

Geography Department News

Monthly Newsletter
Royal Holloway, University of London

October/November 2008
Number 180

STAFF AND STUDENTS

Congratulations to **Chris Stringer**, our Visiting Professor, who was the winner of the Best Archaeological Book 2008 at Monday's British Archaeological Awards at the British Museum, for his book *Homo britannicus*, which documents the Department's Ancient Human Occupation of Britain project. The biennial British Archaeological Awards, founded in 1976, are the most prestigious in British archaeology and cover every aspect of British archaeology.

Welcome **Ms Robyn Christie** who was appointed our new Laboratory Technician in Palaeoecology. Robyn completed her MSc Quaternary Science degree with the Department.

Andrew Brooks gave an evening lecture for the Royal African Society, at SOAS on the 14th of October, based on his MSc dissertation. The lecture was entitled: *Chinese-African Labour Relations and the Weaving of Discontent at Zambia-China Mulungushi Textiles*

Andrew Brooks was interviewed for the CNBC 'Markets Africa' television programme on the 15th of October at their studios in central London. He discussed Chinese investment in Africa and the workers rights. The interview is due to be broadcast in early November.

Craig Martin Presented paper entitled 'Re-Securing and the 'Ever-Presence' of the Accident' at the 'Securitising Mobilities and Circulations' workshop at Keele University, 27-28 November 2008

as part of the ESRC/Biopolitics of Security Network Seminar Series on 'Contemporary Biopolitical Security'

OUTSIDE ENGAGEMENTS

Simon Blockley has been appointed as external examiner for the new MSc in Dating & Chronology: Archaeological and Quaternary Science, Queens Belfast.

Tim Unwin gave an address on 'Partnerships for ICT4 Development: towards a framework of good practice' and also the final 'wrap-up' concluding statement at the Chatham House conference on "Technology: a Platform for Development?" on 30-31 October

Clive Gamble has been appointed to the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Archaeology in the Low Countries*.

Dorothea Kleine was invited to present findings from the EPSRC Fair Tracing Project at the Nokia Research Lab in Tampere. She also met with local activists and the Nokia Green Team to plan potential further collaboration. Tampere, Oct 10 .

Tim Unwin gave a seminar on 'Multi-stakeholder partnerships in ICT4D' at the Oxford Department of International Development, Queen Elizabeth House, 20th November 2008.

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NOTICES

📍 Departmental Seminar - Danny McCarroll, University of Wales - 'Climate Change and the New Millennium' - 4.12.08, Room 136.

🌐 CQR Double Seminar - 8.12.08, 5-7pm, Room 136 - Prof. Andrew Roberts - 'Excursions of the Earth's Magnetic Field: Why Does it Wander, Where & for How Long? And Prof. Eelco Rohling - 'Red Sea Sea-Level Changes - New Constraints on Timing & Important Implications for the Modern Climate State'

🌐 CEDAR Seminar - Auchariya Yongphrayoon, RHUL - 'Hedonic Price Model & GIS for Mass Land Valuation in Bangkok Metropolis' - 1.12.08, Room 136

Last day of Term - 12th December

Discretionary Days - 24/12/08, 29/12/08, 30/2/08, 31/12/08, 2/1/09

As UK Vice President of the European River Sea Transport Union, **David Hilling** attended the annual board meeting, Valletta, Malta, (3-4 November, 2008)

David Hilling presented a seminar on port redevelopment ('From Docking to Dining - McPort is with us') for the UK section of the International Commission for Maritime History (13 November, 2008)

David Hilling presented a paper on 'The birth, life and death(?) of a maritime technology' (barge carrying ships) at London Metropolitan University's Centre for International Trade and Transport (20 November, 2008)

On November 12th , **Luiza Bialasiewicz** gave an invited seminar to the Department of Geography at the University of Hull entitled 'Empire by Example: For a Critical Geopolitics of (EU)ropean Power'

November 13th and 14th, **Luiza Bialasiewicz** and **Claudio Minca** took part in the British Academy-funded closed workshop entitled 'Lines in the Sand: Non-Territorial Bordering Practices in Global Politics' at the University of Exeter, Cornwall Campus.

