

## **Staff and Students**

**Tim Unwin** has been conferred with the title of UNESCO Chair in ICT4D, in recognition of his work in the area of ICT, education and development.

**David Lambert** has been conferred with the title of Reader in Historical Geography with effect from 1st March.

**Danielle Schreve** has been invited to serve as Vice-President of the Geologists' Association, and she will assume the Presidency from May 2008.

**Jim Rose** has been invited to join the newly-established Science Advisory Committee of Natural England. This Committee will play a key role in the formulation of Natural England's science strategy.

**Ed Derbyshire** has been elected to the Council of the Geological Society of London. In effect, this will make Ed Honorary Secretary, Foreign and External Affairs, of the Society; and also Chair, UK Committee for the IGCP, for the period 2007-2010.

**Tim Unwin** has been appointed as external research assessor for the Swedish Program for ICT in Developing Regions.

**Tim Unwin** has joined the College's Advisory Group for the new Political Communication Unit in the Department of Politics and International Relations.

**Felix Driver** has been invited to join the scientific committee of a conference on 'Mapping Practices: Doing Fieldwork in Geography', to be held at the University of Artois, France, in June 2008.

Welcome to **Sara Nedderman**, who will be working as Departmental Secretary and Postgraduate Administrator on Mondays and Tuesdays to cover Liz's maternity cover.

**Kirstin Coley** successfully defended her PhD on Holocene environmental change on the Peruvian altiplano, on 23rd March. Her examiners were Prof Tony Stevenson (Newcastle) and Dr Jonathan Holmes (UCL) and she was supervised by Rob Kemp and Nick Branch.

## Outside Engagements

**Claudio Minca** gave the keynote opening address, entitled "Cos'è una regione nell'Europa postmoderna?" to the inter-regional governmental conference on the development of the Adria-Po Valley in Northern Italy, 15th February. The conference was organised by the Veneto Region and was attended by public officials and local government representatives and focused on the need for new territorial coalitions in Northern Italy in order to compete within the open geographies of Schengen.

**Alex Loftus** presented seminars in the Geography Departments at the Universities of Reading and Oxford. The former was a discussion of his work on urban interventions, the latter a discussion of water politics in Durban, South Africa. He has also held two workshops at Royal Holloway's Bloomsbury premises bringing together artists, scholars and activists around 'Urban Interventions and the Sustainable Games'.

**Felix Driver** and **Helen Scalway** were invited to participate in an AHRC-funded workshop on Narrative organised by the National Maritime Museum's Centre for Art and Travel, held at Tate Britain, 6 March.

**Ed Derbyshire** attended a meeting of Working Group 1 (Science Sector Programme Review) of the UK Commission for UNESCO held on 12 April.

**Luiza Bialasiewicz** led a full-day workshop for the UNESCO sponsored "Master's Programme in Planning and Management of Co-operation and Training Activities for Central and Eastern Europe and the Balkans" held at the Jacques Maritain Institute, Portogruaro, Italy, 22 February.

**Luiza Bialasiewicz** gave a seminar to the Department of Geography at University College London entitled "Europe in the World: Geographies and Geophilosophies of European Power Today", 6 March.

**David Lambert** gave a lecture at the 'Exploring and being explored: Africa in the nineteenth century' conference held at the National Maritime Museum, 30-31 March. The lecture was entitled "'Taken captive by the mystery of the Great River": James MacQueen, slavery and the Niger problem'.

**Varyl Thorndycraft** spent two days at the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Cientificas, Madrid (16-17th April) for a project meeting (Floodwater Recharge of Alluvial Aquifers in Dryland Environments) and discussion of the ERC EUROFLOOD grant proposal.

**Katie Willis** was on the interview panel for the Neville Shulman Challenge Award at the Royal Geographical Society (with The Institute of British Geographers).

**John Lowe** was invited to speak on Southern Counties Radio breakfast show on the topic of climate change, prior to his seminar, on Monday 12th March.

**Clive Gamble** presented a BBC Radio 3 essay on breaking the bonds of time, and was interviewed on a Radio 4 feature on 'Changing climates, evolving humans', concerning the NERC EFCHED programme.

**Danielle Schreve** participated in the Timeteam special 'Britain's Drowned World' which was broadcast on the 24th of April on Channel 4.

