
Geography Department News

Monthly Newsletter
Royal Holloway, University of London

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Professor Russell Coope 1930 - 2011

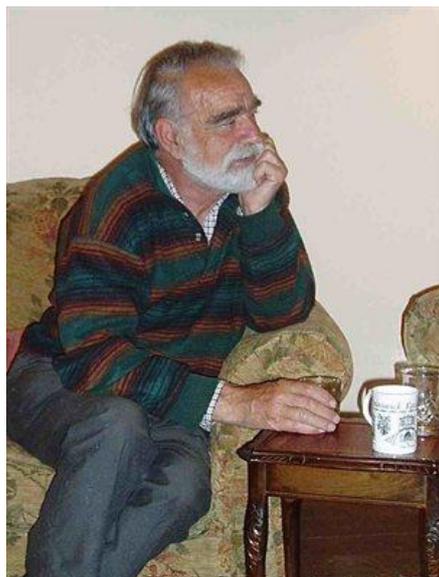


Image by permission of Professor Mike Walker, University of Wales Trinity St David

It is with great regret that the Department has learned of the death of **Professor Russell Coope** on 26th November 2011. Russell was a Visiting Professor in the Department from 1990; he was the most active of visiting appointments, a co-supervisor of PhD projects, a co-applicant for research grants, and a regular contributor to the MSc in Quaternary Science in the Department. His calm, gentle presence and depth of expertise have been a key part of the success of Quaternary Science at Royal Holloway, and he will be greatly missed.

During the 1950's when based in the Geology Department at the University of Birmingham, Russell Coope helped to pioneer the study of fossil beetles for the purpose of reconstructing environmental conditions during the recent geological past. He quickly demonstrated their versatility and importance as an environmental proxy and indeed during the 1960's was the first to argue, based on his beetle evidence, that some climatic changes during the last glacial stage were extremely abrupt - a view stubbornly discounted by the scientific majority for some time, until recent research reported from Greenland ice cores and other newly-developed techniques vindicated his claims. He established himself as the leading specialist in the study of Quaternary fossil insects in the UK, making several major original contributions, and became one of the most widely respected and best known Quaternary scientists in the world.

Russell died suddenly, while out feeding his animals (native sheep, native cattle, deer, reared wildcats) on his land on the shores of Loch Tummel, near Pitlochry in Scotland. He was still researching to the end, having just taken custody of a new set of samples from a Hoxnian site, and expressing excitement about a particular species of fossil beetle he had discovered.

STAFF AND STUDENTS

Welcome to **Dr Peter Adey**, who joined the Department on 1st January as Reader. Peter was previously at Keele University.

Welcome to **Dr Harriet Hawkins**, our new lecturer who joined the Department from Aberystwyth University on 1st January.

Welcome to **Mr Suhail Anjum**, who has joined the department as a visiting PhD student in December 2011. Suhail will be working with Thomas Stevens for 6 months on a project characterising dune mobility and Quaternary environmental change in the Thar Desert of Pakistan.

Welcome to **Dr Azra Naseem** who will be joining us in January until March from the Aga Khan University, Karachi as Academic visitor working with Tim Unwin and the RHUL ICT4D collective.

Dr Freiderick Gluger has been awarded a prestigious Government of Brazil/CAPES post-doctoral fellowship and will be visiting Royal Holloway's Geography Department to work with **Klaus Dodds** and the Politics, Development and Sustainability Research Group in 2012 for 12 months. His area of interest including the politics of the Antarctic.

Congratulations to **Ashley Nye**, who successfully defended his Thesis, subject to minor alterations. The title of his Thesis is 'Designing and experiencing sensory urban environments: An intensive case study of Grand Union Village in West London.'. His examiners were Professor Rob Imrie of Kings College, and Dr Tim Hall of Gloucestershire University. His supervisor was **David Gilbert**, **Mustafa Dikec** was his advisor on the project and members of the Social and Cultural Group, and Landscape Surgery also supported Ashley.