Rupert Housley gave a talk to the Department of Archaeology, University of Reading entitled 'Around the world in 20 days: the relevance of volcanic eruptions, microtephra horizons, and abrupt climate change to the Palaeolithic record of Europe', 13 November.

Mustafa Dikeç gave a keynote address at the Urban multiPLICITIES, conference organised by the RGS-IBG Urban Geography Research Group, Queen Mary, University of London, 6-7 November. His talk was entitled 'Police, politics and the city'.

Mustafa Dikeç participated in the (successful) prospectus defense of Ali Aslam, a political science PhD student at Duke University. Ali's dissertation is entitled

'Architecture and Democratic Friendship'.

Mustafa Dikeç participated in a public debate organised around the special issue of *Espaces et Sociétés* on space and politics, which he guest-edited with Jean-Pierre Garnier. The debate took place in Le genre urbain bookstore in Belleville in the evening of 20 November.

Clive Gamble delivered the annual Peterson Lecture at the Penn Museum (The University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology) on November 13th.

Clive Gamble, Vice President of the Society of Antiquaries of London, presided at the meeting of the North American Fellowship on November 14th at the Harvard Faculty Club, Cambridge Massachusetts

Alasdair Pinkerton addressed a special joint meeting of the Royal Asiatic Society and the Royal Society for Asian Affairs on 20th November 2008. He spoke about 'Radio and the Ra: broadcasting in British India', drawing upon a recently-published article, shortlisted for the Sir George Staunton prize.

Vandana Desai has been appointed as a gender adviser from November 2008 to the Diversity Unit of the British Council. The Unit is responsible for setting the strategic direction and supporting implementation for the British Council's work in equality and diversity, across all 110 offices worldwide.

As part of her postdoctoral fellowship, **Hilary Geoghegan** convened a one-day workshop entitled 'Object Love-in: stories from the Science Museum stores' on Thursday, 6th November 2008. This event was attended by Science Museum curators and geographers from Royal Holloway (**Felix Driver**, **Clive Gamble** and **David Gilbert**), Exeter (**Ian Cook** and **Simon Naylor**) and Nottingham (**Georgina Endfield** and **Carol Morris**). The 'Object Love-in' involved a curator-led tour of the stores and was

followed by a roundtable discussion of the collections, the space of the store and future geography/museum collaboration.

PUBLICATIONS

Felix Driver, 'Geography and power: the work of Michel Foucault' (1985), reprinted in C. Philo (ed), *Theory and Methods: Critical Essays in Human Geography* (Ashgate, 2008), 443-52.

Blockley, S.P.E, **Bronk Ramsey, C**, **Pyle, D.M.** 2008. Improved age modelling and high-precision age estimates of late Quaternary tephra, for accurate palaeoclimate reconstruction. *Journal of Volcanology and Geothermal Research*. 177s 251-262.

Finsinger, W., **Belis, C.**, **Blockley, S.P.E.**, **Eicher, U.**, **Leuenberger, M.**, **Lotter, A.F.**, **Ammann, B.** 2008. Temporal patterns in lacustrine stable isotopes as evidence for climate change during the late glacial in the Southern European Alps *Journal of Paleolimnology*. 40, 885-895.

David Simon (2008) 'Urban environments: issues on the peri-urban fringe', *Annual Review of Environment and Resources* 33, pp. 167-185.

Cresswell, T 2008 Understanding mobility holistically: the case of Hurricane Katrina, In **S Bergmann** and **T Sager** (eds) *The Ethics of Mobilities: Rethinking Place, Exclusion, Freedom and Environment*. (Ashgate).

Creswell, T 2008 'Place: Encountering Geography as Philosophy' *Geography* 93/3: pp 132-139.

Woodyer, Tara (2008) 'The body as research tool: embodied practice and children's geographies', *Children's Geographies*, 6(4), pp.349-362.

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Kuzmina, S., Elias, S. A., Matheus, P., Storer, J. E., and Sher, A., 2008. Paleoenvironmental reconstruction of the Last Glacial Maximum, inferred from insect fossils from a tephra buried soil at Tempest Lake, Seward Peninsula, Alaska. *Palaeoclimatology, Palaeogeography, Palaeoecology*, 267, 245-255.