The Memoryscape project, part of **Toby Butler's** ESRC-funded PhD, was the subject of a workshop for teachers held at the Geographical Association annual conference in April, the first event to be organised by the new Citizenship Working Group of the GA.

**Luke Dickens** presented a television programme on the geographies of crime, based around his ESRC-funded PhD research into contemporary graffiti cultures. The programme, part of

the 'Class Clips' series produced by BBC Education and aimed at key stage 3 geography students, was screened on BBC 2 'Learning Zone' on the 23rd February.

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#### Publications

**Derbyshire, E.** 2007. Natural minerogenic dust and human health. *Ambio* XXXVI, Number 1, 73-77.

**Mandelblatt, B.,** 'A Transatlantic Commodity: Irish Salt Beef in the French Atlantic World', *History Workshop Journal* 63 (2007), pp. 18-47.

**Loftus, A.,** 2006, 'Reification and the Dictatorship of the Water Meter' *Antipode*, 38, 5, 1023-1045

**Loftus, A.,** 2007, 'Working the Socio-Natural Relations of the Urban Waterscape' *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 31, 1

**Minca, C.,** 'Agamben's Geographies of Modernity' *Political Geography* 26 (1): 78-97.

**Simon, D.** (with Ben Wisner, Maureen Fordham, Ilan Kelman, Barbara Rose Johnston, Allan Lavell, Hans Günter Brauch, Ursula Oswald Spring, Gustavo Wilches Chau, Marcus Moench, and Daniel Weiner) (16 April 2007) *Climate Change and Human Security* webposted at Radix - Radical Interpretations of Disaster (<http://www.radixonline.org/cchs.html>); *Disaster Diplomacy*: (<http://www.disasterdiplomacy.org>) and *Peace Research and European Security Studies* (AFES-PRESS) (<http://www.afes-press.de/html/topical.html>).

#### *Book Reviews*

**Hilary Geoghegan** review of 'Science, Magic and Religion: The Ritual Processes of Museum Magic' (edited by Mary Bouquet and Nuno Porto, Berghahn Books, Oxford (2005)), *Journal of Historical Geography* 33 (2): 432-434.

#### Grants and Awards

**David Lambert** has been awarded £4,717 by the British Academy for his project on 'Geography, African slavery and the culture of West African exploration, c. 1788-1842'.

**David Lambert** has been awarded an AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Award for a project with Dr Nigel Rigby Cook at the National Maritime Museum entitled 'Steam after slavery: The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company in the post-emancipation Caribbean, c. 1834-1870'.

The Department has been granted £53k in support of the purchase of two Leica Total Stations, and a Sedigraph III Automatic Particle Analyser (with Master Tech Autosampler) under the DGG Equipment Grant. This equipment will benefit field teaching and laboratory research at all levels in the Department.

Archaeoscape has won a three-year contract worth 250,000 Euros for work on the Ireland Peatland Survey with Archaeological Development Services Ltd.

**Helen Scalway**, post-doctoral researcher on the AHRC Fashioning Diaspora Space project, is also part of the British Sari competition run by Bridging Arts, which has just won funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

**Vandana Desai, Xingmin Meng and Jenny Kynaston** have been awarded a College Teaching Prize to for their module on 'Tools for development and environment' in the MSc Practising Sustainable Development.

Fieldwork-Conferences-Overseas

**Tim Unwin** participated in the Strategy Council meeting of the UN's Global Alliance on ICT and Development (of which he is a High Level Advisor) on 27-28 February in Santa Clara, California, during which he acted as convenor and rapporteur for the Education Communities session.

**Tim Unwin** was a member of the panel discussing the value of multi-stakeholder partnerships for education in a "60 minutes to convince" meeting held at UNESCO on 6th February 2007.

**Ed Derbyshire** visited UNESCO HQ in Paris on 25/26 April for discussions on the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP) with the IGCP Director, the Director of the Hydrology Division and members of the UK Permanent Delegation.

**Ed Derbyshire** met Dra. Inmaculada Menendez (Dept. Physics, Universidad Las Palmas) in Mogán County, Gran Canaria, on 1st March to discuss the formation of a small network for collaborative work on the collection, analysis and interpretation of the sources, transport paths, and human impact of Saharan dusts falling on the islands of Gran Canaria and Tenerife.

