

Department newsletter:

Nov 2007, No. 172

Staff and Students

The ESRC have awarded three new Postdoctoral Fellowships tenable in the Department from 2008. The new Fellows are:

Katherine Brickell (LSE): Re-thinking gender: reflections on home and work in Siem Reap, Cambodia (mentor **Katie Willis**) – from September 2008

Hilary Geoghegan: The culture of enthusiasm: technology, material culture and museums (mentor **Clive Gamble**) – from March 2008.

Amanda Rogers: Geographies of identity and performance in Asian American theatre (mentor **David Lambert**) – from February 2008. This includes a 2 month overseas institutional visit to the National University of Singapore with Prof. Lily Kong.

Matt Canti successfully defended his Phd on The calcium carbonate granules produced by earthworms and their potential for palaeoenvironmental interpretation. His examiners were Prof. Ken Thomas at UCL and Dr. Richard Preece at Cambridge and he was supervised by **Rob Kemp**.

Hilary Geoghegan successfully defended her Phd on The culture of enthusiasm: technology, material culture and museums. Her examiners were Dr Gail Davies at UCL and Prof David Matless at Nottingham. Her supervisors were **Felix Driver** and Tim Boon at the Science Museum.

Amanda Rogers successfully defended her Phd on Geographies of identity and performance in Asian American theatre. Her examiners were Prof Helen Gilbert at Royal Holloway and Dr J. D. Dewsbury at Bristol. Her supervisor was **Phil Crang**.

Justin Spinney successfully defended his Phd on Cycling the city: movement, meaning and practice. His examiners were Dr Quentin Stevens at the Bartlett School and Dr Tim Edensor at Manchester Metropolitan. His supervisor was **Phil Crang**.

David Simon acted as external examiner for the PhD thesis by Sally Joanne Matthews (Centre for West African Studies, Birmingham), ‘Responding to poverty and injustice in the light of the post-development debate’ on 30th November. The internal examiner was Dr Lynne Brydon.

Mary Dengler has been invited to be a member of the Club of Rome’s tt30 Governing Board.

Jenny Kynaston has become a committee member of the Society Of Cartographers following her visit to the Annual Summer School held at Portsmouth University in early September. Society website is <http://www.soc.org.uk/> the Committee section.

Outside Engagements

In his role as a Commonwealth Scholarship Commissioner, **Tim Unwin** participated in the Welcome Day for new Scholars and Fellows held on 12th November in the Methodist Central Halls, Westminster, and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, during which he spoke on the Commission's communication strategy.

Tim Unwin participated in a meeting of the UK UNESCO Chairs Group on 13th November.

Andrea Burris, David Hollow, Fernanda Scur and Tim Unwin all participated in Online Educa Berlin, held from 28-30 November, where the Collective was involved in hosting a session on 'Promoting Inclusivity through Online Learning', chairing a session on 'Emerging Markers in e-Learning' on behalf of the Global Distance Learning Network (GDLN), and hosting a discussion session on ICT4D.

Mustafa Dikeç presented a seminar on 'The nonplace of law: legal geographies of asylum in Europe and beyond' at the Department of Geography, University College London, 16 October

Mustafa Dikeç presented a seminar on 'Space, governmentality and urban policy' at King's College, University of London, City Seminar Series, 10 October.

5th November: **Varyl Thorndycraft** attended a GEES project network meeting at King's College London.

Maria Montero from the EPSRC Fair Tracing Project attended a two-day training workshop on the use of Participatory Video (PV) in research as part of the NCRM Network for Methodological Innovation. The workshop is run by academics and PV practitioners with experience of using PV and works as an introduction to PV techniques in a research setting. IDS, Brighton, Nov 2-3.

Maria Montero attended a mobile phone technology workshop as part of the EPSRC Bridging the Global Digital Divide network. She met representatives other EPSRC funded projects and experts on the use of mobiles from Nokia and Hamilton Institute, to discuss and share experience, ideas and challenges regarding the use of mobiles phones in their development projects. Loughbough, Nov 26-27.

Maria Montero attended an Atlas.ti workshop held by CAQDAS networking project, at the University of Surrey. Surrey, Nov 21.

Dorothea Kleine met with Mónica Rosenfeld and other key staff at the UNESCO Chair in Women, Science and Technology in Latin America in Buenos Aires. The Chair is part of the Argentine seat of the prestigious Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales Argentina (FLACSO), the Latin American Postgraduate Institute of Social Sciences. The meeting was on the planned future cooperation between this UNESCO Chair and the UNESCO Centre in ICT4D at Royal Holloway. Buenos Aires, Nov 2

Ed Derbyshire attended the Geological Society's Bicentenary Banquet held in the Natural History Museum on 13th November.

Ed Derbyshire attended a meeting of the Council of the Geological Society in Burlington House, London, on 21st November.

