics and practitioners in water and sanitation.

**David Simon** spoke on 'Situating slums: discourse, scale and place' in the Roundtable in Honour of Prof Alan Gilbert's Retirement, held at UCL on 24th June. **Vandana Desai**, **Dorothea Kleine** and **Katie Willis** also attended the event.

**Dr Danielle Schreve** and Prof. Chris Stringer were invited speakers on the subject of the Neanderthals on the In Our Time programme, radio 4, hosted by Melvyn Bragg.  
[http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b00sq1nv/In\\_Our\\_Time\\_The\\_Neanderthals/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b00sq1nv/In_Our_Time_The_Neanderthals/)

**Felix Driver** attended a meeting of the AHRC Panel C (Culture & Heritage), at the Medical Research Council, London, on 9 June.

**Felix Driver** convened a workshop on Historical Geographies of Empire and Exploration, supported by the SCG, at Bedford Square on 15 June. The workshop focussed on the work of Prof Dane Kennedy (George Washington University), and discussants included Prof Alan Lester (Sussex).

*Article continues on page 2...*

## NOTICES



Graduation Ceremony -  
15<sup>th</sup> July at 6pm.

Start of 2010/11 Academic Year - 20<sup>th</sup>  
September 2010.

**Felix Driver** attended a meeting to consider strategic research collaboration between the British Library and Royal Holloway, at the British Library, 29 June.

**Klaus Dodds** delivered a lecture on 'superpower geographies' for a A2 Level Schools Conference sponsored by the RGS and Edexcel and held at Bancroft's School in Essex.

**Mustafa Dikeç** gave one of the inaugural lectures for the opening event of the new Centre for Urban Studies established in Hammarkullen by the University of Gothenburg, Sweden, 11 June. His lecture was entitled 'Banlieues into badlands: space, politics and urban policy in France'.

**Ed Derbyshire** attended the Geological Society of London President's Day on 2 June and delivered the annual report on Foreign and External Relations at the Annual General Meeting, thus completing his 3-year term as Secretary for Foreign and External Relations..

**Ed Derbyshire** worked on his BP Azerbaijan consultancy contract at Atkins Geotechnics in Epsom on 17/18 June and again on 28/29 June.

**Ed Derbyshire** attended the annual presentation event of the l'Oreal Women in Science Fellowships Awards, held at the Royal Institution in London on 30 June.

**Philip Crang** gave a keynote talk on 'Creativity, Place and Circulation of Stuff' at the Creativity & Place Conference, University of Exeter, June 25th.

**Philip Crang** was a keynote speaker at the Crossing Boundaries Symposium on art and mapping at the Royal Geographical Society, June 2nd.

## PUBLICATIONS

**Willis, Katie** (2010) 'Gender, poverty and social capital: the case of Oaxaca City, Mexico', in Sylvia Chant (ed.) International

Handbook of Gender and Poverty, Cheltenham: Edward Elgar, pp. 385-390.

**Brickell, K.** (2010) 'Gender, poverty and work in Cambodia', in Sylvia Chant (ed.) International Handbook of Gender and Poverty, Cheltenham: Edward Elgar, pp. 458-462.

**Shultziner, D., Stevens, T., Stevens, M., Stewart, B.A., Hannagan, R.J., Saltini-Semerari, G.**, 2010. The causes and scope of political egalitarianism during the last glacial: a multi-disciplinary perspective. *Biology and Philosophy* 25, 319-346.

## Review-Abstracts-Conference Reports

**Markovic, S.B., Stevens, T., Hambach, U., Machalett, B., Svircev.** 2010. High resolution multi-proxy records of the last 60 kyr in the Southeastern Carpathian basin: towards a palaeoclimatic reconstruction from NW to SE Europe. EGU abstracts, Vienna.

**Craig Martin,** (2010). 'Book Review: Michel Serres, The Five Senses: A Philosophy of Mingled Bodies'. In: *Environment and Planning D: Society & Space*. Vol. 28. pp. 568-570.

## GRANTS AND AWARDS

**Tim Unwin, Dorothea Kleine** and **David Grimshaw** were awarded £34,850 from the UK Department for International Development (DFID) to undertake a Systematic Review of ICT4D Partnerships for Poverty Reduction. The Research Assistant on the project is **Marje Geldof**.

