

Geography Department News

Monthly Newsletter
Royal Holloway, University of London

March 2009
Number 184

STAFF AND STUDENTS

Deputy Principal, Professor Rob Kemp, assumed the executive duties of Principal, exercising the powers of Principal under the College's statutes.

Scott Elias presented his inaugural lecture on the 19th of March entitled 'A Beetle's Eye View of Beringia'.

David Simon attended the launch of proposals for a Chagos Archipelago Conservation Area by the Chagos Conservation Trust at the Royal Society on 9th March.

Tim Unwin was a guest of the Commonwealth Secretary General at a reception at Marlborough House on the occasion of Commonwealth Day in the presence of her Majesty the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh on 9th March.

David Hilling has been appointed External Examiner for the master's degree in shipping, transport and logistics at the Athens Business College, Greece, in association with London Metropolitan University.

Hilary Geoghegan recently took up the post of Associate Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Geography, University of Exeter, Cornwall Campus. The project examines physical, cultural and social aspects of future climate change on Cornish landscapes. Her new email address is: h.geoghegan@exeter.ac.uk.

OUTSIDE ENGAGEMENTS

Tim Unwin participated in the "Windsor Global Leadership Seminar on Regulating

Transformational Branchless banking", held on 9th-11th March, and convened by CGAP, AFI and DFID.

Luiza Bialasiewicz gave an invited plenary presentation in the session on "Re-making Europe's Borders" at the ESRC Seminar on "Renegotiating Boundaries: Europe Bound?", hosted by the GEES, University of Birmingham on March 11th

Luiza Bialasiewicz gave an invited seminar presentation entitled "The visual economies of Europe's global role" to the Language, Ideology and Power Research Group (LIP), Department of Linguistics and English Language at Lancaster University on March 16th.

Clive Gamble has been appointed to Panel SH6 "The study of the human past: archaeology, history and memory" of the European Research Council.

David Lambert gave a seminar at Newcastle University's Department of Geography on 11 March. The title of his paper was 'Atlantic slavery, geographical knowledge and the culture of West African exploration'.

David Hilling presented a half-day seminar on 'The future of canals' for the Workers Educational Association (6 March).

Ed Derbyshire visited the Department of Earth Science & Engineering at Imperial College,

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NOTICES

Start of Term - Monday, 27th April.

Graduation Ceremony -
Geography - Monday 13th July at
4:30pm

London at 1230h on 24 March for discussions with Professor Jane Plant on a contribution to her forthcoming book on Pollutants, human health and the environment. This was followed, in the Paddington Hilton at 1500h, by attendance at a meeting between the Executive Director of the International Year of Planet Earth and the publishers Boston & Hannah International, concerning a potential 3rd International Edition of the book Planet Earth.

Ed Derbyshire attended a meeting of the Intergovernmental Science Programme Chairs' Working Group of the UK National Committee for UNESCO in Whitehall on 26 March.

PUBLICATIONS

Sylvanus Doe (MSc PSD 2005/6) 'Fire management policy and environmental NGO movement: critical contemporary perspectives, indicators and prospects in savannas, Ghana, *GeoJournal* 71: 159-170.

Macpherson, H.M. (2009) 'Articulating blind touch: thinking through the feet' *The Senses and Society* (special issue on 'Re-mediating Touch') 4.2, pp179-194.

Bialasiewicz, L. (2009). Political geography of contemporary events: The new political geographies of the European 'neighbourhood'. *Political Geography* 28 (Editor - special symposium).

Novothny, Á., Frechen, M., Horváth, E., Bradák, B., Oches, E.A., McCoy, W.D., Stevens, T., 2009. Luminescence and amino acid racemization chronology of the loess-paleosol sequence at Süttő, Hungary. *Quaternary International*. 198, 62-76.

Fiona Coward and Clive Gamble 2009 'Big brains, small worlds: material culture and the evolution of the mind', In C.Renfrew, C.Frith and L.Malafouris 'The Sapient Mind: archaeology meets neuroscience'

pp51-69. Oxford, Oxford University Press.

David Simon and Cheikh Guèye (2009) Cover Story - Climate Change: 'The Challenge for African Cities', *Urban World* 1(2), March 2009: 16-18. This is UN-HABITAT's new magazine aimed at professionals and policy makers.