Bakia Mbianyor was successful in an assessment by the Society for the Environment (www.socenv.org.uk) and has

been awarded the qualification of Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv). This qualification denotes sound knowledge, proven experience and profound commitment to sustainable best practice within one's profession and field of expertise. During the formal assessment, his PhD research was described as 'extremely exciting', and the assessors look forward to reading regular updates as it progresses.

Congratulations to **Cristiana Zara** who successfully defended her PhD thesis entitled "Sacred journeys and profane travellers: representation and spatial practice in Varanasi (India)". The external examiners, Professor Mike Crang, Durham University, and Dr. Tim Edensor, Manchester Metropolitan University, expressed their full appreciation for the discussion during the viva and decided to accept her thesis with no revisions.

Congratulations to **Louise Henderson**, who successfully defended her PhD thesis entitled Geography, Travel and Publishing in Mid-Victorian Britain. The external examiners were Professor Charles Withers (Geosciences, University of Edinburgh) and Dr Jonathan Topham, (History & Philosophy of Science, University of Leeds). The examiners were very complimentary about the quality of the thesis, one of the first substantial historical studies of geographical publishing. Louise's PhD was fully supported by a 1+3 studentship from ESRC, including a year on the MA Cultural Geography programme. **Felix Driver** was her supervisor and **David Lambert** her advisor.

Congratulations to **Anyaa Amin-Addo** who successfully defended her PhD thesis entitled 'Place and mobilities in the maritime world: The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company in the Caribbean, c.1838 to 1914'. Anyaa had an

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NOTICES

QUISS Seminar - Dr Anna Bird
Royal Holloway - 'The use of single grain analysis to determine Chinese Loess sources' - 1st February at 5:30pm, Q136.

Politics, Development & Sustainability (PDS) Group Seminar - Simon Reid-Henry, Queen Mary, Univ of London - 'Humanitarian Disenchantments: On the Making (and Breaking) of Humanitarian Space' - 6th February at 4:30pm, Q171

AHRC Collaborative Studentship with the National Maritime Museum as the partner organisation. Her examiners were Professor Mimi Sheller (Sociology, Drexel University, PA, USA) and Professor Miles Ogborn (Geography, Queen Mary, University of London). She passed with minor amendments and now has a one-year Caird Research Fellowship at the Museum. Her supervisor was **David Lambert** and **N. Rigby** her advisor.

Congratulations to **Daniel Whittall** who successfully defended his PhD thesis entitled 'Creolising London: Black West Indian activism and the politics of race and empire in Britain, 1931-1948'. Dan had an ESRC Studentship. His examiners were Professor Alastair Bonnett (Geography, Politics and Sociology, Newcastle University) and Dr Bill Schwarz (English, Queen Mary, University of London). He passed with minor amendments and is now undertaking a PGCE. His supervisor was **David Lambert** and **David Gilbert** his advisor.

Katherine Brickell took her 42 GG3069 students on a fieldtrip to the Geffrye Museum in East London. This included a lecture by a co-curator Alex Goddard, fieldwork in the rooms tracing the history of the English domestic interior, and then handling of archival documents. The 'best presentation' prize was judged by Alex at RHUL the following week.



Felix Driver attended a meeting of the Harley Fellowships Trust, British Academy, 2 November.

Felix Driver gave a talk on the RGS and the history of exploration to QMUL students at the RGS, 8 November

David Simon was external examiner on 8th December for the PhD thesis of Orleans Mfuné (University of Glasgow), entitled 'From fortresses to sustainable development: the changing face of environmental conservation in Africa; the case of Zambia', supervised by John Briggs and Jo Sharp. The internal examiner was Deborah Bryceson.

Klaus Dodds appeared on the BBC series 'The Last Explorers' in his capacity as Editor of The Geographical Journal. Klaus considered the importance of Antarctica in the UK imperial imagination.