Publications

Dikeç, Mustafa, 2007, *Badlands of the Republic: Space, Politics and Urban Policy* (London: Blackwell)

Dikeç, M. 2007, 'Space, governmentality, and the geographies of French urban policy', *European Urban and Regional Studies* 14(4): 277-289

Dikeç, M. 2007, 'Revolting geographies: Urban unrest in France', *Geography Compass* 1(5): 1190-1206

French P.W. (2007) *Coastal Defences: Processes, Problems & Solutions*. (Korean Edition) Hanulbooks, Korea

Mattingley, D.J., Lahr, M.M., **Armitage, S.J.**, Barton, H., Dore, J.N., Drake, N.A., Foley, R.A, Merlo, S., Salem, M.J., Stock, J.T. and White, K. (2007) Desert Migrations: People, environment and culture in the Libyan Sahara. *Libyan Studies* 38, 115-156.

Tim Unwin, Mel Tan and Kat Pauso (2007) The potential of e-learning to address the needs of out-of-school youth in the Philippines, *Children's Geographies*, 5(4), 443-462

Grants and Awards

Mustafa Dikeç has been awarded the 2007-08 HARC Fellowship from Royal Holloway's Humanities and Arts Research Centre for a project entitled 'Space, Politics and the Political'.

Laura Holtshausen, a student on the MSc Sustainability and Management, has won an award in a student essay competition run by the Institute of Business Ethics, in association with the Daily Telegraph and EBEN-UK. Her prize-winning essay was on the subject of ethical sourcing and supplier practices in the developing world.

Ed Derbyshire was awarded the 2007 Varnes Medal of the International Consortium on Landslides at a ceremony during the meeting of the Board of Representatives of the ICL held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on 15th November.

Fieldwork-Conferences-Overseas

Tim Unwin chaired the Panel on Business Models for ICT Partnerships, and **Salma Abbasi** was a panellist in the session on investment opportunities and best practices through PPPs, at the ICT 4 All Forum held in Hammamet, Tunisia, from 20-21 November 2007 on the overall theme of Public-Private Partnerships in ICTs.

David Simon was in Nairobi 21-23 November to participate in the Expert Group Meeting on cities and climate change convened by the UN Human Settlements' Programme (UN-Habitat) in order to guide its policy formulation in this area. He has since been requested to undertake continuing collaboration. David also visited the Geography Dept at the University of Nairobi and had discussions with Dr Maggie Opondo about mutual interests in the horticulture industry and fair-trade, environmental changes and vulnerability.

27th November: **Varyl Thorndycraft** attended an international workshop on “Groundwater recharge in ephemeral rivers of southern Africa: Implications for water management” held at the University of Cape Town. VT chaired two sessions, “Surface hydrology of recharging flood events” and “Process and estimation of groundwater recharge in drylands” and was co-author of the presentation “Long term flood records from sedimentary indicators: Implications for groundwater recharge” by Benito, G., Thorndycraft, V.R. et al.

29-30th November: **Varyl Thorndycraft** attended community meetings in the Kamiesburg and Nama Khoi municipalities of the Northern Cape (S. Africa) to disseminate the major results of the EC VII FP funded WADE project.

Ed Derbyshire attended the 3rd International Geohazards Workshop at the European Space Agency in Frascati, near Rome 5-9 November, where he presented a paper on Geohazards in the Science Programme of the International Year of Planet Earth 2007-2009.

Ann Light (human-computer interaction specialist), **Dorothea Kleine** (economic geographer, project manager) and Macarena Vivent (ICT4D specialist, project director Chile) from the Fair Tracing Team have just completed an intensive round of fieldwork with their producer partners, the co-operative Los Robles in Chile. They visited the vineyards and the winery production facilities, interviewed workers, vintners, employees and management and conducted focus groups and participatory design workshops.

Directores (representatives of the members of the co-operative) and the General Manager of Los Robles, Francisco Della Maggiora Silva.

Visitors/meetings in the department

Simon Carr and Sven Lukas, QMUL presented the Departmental Seminar on 8th November. The title of their presentation was ‘Reconstructing Former Mountain Glaciers: Understanding Landscape and Climate Change’.

The London Quaternary Lectures took place in the Department on the 14th of November with Professor Chris Stringer from the Natural History Museum, London/Visiting Professor at Royal Holloway presenting the first lecture entitled ‘The Early Human Occupation of Europe and Britain’ (LQL No. 78) and **Prof. Jim Rose**, Gordon Manley Professor of Geography/RHUL presenting the second lecture entitled ‘Quaternary Science: Personal Views on Model Changes Over the Last 40 years’ (LQL No. 79).

Husam Zamlot, Middle East Consultant, Oxford Research Group presented the CEDAR Seminar on 21st November. The title of his presentation was ‘Conflict and development: the case of Palestine’.

Rob Shields, University of Alberta, presented the Departmental Seminar on 29th November. The title of his presentation was ‘Why the urban is virtual’.

Any Other News

Congratulations to **Nick** and **Karen Branch** on the birth of their baby boy, William. William was born on the 28th of November and weighed 6lb 15oz.