Mustafa Dikeç, 2009 'The "where" of asylum', *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 27(2): 183-189

Mustafa Dikeç, Nigel Clark, Clive Barnett (eds) 2009 *Extending Hospitality: Giving Space, Taking Time* (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press).

Northmore KJ, Jefferson I, Jackson PD, Entwisle DC, Milodowski AE, Raines MR, Gunn DA, Boardman DI, Zourmpakis A, Nelder LM, Rogers CDF, Dixon N, Smalley IJ, and Derbyshire E. 2008. On-Site Characterisation of Loessic Brickearth Deposits at Ospringe, Kent, UK. Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers, *Geotechnical Engineering*, 161: 3-17.

Derbyshire, E. (ed.) 2009. Planet Earth. Boston & Hannah International, London, 2nd International Edition, 130pp.

Book Reviews, Abstracts & Conference Reports

Katherine Brickell reviewed the book *Lost Goddesses: The Denial of Female Power in Cambodian History* by Trudy Jacobsen. NIAS Press: Copenhagen, 2008, for the Association of Southeast Asian Studies in the United Kingdom.

Clive Gamble presented a joint paper with Professor Robert Foley on 'The ecology of social transitions in human evolution' at the Royal Society Discussion Meeting 'The Evolution of Society' January 20th 2009.

Bradley L. Garrett presented a paper entitled *Submerged Tribal Memory: The Case of the Winnemem Wintu* at the 2009 AAG conference in Las Vegas.

Hilary Geoghegan presented a paper entitled 'The Art of Curatorship: material people and object-love at the Science Museum' in a session on Geographies of Art: spaces of creation and curation at the AAG conference in Las Vegas on 23rd March 2009.

Craig Martin presented a paper entitled 'Fog-bound: Lost, Amongst, Amidst' as part of the session 'Aerographies: rethinking unthought elemental and metaphysical assumptions in recent human geographies' at the AAG 2009

Jamie Adcock presented a paper entitled 'Approaching an Historical Geography of the Child's Bedroom: Accommodation, Growth and Imagination' at the RGS-IBG Postgraduate Forum Mid-Term Conference held at the University of Plymouth on the 7th of March.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Tim Cresswell has been awarded an 'Award for Excellence in Leading Geography' by the Geographical Association for his journal article 'Place: encountering geography as philosophy' in the journal *Geography*. The award was the result of an on-line vote of GA members.

Katherine Brickell has been awarded £4000 from the Association of Southeast Asian Studies in the United Kingdom (ASEASUK) for a project entitled 'Gender, Labour and Domestic Life in Luang Prabang'.

Tom Stevens has been awarded a Geological Society of London field research grant (Elspeth Matthews Fund) of £1016 to work on sediment transport down the Monterey Bay submarine canyon,

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California. The work involves collaboration with the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute and the United States Geological Survey. Remotely operated vehicles will be sent to depths of 4 km down the canyon to take samples for sedimentological and geochronological analysis of the frequency and extent of major transport events. At present it is unclear what drives these dramatic slope failures.

VISITORS-MEETINGS IN THE DEPARTMENT

Pamela Were Wesonga, Executive Director of Youth Initiatives Kenya (YIKE) presented the CEDAR Seminar on the 9th of March. The title of her presentation was 'Youth Groups as a Tool for Urban-Poor Development in Nairobi, Kenya: Experiences & Lessons of Youth Initiatives Kenya'.

Ben Wisner from the International Crisis Group, United Nations held a CEDAR Workshop on the 11th of March. The title of his workshop was 'Blending Local Knowledge & Outside Specialist Knowledge in Development & Risk Reduction: Easier Said Than Done!'.

Ian Candy, RHUL, presented the QUISS Seminar on the 11th of March. The title of his presentation was 'When was Britain HOT! Interglacial Warming Over the Past 800,000 yrs'.

