

Geography Department News

Monthly Newsletter
Royal Holloway, University of London

May 2011
Number 202

STAFF AND STUDENTS

Congratulations to **David Crespo** who successfully defended his MPhil thesis (subject to minor revision) entitled "Mobile 'phones and rural health workers in Peru: the potential of m-health in isolated rural areas of Peru" at his viva with Professor Robert Istepanian (Professor of Data Communications at Kingston University) and Dr. Jasmine Gideon (Lecturer in Development Studies at Birkbeck College). David is a part-time and distance-based student, and specifically chose to present his work as a MPhil rather than a PhD. Tim Unwin was his supervisor and Mustafa Dikec his advisor.

Thomas Stevens has appointed Ms Anna Bird as a post doctoral research assistant on his new NERC-funded project investigating 22 Myrs of dust storms in China, starting in July 2011. Anna is currently finishing her PhD in RHUL's Earth Sciences Dept.

OUTSIDE ENGAGEMENTS

Tim Unwin gave a lecture entitled "ICT4D: a journey of understanding" at the Cambridge International Development Course Day in the Faculty of Law at Cambridge University on 7th May.

Innes Keighren attended "Teaching Historical Geographies" a two-day workshop (19-20 May) at the Royal Geographical Society organised by the Historical Geography Research Group.

Felix Driver had meetings with Dr Catherine Souch and Alasdair MacLeod (RGS) and Dr Tim Boon (Science Museum) to discuss a research initiative on the history of geographical film.

Charles Howie delivered seven workshops in March and April on development studies for undergraduate students at the University of Stirling. He also gave a lecture entitled 'Rural development in Vietnam: green revolution in a red society'.

Charles Howie gave a lecture on 12th May to postgraduate students at the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester, entitled: Cooperation and contestation: farmer-state relations in the agricultural transformation of An Giang Province, Vietnam.

Caroline Cornish gave a conference paper on May 19th at the Sussex University 'Botany, Climate and Empire' Workshop, hosted by the Centre for World Environmental History. She spoke on museum objects as sources for environmental history research

Caroline Cornish gave a conference paper on May 21st at the Museums and Galleries History Group workshop on 'Lost Museums', held at the Hunterian Museum May 21. She delivered a paper on the Kew Museums of Economic Botany.

OVERSEAS ONLY - FIELDWORK - CONFERENCE

David Simon was an invited participant in the conference on The Art of Citizenship in African Cities organised by the Committee on Global Thought and the African Studies Institute at Columbia University, New York, 6-7 May. He presented a paper on

Article continues on page 2...

NOTICES



Graduation Ceremony -
15th July

2011/12 Academic Year - Start
term - Monday, 19th September.

'Uncertain times, contested resources: Discursive practices and lived realities in African urban environments'. While in New York, he also visited the UNDP offices.

Tim Cresswell gave a keynote lecture and participated in a roundtable in Turku, Finland at a "Street Life" seminar. This was part of the celebrations for Turku's year as the EU City of Culture. His lecture was titled: "The Gleaners and I: Archiving the Street at a Chicago Market"

Felix Driver attended a Elsevier Journal editors conference in Budapest, 14-15 May.

Ed Derbyshire spent the period 22 April to 24 May in China in response to an invitation from Lanzhou University, just over 3 weeks (27 April - 20 May) being spent in Lanzhou. Activities included involvement in the 3rd Sino-German Workshop on Air Quality and Health Research (8 May), a visit to the Liu Jia Xia dam site and associated wetlands on the Yellow River (14 May), a lecture to research students and staff on Collapsible Soils (18 May), and two discussion meetings on 20 May, one with members of a research group from the School of Public Health at Lanzhou University on natural dust and human health impacts, and the other with a group, led by Professor Wang Shigong (College of Atmospheric Sciences in the University Director of the Medical Meteorology Committee of the China Meteorological Society) concerned with aeolian dust and atmospheric dynamics. The latter two events involved exchange of information on current Chinese research and advances in the work of the Spain-UK-US network on the Saharan dust hazard. Both meetings were mutually regarded as a possible basis for future collaboration. Professor Zhou Liping (Department of Geography, Peking University) kindly hosted our short return-stay in Beijing (21-24 May). This provided time for research discussions with Professor Zhou, as well as a round-table discussion with his

doctoral students (23 May). Other meetings were held with the Director of the Seismic Institute in Lanzhou and Professor Ding Zhongli (Vice President of the Chinese Academy of Sciences).

Charles Howie attended the 25th European Regional Conference of the International Committee on Irrigation and Drainage, May 16-20, in Groningen, Holland. He delivered a paper entitled: Dike building and agricultural transformation in the Mekong delta, Vietnam: dilemmas in water management.

PUBLICATIONS

Unwin, T. 2011 Foreword to *The Role of ICT in Advancing Growth in Least Developed Countries: Trends, Challenges and Opportunities*, Geneva: ITU, iii-v

Tim Cresswell, 2011, "Wormwood Jam" (poem) *The Rialto*, Volume 72.

Martin, C. (2011). 'Fog-bound: aerial space and the elemental entanglements of body-with-world'. In: *Environment & Planning D: Society & Space*. Vol.29(3). pp.454-468.

Marković, S.B., Hambach, U., **Stevens, T.**, Kukla, G.J., Heller, F., McCoy, W.D., Oches, E.A., Buggle, B., Zöller, L., 2011. The last million years recorded at the Stari Slankamen (Northern Serbia) loess-palaeosol sequence: revised chronostratigraphy and long-term environmental trends. *Quaternary Science Reviews* 30, 1142-1154.

BOOK REVIEWS/ABSTRACTS/CONFERENCE REPORTS

Marković, S.B., Hambach, U., **Stevens, T.**, Kukla, G.J., Smalley, I.J., Oches, E.A., McCoy, W.D., Machalett, B., Buggle, B., Zech, M., Basarin, B., Ujvari, G., Sumegi, P., Kovacs, J., O'Hara Dhand, K., Jovanovic, M., Lukic, T., Gaudenyi, T., Zöller, L., 2011. Danube Loess Stratigraphy: Towards Eurasian loess chronostratigraphy. 6th International INQUA loess workshop, Wroclaw, Poland.

F. Driver, review of J. Yallop, *Magpies, Squirrels and Thieves: How the Victorians Collected the World* (Atlantic Books 2011), *BBC History*, June 2011, 67.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Caroline Cornish has received a £500 travel grant from the Royal Historical Society for a research trip to India in October. She will be visiting the Indian Museum and the Indian Botanic Garden in Kolkata, and the Indian Forestry Research Institute in Dehradun. She has also been awarded a grant by the Geography Department to co-fund an exhibition at Kew Gardens based on her research on the Kew Museums. The event will form part of the London Open House event (September 17-18).

The Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst (DAAD) awards **Leonhardt van Efferink** a grant for the German part of his PhD research. The project compares British, Dutch and German newspaper representations of the military missions in Afghanistan.

Thomas Stevens is a named collaborator on a successful research grant to The Danish Council for Independent Research/Natural Sciences: The first independent chronology for the East Asian Monsoon over the last 200,000 years from loess. The PI is Dr Jan-Pieter Buylaert at Aarhus University. Total budget (held at lead institution Aarhus University, Denmark): £273,985.

ANY OTHER NEWS

Leonhardt van Efferink publishes an interview with geographer Alex Jeffrey of Newcastle University on his website (www.exploringgeolitics.org).