**Mustafa Dikeç** was invited to a workshop on 'Fear, the City, and Political Mobilization' in Montréal, Canada, 16-17 April 2007. He presented a paper entitled 'Remainders of urbanity: the aesthetics of the fear of the banlieue'.

**David Simon** was in the USA from 11-18th April: on 11-12th in Washington DC for his Holocaust Survivors' project (including a meeting at the US National Holocaust Museum), then in Tempe, Arizona for the meeting of the Scientific Steering Committee of the IHDP's Urbanization and Global Environmental Change programme from 13-15 April, held at the programme's international office on the campus of Arizona State University; on 16th in Berkeley CA for an Holocaust Survivor interview and to attend the Developing Areas Specialty Group pre-AAG conference, and on 17-18th at the AAG conference in San Francisco.

**Katie Willis** convened a panel on 'Gendered Perspectives on Urban Living' at the Society for Latin American Studies Annual Conference in Newcastle, 13-15 April.

**Tim Unwin** gave the opening keynote address at the University of Pennsylvania's inaugural Global Development Initiative Forum on "Research Universities and International Development" on 19th April.

**Alastair Pinkerton** presented a paper on the BBC World Service and sonic geopolitics to the 2007 Conference of the Association of American Geographers in San Francisco.

**Klaus Dodds** and **Philip Hatfield** presented a paper on Geopolitics, film and the screening of 9/11 to the 2007 Conference of the Association of American Geographers in San Francisco.

**Klaus Dodds** presented a paper on counter-factual geopolitics to the Political Geography Speciality Group conference at the University of California, Berkeley on 16th April.

**Alex Loftus** attended the first RCUK conference for Academic Fellows at The ThinkTank in Birmingham in January.

**Mike Dolton** and **Alex Loftus** led a one day field trip across London as part of the MSc Sustainability & Management course on 22nd March. The trip looked at issues of urban regeneration and sustainability.

#### Visitors-Meetings in the Department

The Departmental Seminar on 1st March was presented by Lina Khatib of Media Arts and the title of her presentation was 'Reflections on Lebanon: Trauma and belonging'.

The Departmental Seminar on 22nd March was presented by Felipe Camerati, CNRS, Paris and was entitled 'Integrating Specialised Knowledge: The growing role of University Departments'.

The Politics and Environment Research Group Seminar held on 2nd March was presented by Stuart Elden of Durham University and was entitled 'Foreign Policy After Blair? David Cameron, the Henry Jackson Society and the British Neoconservatives'.

The Royal Holloway Lecture in Geography for A and AS Level students was held on 5th March and **Dr. Vandana Desai** lectured on 'Development Geography: From population control to universal rights'.

An Open Seminar on Art and Cultural Geography was held on the 15th of March as part of the MA in Cultural Geography. It was presented by **David Gilbert**, **Helen Scalway**, Holly McLaren, Simeon Nelson and **Phil Crang**.

A CEDAR Workshop was held on the 21st of March. Lucy Stevens, International Co-ordinator – Access to Services Programme, Practical Action, presented the work entitled 'Sustainable Development in the Context of Disasters – Practical Action's Work in Post-Tsunami Reconstruction in Sri Lanka'. Lucy also discussed possible future collaboration on CASE studentships and research with David Simon.

The CQR Lecture was held on 21st March by Dr. Chris Turney, University of Wollongong, Australia and the title of his lecture was 'Bones, Rocks and Stars: the Science of when things happened'.

## Any Other News

On 6th March 2007, Teresa Beste, Marilyn Larden and Jack Perschke, with the help of fellow students on the MSc Sustainability and Management, held a climate change debate in the Main Lecture Theatre at RHUL. The panel comprised Peter Ewins, former Chief Scientist at the Met Office; Geoffrey Bush, Director for Corporate Citizenship with Diageo Plc (they own Guinness and Smirnoff!); Shaun Spiers, Chief Executive of the Campaign to Protect Rural England; and Bill Wiggins MP, Conservative shadow spokesperson for agriculture and fisheries. The well attended event, chaired by Paul Allen, a freelance journalist, produced a fascinating and thought provoking debate on how to combat climate change. The debate was followed by a reception in the Picture Gallery. The event was a great credit to Jack, Marilyn, Teresa and their fellow students on the MSc Sustainability and Management and will hopefully stimulate further debates at Royal Holloway.