## VISITORS-MEETINGS IN THE DEPARTMENT

**Fiona McConnell** of Queen Mary presented the PERG Seminar on 14th June entitled 'De Facto. Displaced, Tacit: The Sovereign Articulations of the Tibetan Government-in-Exile'.

**Dr Teresa Graziano** from the University of Catania, Italy

presented the Centre for ICT4D Seminar on 23rd June entitled 'ICTs, Migration & Development in the Maghreb'.

**Wendy Pullan,** Cambridge presented the PERG Seminar on 3rd June entitled 'Conflict in Cities'.

## FIELDWORK- CONFERENCES- OVERSEAS

**Thomas Stevens** and **Stephen Bate** (Quaternary MSc) undertook fieldwork at the Vinča Neolithic site on the banks of the Danube close to Belgrade, Serbia. Pottery and sediment samples were collected for luminescence dating.

On June 9th **Jessica Jacobs** organised a workshop in Amman, Jordan at the Council for British Research in the Levant ([www.cbri.org.uk](http://www.cbri.org.uk)) and invited the participants who had been interviewed for the ESRC 'Rebranding the Levant' research project. The workshop was also filmed and very useful feedback obtained.

**Jessica** also presented a screening of the first films from the project 'Visualising the Past: Re-branding the Present' at the CBRL Social Science Research Seminar.

**Rupert Housley** and **Clive Gamble** undertook fieldwork on two Lateglacial open air archaeological sites in France, Pincevent and Étiolles, situated in the valley of the River Seine to the south-east of the city of Paris. Located about 40 km from Paris, Pincevent was discovered in 1964 from when excavations have been ongoing ever since. Two prepared sections revealed a mixture of limnic silts, overbank flood deposits and aeolian sediments from which samples were taken for tephrochronology analysis. The second site, Étiolles, is also close to a former channel of the Seine but has more

*Article continues on page 3...*

loessic sedimentation. Both sites are dominated by horse and reindeer faunas and large Magdalenian lithic collections. The sampling was carried out as part of RESET in conjunction with Monique Olive, Pierre Bodu and Grégory Debout from the University of Paris, 22-25 June.

**Ed Derbyshire** attended a joint meeting of the Canarian network on Saharan Dust and Human Health and the UK Natural Mineral Dust and Human Health at the Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain.

**Katherine Brickell** has spent June (into July) completing her British Academy Small Grant research in Vietnam. She organised 4 days of participatory video workshops and a housekeeping competition which for the first time included men as competitors rather than as judges (as per the norm). A film documentary about the day will be produced. Traditional dress was a must (see pic of Katherine and research assistant in an 'Ao Dai').



**Luiza Bialasiewicz** was Visiting Researcher in the Department of Geography at Osaka City University, Japan the week of June 14th. She met with PhD students working on migration in the Mediterranean and on June 15th gave a talk at the Urban Research Plaza entitled: "Off-shoring and out-sourcing the borders of Europe: the EU in the Mediterranean".

**Simon Blockley** gave a keynote speech entitled 'Age Modelling in Tephrochronology' at The International Tephrochronology and Volcanism Conference in Kyshu, Japan, May 9th - 17th.

**Alison Macleod** gave a talk entitled 'Tephrochronology for the Last Glacial Interglacial Transition: Integrating marine and terrestrial archives (NERC RAPID Project NE/C509158/1)' at the International Focus Group on Tephrochronology and Volcanism Conference, Kyshu, Japan - May 9th - 17th.

**Anna Bourne** gave a talk entitled 'Refining Late Pleistocene Tephrochronology' at the International Tephrochronology and Volcanism Conference, Kyshu, Japan - May 9th - 17th.

**Alison Macleod** and **Simon Blockley** gave a talk entitled

'Microtephra investigation of the Lake Suigetsu 2006 archive' at the Lake Suigetsu Research Workshop, Kyotot, Japan - May 18th-22nd.

**Simon Blockley** has undertaken fieldwork on archaeological and tephra deposits in the Roman Province, Italy (June 18-21st) as part of the Leverhulme Late Pleistocene Hunter Gatherers in Italy project.

## ANY OTHER NEWS

On June 15 th, **Jessica Jacobs** went to the annual visit of the UK Research Council Office (UKRO) to Surrey University and attended two sessions in EU funding for Early Career Researchers.

**Karen Oliver** took part in the London to Brighton race on the 20th of June and raised £450 for the British Heart Foundation.