An Alumni Careers Evening, organised by Klaus Dodds, was held in the Department on the 10th of March. The Alumni speakers were Crispin Manners, Director of Word of Mouth Communications/Kaizo (<http://www.kaizo.net/aboutus/ourpeople/crispinmanners/>), Mark Elton, Regional Director of WSP Environment and Energy (<http://www.wspenvironmental.com/>), Laura Wilder of JP Morgan/EMEA Emerging Marketings, Amelia Williams, Tree Officer at West Berkshire District Council, Abi Taylor of Smith and Williamson

(<http://www.smith.williamson.co.uk/>) and Edward Stevenson of BNP Paribas Trust Corporation (<http://www.bnpparibas.com/en/home/>). Emma Baker from the Careers Service also attended and a reception was organised by the Geographical Society.

On the 2nd of March Katie Willis presented the Evening Lecture in Geography entitled 'The Impacts of Globalisation: Perspectives from Latin America' to a group of AS and A Level Students.

David Newman, Ben Gurion University of the Negev, presented the PERG Seminar on 19th March. The title of his presentation was 'The Geopolitics of Borders in the Israel-Palestine peace process' -

FIELDWORK-CONFERENCES-OVERSEAS

Tim Unwin delivered the Keynote address on 'Crafting effective partnerships in ICT4D: towards a framework of good practice' at the launch of the National Telecommunications Commission, Sierra Leone, programme on Multipurpose Telecentres for Deprived Areas, in the presence of the Vice President and Minister of ICT, in Freetown on 19th March 2009.

Tim Unwin was one of 25 invited participants in a meeting convened by the European Commission (DG Development and DG Information Society and Media) and the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the implementation of the Africa-EU Partnership on Science, Information, Society and Space held in Brussels on 24th March 2009.

David Simon was invited to attend the 63rd biennial Session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe in Geneva on 30-31 March. He acted as Moderator for two of the four sessions in a day-long focus on Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation - the Work of the UNECE. These sessions addressed energy efficiency, air pollution

and greenhouse gas emissions, and water, forestry and timber respectively. The speakers were senior government ministers and national and international civil servants.

David Simon chaired the launch conference in Oslo on 17th March of the UN-HABITAT's Cities and Climate Change Initiative, held at the Felix Conference Centre and supported by the Norwegian government. He also made a concluding presentation in the plenary strategic session. The UN-HABITAT Executive Director, Anna Tibaijuka, and Junior Norwegian Foreign Minister, Gry Larsen, opened the conference. David has been advising UN-HABITAT on the integration of global environmental change/climate change into their work programme since 2007.

David Simon presented a research seminar on Forced migration, career choice and development: Holocaust ethnographies, to Noragric, the Dept of International Development Studies at the Norwegian University of Environment and Life Sciences at Ås near Oslo on 16th March.

Jenny Lunn attended the Association of American Geographers conference in Las Vegas followed by the British Association for South Asian Studies conference in Edinburgh. At both events she presented a paper entitled "Calcutta's religious diversity: exploring the role of faith-based organisations in welfare, relief and development", which was based on her recent PhD fieldwork in India.

Hilary Geoghegan presented her research on technology enthusiasm to the Space History Department at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum in Washington D.C. on 18th March 2009.

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Tim Cresswell convened a session on the future of Cultural Geography at the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers in Las Vegas.

Katherine Brickell organised a session (co-sponsored by Geographic Perspectives on Women Speciality Group/Developing/Areas Specialty Group/Asian Geography Speciality Group) on 'Gendered Geographies of Transition in Southeast Asia' at the AAG in Las Vegas. In the session she also presented a paper on 'Gendered Discourses on Ideals and Practices of Women in Contemporary Cambodia'.

Ed Derbyshire and Dr. Johann Engelbrecht (quantitative mineralogist, Desert Research Institute, Reno, Nevada, USA) gave two presentations on Natural Mineral Dust and Human Health in the Physics Department of the Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria on Friday 6 March. This was preceded by a second strategic meeting of members involved in the pilot study of Saharan dust and its impact on the population of the Canarian archipelago, supported by a recent grant award from the Canarian Government. The seminar was publicised in an article in the regional newspaper Canarias7.

ANY OTHER NEWS

The Royal Holloway and Oxford Tephrochronology Research network (RHOXTOR) has now set up a new database in order to hold the tephra-related information generated by the group. It is accessible (via a password protected login) from the RHOXTOR website (<http://c14.arch.ox.ac.uk/rhoxtor/embed.php?File=index.html>). A large body of tephra-related literature can now be accessed electronically using the database. It is anticipated that further features will be developed and made available in the future.