

Department Newsletter
March 2006, Number 158

STAFF AND STUDENTS

Rob Kemp has been appointed Vice-Principal (Academic Affairs) from 1st August 2006.

Katie Willis has been conferred with the title of Reader in Development Geography.

Liz Hamilton has been appointed on a permanent basis as part-time Departmental Secretary & Postgraduate Administrator.

Alastair Pinkerton's contract as Teaching Assistant within the Department has been extended until the end of June 2006.

Felix Driver has been invited to join the Steering Group for a series of Workshops on the theme of art and travel, at the National Maritime Museum .

OUTSIDE ENGAGEMENTS

Clive Gamble presented the keynote lecture Time, brains and bodies at the Council for British Archaeology's Winter Meeting held at the British Academy . The theme of the meeting was the relationship between Archaeology and Geography.

Clive Gamble has been elected to the Board of the Neanderthal Studies Professional Online Service (NESPOS) that is the World's leading network on Neanderthal research
http://www.the-neanderthal-tools.org/?page_id=13

Clive Gamble organised the third EFCHEd Workshop in Newcastle from March 15th-16th, and chaired a meeting of the Steering Committee for this NERC directed programme.

Tim Unwin gave a seminar entitled "ICT for teacher training in Africa: myths and mythologies" at the UNESCO Centre for Comparative Education Research in the University of Nottingham on 13th March.

In his role as a Commonwealth Scholarship Commissioner, **Tim Unwin** chaired the meeting for the Commission's Advisors held at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies on 17th March and he also Chaired sessions of the Commission's two seminars on 'International Policy' and on 'Rural Livelihoods, Infrastructure and Poverty Reduction' held at Cumberland Lodge on 24th-26th March

David Simon attended the annual Management Committee meeting of the UoL Centre of African Studies at SOAS on 23 March.

FIELDWORK-CONFERENCES-OVERSEAS

David Simon participated in a workshop of UK Researchers on the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change, held at the University of East Anglia on 28th March in association with the International Human Dimensions Programme on GEC (IHDP). He made a presentation on the Urbanization and GEC 'core project' and took part in discussions leading to the decision to establish a UK National Committee on the Human Dimensions of GEC, which will be affiliated to IHDP and work under the aegis of the Royal Society.

Tim Unwin participated in the Wilton Park and British Council conference on "Higher Education for Development: challenges, strategies, policies" (27th-31st March 2006) where he led a debate workshop on "Information and Communication Technology - partnership applications in a North-South perspective".

Ed Derbyshire attended an international workshop on "Lower Latitudes Loess - Dust Transport Past and Present" (IGCP 500, sponsored by UNESCO and INQUA), held in Lanzarote, 5-10 March. He presented a paper on "Recent Saharan dust on Gran Canaria: incidence and composition", and also gave a talk on the International Year of Planet Earth 2008.

AAG Conference (Chicago , 7-11 March)

David Simon participated in a panel session on 'A future for development? Conversations between political ecology and development (pre-, post- and other)' chaired by Kathy Gibson (ANU).

Amanda Rogers presented a paper entitled "Beyond the shoes, beyond the shores: Scripting Filipino identity in Imelda: A New Musical" in a double session on "Theatrical Geographies" co-organised with Phil Crang.

Justin Spinney organised a double session called Mobilities: Movement, practice and meaning which was very well attended. He also presented a paper in this session called 'Communities of practice: the formation and circulation of shared identity amongst bicycle messengers.'

Hilary Geoghegan presented a paper entitled "The Great Un-displayed: stories from the Science Museum 's stores" in a session convened by Tim Edensor and Caitlin DeSilvey - "Ordering/Disordering Space and Matter".

VISITORS-MEETINGS IN THE DEPARTMENT

Mike Dolton presented the Departmental Seminar on the 2nd of March. The title of his presentation was 'Best Value and Citizen Participation: it'll all end in tears'.

Martin Bell , Archaeology Dept, Reading University presented the Departmental Seminar on 16th March. The title of his presentation was 'Later Mesolithic Environments and human communities in the Severn Estuary'.

Dr. Mohammad Sharifzadegan, Shahid Behesti University , Tehran presented the CEDAR Seminar on Monday 27th March. The title of his presentation was 'A model for the effectiveness of national development projects in regional development'.

PUBLICATIONS

Vandana Desai and Robert Potter, eds (2006) *Doing Development Research* Sage Publications, London . 324pp,

Vandana Desai (2005) "NGOs, gender mainstreaming, and urban poor communities in Mumbai" *Gender and Development, Volume 13, Number 2*, pp.90-98.

Vandana Desai (2006) "Women's Social Transformation, NGOs and Globalization in Urban India " in Saraswati Raju, M. Satish Kumar and Stuart Corbridge (2006) (eds.) *Colonial and Post-Colonial Geographies of India* , Sage Publications, New Delhi , Thousand Oaks , London . pp. 120-140.

Vandana Desai and Robert Potter (2006) "*The Raison d'etre of Doing Development Research*" in *Doing Development Research (2006)* (eds.) Vandana Desai and Robert Potter, Sage Publications, London , pp.3-10.

Clive Gamble (2006) Dr John Wymer: obituary The Independent March 17th

Charles Howie (2006) High dykes in An Giang Province, Vietnam, bring environmental pains but social gains. *Tropical Agriculture Newsletter, Volume 26, number 1*, 29-32.

David Simon (2006) 'Your questions answered? Conducting questionnaire surveys' in V. Desai and RB Potter (eds) (2006) *Doing Development Research*. London , Thousand Oaks and Delhi : Sage, pp. 163-171.

Unwin, T . (2006) Doing development research 'at home', in: Desai, V. and Potter, R. (eds) *Doing development research*, London : Sage, 104-118

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Clive Gamble has been awarded an AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Award for a project with Dr Jill Cook of the British Museum entitled 'Sharing human origins: from Palaeolithic collections to community involvement at the British Museum'.

Tim Unwin has been awarded this year's college teaching prize for his innovative ICT for Development course. This is the second year running that staff in the Geography Department have been honoured with this prize.

ANY OTHER NEWS

Cities Reading Group: If anybody is interested in participating in a new reading group for staff and PhD students on all things "urban", please email **Fernando Garcia**: f.garcia@rhul.ac.uk.

During the month of March **Georgie Hamblin**, 3rd year Undergraduate, competed in 3 consecutive weeks of Under 21's International Dressage competition in Jerez in Southern Spain - The "Sunshine Tour" (name of camp). Although the first weekend was hindered by her horse Orlando 's temporary injury, the two following weeks were very successful. As a result, Georgina came 5th over the whole competition after coming second on the final weekend. As the only representative of the British Under 21's Squad, this was a great start to her busy season. Due to commitments with the Department, Georgina flew back and forth from Spain every Sunday night, returning to Spain on Wednesday nights and she felt that the Stars Scheme and Geography Department were very helpful in supporting her busy schedule.