Simon Armitage's paper describing the earliest evidence for migration of modern humans out of Africa (published in Science, 27/01/11) was ranked 2nd in the Smithsonian Museum's "Top 10 hominid discoveries of 2011" list.

Vandana Desai participated in the debate organised by the online magazine 'The Global Urbanist' on 'setting the global urban agenda' in London on 14th November 2011.

Vandana Desai was external examiner for Suresh Kumar Sahu PhD thesis entitled 'Local perspectives on changing rural livelihoods and natural resources in the Chhattisgarh Plains, India' at the Department of Biological Sciences, University of Essex on 19th December 2011.

Ed Derbyshire spent 11th December working with Profesora Inmaculada Menéndez González (Physics Department, University of Las Palmas, Gran Canaria, Spain) on the first draft of an article summarising the sources and properties of Saharan dust reaching two sampling sites on the island of Gran Canaria during the year 2010, under a grant from the island government.

Ugo Vallauri gave a paper on 'Neighbourhood Food Projects,

Community Building and ICTs: The Transition Belsize Veg Bag Scheme' in a symposium on Urban Food Futures: ICTs and Opportunities held at the Oxford Internet Institute on 14 December.

OUTSIDE ENGAGEMENTS

Tim Unwin gave the annual Gladwyn lecture on 6th December in the Boothroyd Room, House of Parliament, on the subject of "Commonwealth educational futures: the technological challenge"

Tim Unwin gave a presentation on "International governance and cooperation: whose security, whose interest?" at the Cyber Challenges for National Security conference, Royal United Services Institute, 15th November 2011.

Innes Keighren ran a workshop entitled "Investigating texts and the making of geographical truth" at "Practising Historical Geography", the 17th annual postgraduate meeting of the Historical Geography Research Group, St John's College, University of Oxford, 2 November 2011.

Alex Loftus presented departmental seminars at the University of Plymouth (28th September), the Open University (19th October), University of Glasgow (4th November) and the University of Manchester (16th November). He also participated in a workshop on Challenging the Post-Political City in Cities@Manchester (10th and 11th October).

Bradley L. Garrett organized the Sensing the City workshop with Sue Ball and Bob Levene, Compass Festival of Live Art, Leeds, 25th-27th November.

Caroline Cornish presented a paper entitled 'Circulating India: Kew, Colonial Forestry and Cosmopolitan Circuits of Display' at the Natural History Museum on December 6th as part of the conference, Wallich and Indian

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Natural History: Collection Dispersal and the Cultivation of Knowledge. On the following day delegates visited Kew where Caroline hosted an object-handling session.

On December 9th **Caroline Cornish** hosted a handling session at the Joseph Hooker Centenary conference at Kew featuring objects from the Economic Botany Collection collected by Hooker.

Dr Sara Fregonese convened a successful interdisciplinary workshop titled "City/State/Resistance: spaces of protest in the Middle East and Mediterranean", held at RHUL Bedford Square on 1st December 2011. Geographers, political scientists, and historians joined journalists, independent researchers, policy advisers, and think-tank members in a day of discussions. These included: the trans-national links between protests on both sides of the Mediterranean and beyond, such as in the UK riots; the role of the built environment of cities in shaping practices of security and protest; the implications for State, sovereignty, citizenship, and territoriality. Podcast available at: <http://backdoorbroadcasting.net/2011/12/city-state-resistance-spaces-of-protest-in-the-middle-east-and-mediterranean/>

OVERSEAS – FIELDWORK-CONFERENCES

Tim Unwin participated in the Debate on Mobile Learning for the Hard to Reach (<http://www.wise-qatar.org/content/31-mobile-learning-hard-reach>) at the World Innovation Summit for Education, held in Doha, on 3rd November, and Co-Chaired a workshop there on 'Doctorates, development and the brain drain' on 2nd November.

