

# Geography Department News

Monthly Newsletter  
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## STAFF AND STUDENTS

Congratulations to **Danielle Schreve** who has been promoted to a Professorship. This notable achievement reflects her high external standing and the distinctive nature and calibre of her work.

Congratulations to **John Law** who has been awarded his PhD for his thesis entitled 'Automobility and the Expanding Metropolis: Motoring Culture and the Growth of London 1925 -1939'. John's viva took place on 2nd November at Bedford Square and Professor David Matless (Nottingham) and Professor Richard Dennis (UCL) were the examiners. The thesis was passed with no amendments required. John has already published a couple of journal articles from the thesis, and the examiners felt that the work as a whole has real publication possibilities. Particular thanks to **Mustafa Dikec** and **Tim Cresswell** for their support, and the PhD community at Landscape Surgery.

Congratulating to **Jenny Lunn** on successfully defending on 10th November her PhD thesis, 'Faith in Action: religious organisations and social development in Kolkota, India' with minor correction. Her supervisor was **David Simon** and **Katie Willis** was her advisor. Her examiners were Prof Nina Laurie (Newcastle) and Dr Claire Mercer (LSE). Jenny was funded by a ESRC +3 Studentship.

Congratulations to **Caroline Juby** who successfully defended her thesis "London before London: Reconstructing a Palaeolithic Landscape" with only minor corrections to attend to. Her PhD was funded by the AHRC as a Collaborative Doctoral Award with the Museum of London and her co-supervisor was Jon Cotton,

Senior Curator for Prehistory. Her examiners were Dr David Bridgland (Durham University) and Dr Jane Sidell (UCL/English Heritage Inspector of Ancient Monuments for London).

**Felix Driver** examined a PhD thesis by Christina M. Adcock, entitled Tracing warm lines: northern Canadian exploration, knowledge and memory, 1905-1965, at the University of Cambridge, 29 October.

**David Simon** acted as intercollegiate examiner for the PhD thesis by Sarah Quinnell (KCL) entitled 'Building Capacity for Biosafety in Africa: Networks of science, aid and development in Multilateral Environmental Agreement implementation' (supervised by David Demeritt and Debby Potts). The external examiner was James Fairhead (Univ of Sussex).

**Philip Crang** examined the PhD thesis of Julia Verne (nee Pfaff) at the University of Bayreuth. He also gave a seminar talk whilst there.

**Katie Willis** was the external PhD examiner for Anna Barford's thesis entitled 'An international comparative study of attitudes towards socio-economic inequality', at the University of Sheffield. The internal examiner was Dr Pat Noxolo.

**Katie Willis** was the external PhD examiner for Kwei Raye Ng's thesis 'Corporate culture in Singapore: Chinese capitalism, societal characteristics and political economy', at the University of Liverpool. The internal examiner was Dr Rory Miller.

## OUTSIDE ENGAGEMENTS

**Thomas Stevens** took part in the International Association of Sedimentologists (IAS) Bureau meeting in Mendoza on the 1st of October.

**Thomas Stevens** took part in a meeting at the Leibnitz institute for applied Geophysics in Hannover, Germany for meeting of luminescence geochronologists. The meeting was designed as a discussion forum for technique development and identifying key areas of future research.

**Klaus Dodds** gave a lecture to the Oxford Geographical Association on 19th October. The talk was entitled 'Superpower geopolitics' and 70 A level students from 6 local Oxford schools attended.

**Tim Unwin** gave a keynote entitled "m4Development: critical reflections", at the mLife conference, Brighton, 28th October 2010. <http://www.gg.rhul.ac.uk/ict4d/videos/tim-mlife2010.mov>

**Alex Loftus** delivered lectures in the Geography Departments at King's College, London (7th October) and the University of Toronto (29th October) on 'Gramscian Geographies' and 'The Nature of Everyday Life'.

**Alex Loftus** gave a departmental seminar at the Department of Geography, University of Birmingham on 8th November.

**Katie Willis** gave a lecture entitled 'Putting a price on health? Neoliberalism, health and equity in Latin America' as part of the International Development External Speaker Series at the University of East London.

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**David Simon** presented a College (faculty) seminar for the new Centre for Sustainable International Development at Aberdeen University on 24th November, entitled 'The challenges of global environmental change research and policy advocacy'.

**Katie Willis** gave a lecture entitled 'Theories of Development' to the Surrey Geographical Association cluster. About 85 students attended.

**The lure of the lens in art practice and research methods Cultural Heritage, Mobility and Visual Practices** - **Jessica Jacobs** presented and discussed two of her films from the ESRC project 'Rebranding the Levant' at the Tate Britain on October 27. Other participants were Damascus-based photographer Hrair Sarkissian, artists Brad Butler and Karen Mirza and filmmaker Maysoon Pachachi. The seminar sought to address how artists and researchers use lens based practices as creative methodologies, identify where, if at all, similarities may be found between their approaches and to create the space for further discussion and understanding between the two fields. Part of the Inside Out festival organised by the London Centre for Arts and Cultural Exchange (LCACE).