Charles Howie's work on curriculum development in Vietnam is now featured on the RGS' site Geography Today: <http://www.rgs.org/GeographyToday/geographyarchive.htm#vietnam>

Scur, F. (2008) ICT4D Stakeholder Co-ordination and Co-operation: evidence from a Tanzanian-German Co-operation, Saarbrücken: VDM Verlag Dr. Muller Aktiengesellschaft

Mustafa Dikeç and Jean-Pierre Garnier (eds), 2008 *Repenser l'espace et le politique* ('Rethinking space and the political'), special issue of *Espaces et Sociétés*, vol. 134, n. 3.

Scott A. Elias, Barnaby Crocker, 2008. The Bering Land Bridge: a moisture barrier to the dispersal of steppe-tundra biota? *Quaternary Science Reviews* 27: 2473-2483.

Derbyshire, E. (ed.) *Planet Earth* (North America Edition), Boston & Hannah International, London and New York, 164pp.

Brickell, K. 2008. 'Fire in the House': Gendered Experiences of Drunkenness & Violence in Siem Reap, Cambodia. *Geoforum* 39(5): 1667-1675.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Varyl Thorndycraft has been awarded a Staff Teaching Prize for developing seminars in the GG2021 Geomorphology course that aim to improve student confidence in the use of quantitative methods in physical geography through linking virtual

fieldwork using Google-Earth with spreadsheet calculation of key geomorphological equations. VT would like to thank Don Thompson for his support and role in the design of the seminars.

Varyl Thorndycraft and Simon Armitage have been awarded €15,000 to participate in the FLOOD-MED project (Flood hazards in the Mediterranean in the context of climate variability and environmental change) funded by the Spanish Ministry of Education and Science. The project is in collaboration with the CSIC Madrid, Complutense Universidad de Madrid and the Universidad Politecnica de Valencia.

VISITORS - MEETINGS IN THE DEPARTMENT

Dr Richard Cosgrove from La Trobe University presented the QUISS Seminar on 21st October. The title of his presentation was "Middle to Late Pleistocene Hominid Settlement of China".

Abdou Maliq Simone from the Department of Sociology, Goldsmiths delivered the CEDAR Workshop on 22nd October. The title of this was 'Intersecting Urbanization from Jakarta to Dakar'.

The London Quaternary Lectures were held on the 19th of November and the Speakers were Dr. Roger Jacobi from the British Museum with his lecture entitled 'The early Lateglacial recolonisation of Britain' and Dr. Adrian Lister from the Natural History Museum whose lecture was entitled 'Mammalian responses to environmental change through the last glacia/interglacial transition'.

Nadarajah Shanmugaratnam from the Dept of International Environment & Development Studies, Norwegian University of Life Sciences, presented the CEDAR Seminar on 10th November. His presentation was entitled 'Militarisation, Ethno-Territoriality & Livelihoods in the North & East of Sri Lanka'.

Nadarajah Shanmugaratnam from the Dept of International Environment & Development Studies, Norwegian University of Life Sciences presented the PERG/CEDAR Seminar on 11th November and lead a discussion drawing on his new 2008 book "Between War and Peace - Deprivation and Livelihood Revival in Sudan and Sri Lanka" published by James Currey, Oxford, UK.

Nadarajah Shanmugaratnam from the Dept of International Environment & Development Studies, Norwegian University of Life Sciences presented the PERG/CEDAR workshop on 11th November. The title of her presentation was 'Conflict, post-conflict and development'.

David Dodman from the International Institute for Environment and Development Studies (IIED) presented the CEDAR Workshop entitled 'Vulnerability and adaptation to climate change in urban areas: an environment and development approach' on 19th November.

Dorothea Kleine and David Simon organised an international workshop entitled "Ethical Consumption, Traceability and ICT" at Royal Holloway on Oct 23rd. It was hosted by CEDAR and the ICT4D Collective/UNESCO Chair in ICT4D and funded by an EPSRC grant offered through the Dean of Graduate Studies. The workshop brought together 35 participants from business, NGOs, and academia. Speakers included Tim Wilson (Historicfutures), Wesa Aapro (Consumergadget), Annesley Newholm (Easyethical), Rob Harrison (Ethiscore), Juha Kaario (Nokia Green Team) and Anne Light, Macarena Vivent, Dorothea Kleine (Fair Tracing). Ben Coles, Mary Dengler, Vandana Desai, Gary Hetherington, David Hollow, Katie Willis and Tim Unwin participated in the workshop and students Andrew Brooks, Lucy Fenner, Simon

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Hepher and Rebecca Sankar, assisted by Jenny Kynaston, exhibited posters of their research projects on ethical consumption.