Tim Unwin gave a paper entitled 'On the nature of the university: challenges of learning in a digital world' at the Beijing Forum 2011, held in Beijing on 4th November 2011. This has been published as

Unwin, T (2011) On the nature of the university: challenges of learning in a digital world, in: Inheritance and Innovation in Education, Conference Proceedings of the Beijing Forum 2011, The Harmony of Civilizations and Prosperity for All. Beijing: Peking University, 39-58. He also Chaired a session at the Forum on the Potential of Educational Technology.

David Simon was in Taipei from 9-15th November as part of a team from the IHDP's Urbanization and Global Environmental Change project presenting a training workshop for young social scientists from Southeast and East Asia on cities and climate change issues. This was hosted by the National Taipei University. The UGEC Scientific Steering Committee held its annual meeting in Taipei during the workshop. We also held a very productive half-day consultative dialogue with Taiwanese national and local government officials, headed by the deputy ministers of Economic Planning and Development and of Environmental Protection. **Katie Willis**, currently on sabbatical in Taipei, joined us for dinner one evening.

Mustafa Dikeç gave the closing comments at the international conference 'Le peuplement: catégorie insaisissable des politiques urbaines?', Université Jean Monnet de Saint-Etienne and TRIANGLE-ENS Lyon, France, 17-18 November

Tim Unwin was the proposer at the Online Educa Debate in Berlin on 1 December of the motion that 'This house expresses its concern about the effect developments in technology are increasingly having in personal liberty and believes that this will have serious consequences for learning in the future'; the motion was carried. He also chaired a session on e-learning for change and scalability in Africa at the conference on 2 December.

Ugo Vallauri attended the ICT for Rural Development conference held in Johannesburg, South Africa, 1-3 November. He

presented initial findings from his field research during a session on new media and rural development.

Ugo Vallauri attended the international conference Innovations in Extension and Advisory Services held in Nairobi, Kenya, 15-18 November. He presented a paper based on his recent field research during the Tools and Approaches session: 'Revisiting ICT and rural agricultural development: video as a catalyst for promoting farmer-led innovation exchanges among small-scale farmers in Eastern Kenya'.

Dorothea Kleine served as examiner on the panel for a public PhD defense at Örebro University in Sweden and presented at the related international seminar hosted by the International Network for Post-Graduate Researchers in ICT4D (IPID). The talk was titled: "What choice? Whose choice? ICTs and the lives people have reason to value", Örebro, 10-11 November

Dorothea Kleine was invited to give a keynote speech at the International Conference in Informatics and Development ICID2011 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, Nov 26th, 2011. She spoke on "Teaching ICT skills in gendered spaces: capabilities and the resources of the disadvantaged", Yogyakarta, 26 November

PUBLICATIONS

D F McGregor, **A. Adam-Bradford**, **D.A Thompson** and **D. Simon** (2011) Resource management and agriculture in the periurban interface of Kumasi, Ghana: Problems and prospects, *Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography* 32: 382-398. doi:10.1111/j.1467-9493.2011.00438.x

Duncan McGregor (2011) 'Contemporary Caribbean ecologies: the weight of history',

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Chapter 2 (pp.39-51) in Stephan Palmié and Francisco A. Scarano (eds) *The Caribbean: A History of the Region and its Peoples*, The University of Chicago Press.

Sultana F. & Loftus A., 2011, *The Right to Water: Politics, Governance and Social Struggles*, Routledge: London

Loftus A., 2011, 'Geographical Perspectives on a Radical Political Ecology of Water' in M Richter and U Weiland (eds.) *Applied Urban Ecology*, Wiley-Blackwell: Oxford

Bradley L. Garrett, 'Assaying history: creating temporal junctions through urban exploration' for *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*, volume 29 (6), 1048-1067. +

Bradley L. Garrett, 'Cracking the Paris carrières: corporal terror and illicit encounter under the City of Light', *ACME: An International E-Journal for Critical Geographies*, 10 (2),

David Simon (2011) *Situating slums: discourse, scale and place*, *City* 15(6): 674-685. DOI 10.80/13604813.2011.609011

David Simon *Geographers and/in development*, pp. 2788-90 in D Simon (ed) *Symposium: Geographers and/in development*, *Environment and Planning A* 43: 2788-2800. DOI: 10.1068/a44572.