**Clive Gamble** attended the Trustee's dinner at the British Museum on 13 October and where the speaker was Jeremy Hunt MP Secretary of State at DCMS.

**Clive Gamble** spoke in the Prehistoric Society's 75th Birthday debate on October 20th. He proposed the motion that the study of the stone ages had provided more understanding of the human condition than the metal ages. He lost by the narrowest and most suspect of hanging chads.

**Katherine Brickell** participated in an ESRC-funded seminar at the Open University entitled 'Creative arts: methods and practices for engaging with social inequalities'

**Innes Keighren** was appointed Dissertation Prize Coordinator of the Historical Geography Research Group of the RGS-IBG.

**Felix Driver** presented a paper on 'Exploration as Knowledge Transfer? Exhibiting hidden histories' in the seminar series on *Pratiques du voyage et constructions savants du monde (XVIe-XXe siècles)*, Université Denis Diderot-Paris 7, 12 November

**Felix Driver** attended the annual meeting of the Trustees of the Brian Harley Fellowships in the History of Cartography, British Academy, 9 November.

## FIELDWORK- CONFERENCES- OVERSEAS

**Luiza Bialasiewicz** was invited course leader and guest speaker at the Academy of Finland Doctoral School of Geography, with seminars at the Universities of Turku and Helsinki, October 4th-5th.

**Luiza Bialasiewicz** gave an invited lecture on "The Geopolitics of Europe's Borders" at the Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Torino, October 27th.

**Xingmin Meng**, as the General Secretary co-organised the 10th CHIQUA (Chinese Quaternary Association) Congress held at Lanzhou, capital of Gansu Province, China, between 14th and 25th August (including training and field excursion). 577 scientists, researchers and academics attended the congress. Xingmin Meng Chaired the session of "Neotectonic and Geohazards".

**Xingmin Meng**, acted as the Vice Chair of the International Symposium on Zhouqu Debris Flow (occurred at Southern Gansu Province China and killed over 1700 people on 8-8-2010) held at Lanzhou between 20th and 21st October, and chaired the scientific discussion session and gave a presentation on "Landslides and Debris Flows in

Southern Gansu and Formation of the Zhouqu Debris Flow Disaster".



**Katherine Brickell** gave the paper "Proverbial Cultures of 'Home': Gendered Rhetoric on Domestic Life in Contemporary Vietnam" at the Gendering Asia Bi-Annual Conference, University of Copenhagen, Denmark, 12-13 November.

**Steve Jones** presented a paper "Community financing of handpump maintenance: a case study in rural Mali" at the IRC Symposium 2010 'Pumps, Pipes and Promises: Costs, Finances and Accountability for Sustainable WASH Services', in The Hague, Netherlands, 16-18 November.

**Vandana Desai** and **Alex Loftus** presented a paper entitled "Rent, Slum Housing and the Financial Crisis" at the "Alternative Urbanisms" conference organised by the RGS-IBG Urban Geography Research Group on 11th November 2010 at University College London.

**Vandana Desai** attended a workshop on "Managing Your Academic Career: Women in Academia", 10th December 2010 at University of Reading organised by UK Resource Centre for Women in Science, Engineering and Technology.

**Vandana Desai** participated in a workshop on Global Ageing and Development organised by the "New Dynamics of Ageing" a cross council research programme and HelpAge International on 20th December 2010 in London.

**Vandana Desai** was on field trip to Mumbai from 12th November to 26th November 2010, visiting Tata Institute of Social Science, Mumbai, Pune University, NGOs

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and slum communities to set up her research on ageing.

**Luiza Bialasiewicz** gave the Alexander von Humboldt Lecture entitled "Europe in the World: EU Geopolitics and the Management of Borders" at Radboud University, Nijmegen, THE NETHERLANDS on November 29th. She also led two days of graduate workshops on the theme of European borders.

**Rupert Housley** presented an invited paper entitled: "Volcanic microtephra and the Late Glacial

human recolonisation of northern Europe" to an audience drawn from the Centre for Baltic Archaeology in Schleswig, Germany, 5th October.

**Rupert Housley** gave a related presentation entitled "The trials and tribulations of applying tephrochronology to archaeological sites in northern Europe" to the Department of Prehistoric Archaeology in the University of Arhus, Denmark, 7th October.

**David Simon** was in Stellenbosch, South Africa, on 28-9th October in his role as international advisory board member of the University of Stellenbosch's university-wide Food Security Initiative. He presented the opening keynote of the one-day FSI symposium on the subject of 'The urban food challenge: the challenges of global environmental change'.

## PUBLICATIONS

**Jacobs J** (2010) Sex, Tourism and the Postcolonial Encounter; *Landscapes of Longing in Egypt* Ashgate.

**F Driver**, 'Exhibiting South Asian textiles' in C. Breward, **P. Crang** & R. Crill (eds) *British Asian Style: Fashion and Textiles/Past and Present* (V&A Publishing, 2010), 160-73.