From the ICT4D Collective, **Win Min Tun, Andrea Burris, Marije Geldof, David Hollow, Niels-Peter Nielsen** and **Ugo Vallauri** assisted in running the workshop on the day.

Ian Brown (Oxford Internet Institute), Ann Light (Sheffield Hallam University), Macarena Vivent (Universidad de La Frontera, Chile), Helen Le Voi (Fair Tracing), Wesa Aapro (Consumergadget) and Juha Kaario (Nokia Green Team) met with **Dorothea Kleine** for a one-day workshop to plan collaboration on a mobile interface trial of Fair Tracing. Royal Holloway, Oct 24

Pauliina Raento from the University of Helsinki presented the PERG Seminar Series "Borders & Belonging in Europe" on 27th November. The title of her presentation was 'Stomaching Change: Food, Finns & boundaries in the EU'.

Detlef Mueller-Mahn from the University of Bayreuth presented the Departmental Seminar on 20th November. The title of the presentation was 'Disasters, Development & the Production of Risk'.

Ian Matthews, Anna Bourne & Dr Simon Blockley of RHUL presented the QUISS Seminar on 26th November and the title of their presentation was "Tephrochronology in the Central Mediterranean: Tephra Distribution, Climatic Implications & Future Potential".

David Dodman from the International Institute for Environment and Development Studies (IIED) presented the CEDAR workshop on 19th November entitled 'Vulnerability and adaptation to climate change in urban areas: an environment and development approach'.

Niels Peter Nielsen, Ugo Vallauri

and **Uduak Okon** convened a workshop on "Community and Communication" in the Department on 15th November, on behalf of the ICT4D Collective and CEDAR. Speakers included Shirin Madon (LSE), Marek Tuszynski (Tactical Tech), Josh Underwood (London Knowledge Lab), Richard Duncombe (IDPM, University of Manchester), Uduak Okon (Royal Holloway, University of London) and Avril McIntyre (LifeLine)

Prof Erkki Sutinen (Head of Department), Clint Rogers and Tersia Gowases from the Department of Computer Science at the University of Joensuu, Finland, visited the Department from 26-28 November to discuss the Edulink funded ICT4D consortium between European and African Higher Education Institutions.

FIELDWORK CONFERENCES OVERSEAS

Tim Unwin gave the opening Keynote Address on "ICT4D - reflections on an unfinished journey...", at the TIER (Technology and Infrastructure for Emerging Regions) 2008 workshop held at the University of California, Berkeley, 17-18 October 2008.

Simon Blockley was on fieldwork in Morocco sampling long archaeological records on the Atlantic seaboard. Samples are being taken for tephrochronology and palaeoenvironmental analyses and form part of the work in the RESET project.

Duncan McGregor gave a lecture entitled "Farming on the Fringes: Environmental Change in Semi-arid Kenya" to the Geographical Society of Jamaica during his sabbatical research visit to Jamaica 1-16 October. As well as undertaking field research on farming systems in semi-arid St Elizabeth, Duncan had researched meetings with a number of agencies including: Rural Physical Planning (Min. of Agriculture); Institute of Sustainable Development; Environmental

Foundation of Jamaica; Rural Agriculture Development Agency; and, at UWI, Centre for Nuclear Sciences (on heavy metals and soil chemistry) and Centre for Risk Reduction. Duncan also visited the University of the West Indies Press, who confirmed that his edited book (with David Barker and David Dodman) *Global Change and Caribbean Vulnerability* will be published in 2009. This will be the 4th book published by UWI Press in David Barker and Duncan's RGS/IBG British-Caribbean Geography Seminar Series.

As UK Vice President of the European River Sea Transport Union, **David Hilling** presented a paper on 'River Sea Shipping and the Island State - UK' at the first European Sea River Shipping seminar, Paris, 24/10/08.