David Simon (2012) *Hazard, risk and climate change*, Chapter 18 in B. Wisner, JC Gaillard and I. Kelman (eds) *The Routledge Handbook of Hazards and Disaster Risk Reduction*. London and New York: Routledge, pp. 207-219.

BOOK REVIEWS/ABSTRACTS/CONFERENCE REPORTS

Felix Driver, review of L. Koivunen, *Visualizing Africa in Nineteenth-Century British Travel Accounts*, and J. McAleer, *Representing Africa: Landscape, Exploration and Empire*, *English Historical Review* 126 (2011) 1556-60.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Tim Cresswell won an AHRC research fellowship for his project 'Market Place: Material Culture, Representation and Performance in Maxwell Street'. This will allow Tim to complete an important monograph combining a focused study of the history, culture and politics of Maxwell Street Market in Chicago with wider ideas about space, place, representation, movement and identity.

Congratulations to Amy Jeffrey (MSc Quat Sci 10/11) who was awarded the prestigious course academic prize at the LQL meeting on 9th November.

Congratulations to Lauren Davies (MSc Quat Sci 10/11) who was awarded the Philippa Holmes Memorial Prize at the LQL meeting on 9th November.

VISITORS/MEETINGS IN THE DEPARTMENT

Prof. Danny Dorling, The University of Sheffield presented the Gordon Manley Lecture 2011 on 28th November. The lecture was entitled 'Mapping your futures: a dividing Britain in a shrinking world'.

The London Quaternary Lectures were held in the Department on 9th November. Prof Achim Brauer, GFZ German Research Centre for Geosciences, Postdam presented his lecture entitled 'Rapid climate changes recorded in varved lake sediments' and Prof. Ian Fairchild, School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Birmingham presented his lecture entitled 'A Year in the life of a speleothem'.

Prof. Danielle Schreve, Geography Dept., RHUL presented the Departmental Seminar on 23rd November 2011 entitled 'Going underground: the cave dig in Ebbor Gorge, Somerset'.

Jessica Jacobs, RHUL presented the Politics, Development & Sustainability (PDS) Group

Seminar on 28th November entitled 'Participatory Video as Creative Practice: Collaborative Filmmaking Among Bedouin Communities in Jordan'.

Mustafa Dikec presented the Royal Holloway Lectures in Geography on 14th November entitled 'Cities in a Globalizing World'. 180 AS Level students from various schools attended.

Scot Elias presented the Royal Holloway Lectures in Geography on 5th December entitled 'Beringia - the lost world of the Ice Age'

John F. Hoffecker, INSTAAR, University of Colorado presented the QUISS Seminar on 24th November entitled "Information and Human Evolution."

Chris Satow, Royal Holloway University of London presented the QUISS Seminar on 22nd November entitled 'Constructing a distal tephrostratigraphy using proximal volcanic deposits; a case study from the Eastern Mediterranean Sea'.

Katherine Brickell held the first of her HARC-funded events with a seminar by RHUL historians Jane Hamlett, Lesley Hoskins & Rebecca Preston "At Home in the Institution: Accommodating Inmates in Schools, Asylums, and Lodging Houses in London and South East England 1845-1914".

Anna Swales from the Careers Service held a careers talk within the Department on 28th November, to both Undergraduate and Postgraduate students, on 'How to write a Winning CV'.

ANY OTHER NEWS

Leonhardt van Efferink publishes interview with Jo Sharp, Professor of Geography at University of Glasgow, on his website (<http://www.exploringgeopolitics.org/>)

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Leonhardt van Efferink publishes 2011 Geopolitical Review on his website (<http://www.exploringgeopolitics.org/>). The contributors include the geographers Jeremy Crampton (on WikiLeaks), Simon Dalby (on climate change) and Stuart Elden (on 'Occupy' protests).