**H. Scalway**, 'South Asian patterns in urban spaces' in C. Breward, **P. Crang** & R. Crill (eds) *British*

*Asian Style: Fashion and Textiles/Past and Present* (V&A Publishing, 2010), 174-91.

**H. Scalway**, 'South Asian patterns in urban spaces' in C. Breward, **P. Crang** & R. Crill (eds) *British Asian Style: Fashion and Textiles/Past and Present* (V&A Publishing, 2010), 174-91.

**Craig Martin** (2010). 'Turbulent Stillness: The Politics of Uncertainty and the Undocumented Migrant'. In: Bissell, D. & Fuller, G. (Eds.) *Stillness in a Mobile World*. London: Routledge

**David Simon** (2010) 'The changing context for regional integration in southern Africa: how adaptive are its regional institutions?' *South African Geographical Journal* 92(2): 96-104.

**David Simon** (2010) 'Urban environments: peri-urban issues', *Geography and You* 10(60), May/June, pp.12-16. This is India's popular geographical magazine.

**Brickell, K.** (2011). 'We don't forget the old rice pot when we get the new one': Gendered Discourses on Ideals and Practices of Women in Contemporary Cambodia. *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* 36(2): 438-462.

Weber, M.-J., Clausen, I., **Housley, R.A.**, Miller, C.E., Riede, F., & contribution by Usinger, H. (2010) New information on the Havelte Group site Ahrenshöft LA 58 D (Nordfriesland, Germany) - preliminary results of the 2008 fieldwork, *Quartär* 57, 7-24.

## BOOK REVIEWS-ABSTRACTS-CONFERENCE REPORTS

The Political Studies Association published a conference report by **Leonhardt van Efferink** in its *NEWS magazine*. The report describes his experiences during an International Boundaries Research Unit conference at Durham University.

**David Simon** contributed a paper on 'The challenge of global environmental change - research and policy advocacy' to the online Commonwealth Climate Change Communication Conference (C8), running through much of November.

**F Driver**, 'The ice warriors' (review of Huntford, R *Race for the South Pole: the Expedition Diaries of Scott and Amundsen*), BBC History, Nov 2010, 71-2 (another version in 'Diaries to the death', BBC Knowledge, Nov/Dec 2010, 91-2).

## VISITORS-MEETINGS IN THE DEPARTMENT

Prof. Steve Wainwright, Kings College London presented the Departmental Seminar on 7th October entitled 'Science Studies and the Practice of Physical Geography'.

Prof. Itay Fischhendler, Hebrew Univ. of Jerusalem & Visiting Professor at Geography Dept., RHUL presented the Departmental Seminar on 21st October entitled 'Spatial and temporal dynamics of linkage politics: Arab-Israeli Water Negotiations'.

**Dr. Jessica Jacobs**, Department of Geography, RHUL presented the Departmental Seminar on 4th November entitled 'Visualising the Past: Re-branding the present heritage and modernity in Amman and Damascus'.

**Dr. Mark Pelling**, Department of Geography, Kings College London presented the Departmental Seminar on 18th November entitled 'Climate Adaptation: From Resilience to Transformation'.

**Dr Ulrich Muller**, Institute of Geosciences, Goethe University Frankfurt presented the QUISS Seminar on 18th October entitled 'The Role of Climate in the Spread of Modern Humans into Europe'.

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Prof Nicholas Pinter & Prof Andrew Scott of Dept of Geology, Southern Illinois University & Dept of Earth Sciences, RHUL presented the CQR Lecture on 14th October entitled "The Younger Dryas Impact Hypothesis: A Requiem".

**Prof Scott Elias**, Royal Holloway, University of London presented the QUISS Seminar on 11th November entitled 'Holocene climates and archaeology of western and southern Alaska'.

**Stephen Jones**, Department of Geography, RHUL presented the CEDAR Seminar on 11th November entitled 'Participation as citizenship or payment? A case study of rural drinking water governance in Mali'.

Andrew Falconer, Careers Adviser, RHUL presented the Careers Finalists' Presentation on 8th December entitled 'What Next'.

Dr. Farhana Sultana, Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University presented the PERG Seminar, held in conjunction with CEDAR, on 30th November. The presentation was entitled 'Contaminated Identities, Polluted Waters, and Disrupted Development'.

Prof. Mike Hulme, University of East Anglia presented the Gordon Manley Lecture 2010 on 22nd November. The lecture was entitled 'Climate Change: what are we arguing about?'

Prof. Mike Hulme, University of East Anglia held the Postgraduate Seminar on 22nd November for a discussion based on two of his recent papers, 'Geographical work at the boundaries of climate change' (2008) and 'Problems with making and governing global kinds of knowledge' (2010).

## **ANY OTHER NEWS**

**Leonhardt van Efferink** interviewed Martin Geiger, a Research Fellow at the Institute for Migration Research and

Intercultural Studies at the University of Osnabrück. The interview, published on [www.exploringgeopolitics.org](http://www.exploringgeopolitics.org), is about the new book "The Politics of International Migration Management".