Dorothea Kleine was an invited speaker at the International Mindtrek Conference on Social Media and Gaming. She participated on a panel on "Green 2.0" - discussing the way online social networking could be used for ethical consumption practices. Tampere, Finland, Oct 9

As member of the scientific advisory group to the Deutsche Telekom T-City project, **Dorothea Kleine** participated in "E-Motion 2008. Stadtentwicklung und IuK Technologien", a conference on the role of ICTs in local and regional development, Bonn, Oct 21-22

Ugo Vallauri attended Mobile Active 08 in Johannesburg, South Africa, 13-15 October, where he chaired a session and gave a presentation on "Mobiles in Rural Development and Agriculture Livelihoods"

Ugo Vallauri attended the 2008 Community Informatics Conference: "ICTs for Social Inclusion: What is the Reality?" in Prato, Italy, 28-30 October. He gave a presentation on "The role of ICT

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in redefining rural communities in Italy and Kenya" as part of the PhD Colloquium.

David Simon was in Bangkok from 30 October -1 November to lead a workshop for staff and regional partners of UN-Habitat's Disasters Management Programme (DMP) (their humanitarian division) on how to integrate global environmental/climate change awareness into their agendas and activities. This was very well received. From Bangkok, David then travelled to Nanjing to participate in the Fourth World Urban Forum, 3-6 November. This is UN-Habitat's biennial global event bringing together UN staff, national, regional and local government officials, civil society including community based organisations, researchers and academics, and the private sector. David had roles in four sessions, three by invitation. He was co-organiser of a session co-sponsored by IHDP's UGEC programme, ENDA Tiers Monde and UN-Habitat on Localising Global Environmental Change in Cities of the South. He participated in a UN-Habitat DMP panel on Opening Minds, Closing Gaps - addressing humanitarianism and cities (a session feeding into the policy division framing of urban disaster risk); and presented the invited opening paper on 'The dynamic relationships between cities and global environmental change' in the UN-HABITAT Urban Researchers' Roundtable on Climate Change and Cities (feeding into the Global Human Settlements Report 2011 on climate change and cities). He also served as panellist and rapporteur for the fourth Dialogue session, entitled Harmonising the Built and Natural Environments, which was ably chaired by Steve Bradshaw, editor and presenter of BBC World's 'Life on the Edge' series.

Tim Unwin gave the Opening keynote on 'ICT4D: Partnerships and post-constructivist education in development practice' at Universitat Oberta de Catalunya UNESCO Chair in e-Learning, Fifth International Seminar, 12th-14th November 2008, Barcelona,

Spain.

During an overseas institutional visit to the National University of Singapore during October and November, Amanda Rogers presented a paper entitled 'Emotional Geographies of Method Acting in Asian American Theatre' at the Department of Geography, National University of Singapore, 24th October 2008. She also presented a paper entitled 'Geographies of Diasporic Performance' at the Department of Geography, National Taiwan University, 4th November 2008. Amanda also presented a paper entitled 'Filipino artistic practice' at the Institute of Regional Policy and Development, National Taitung University Taiwan, 6th November 2008.

Amanda also participated in a theatrical roundtable discussion entitled "Unpacking Performance" at Taitung Theatre Company 7th November 2008, organised an interdisciplinary workshop on 'Performance and South East Asian Identity' at the Department of Geography, National University of Singapore, 19th November 2008 and presented a paper entitled 'Spatializing the Intercultural' at the 'Performance and South East Asian Identity' workshop. Department of Geography, National University of Singapore, 19th November 2008. She also gave a seminar entitled 'Spatializing the Intercultural in Imelda: A New Musical' at the Department of Geography, University of Sheffield, 26th November 2008.

Rupert Housley undertook fieldwork on 3 open-air Late-glacial sites in north eastern Flanders, Belgium for RESET. With assistance from collaborators based in the Flemish Heritage Institute and the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven the following sites were sampled for tephra analysis: Arendonk De Liereman (Antwerpen province), Lommel Maatheide and Opgrimbie (Limberg province), 4-8 November.

Scott Elias attended a two-day workshop at Hohenheim University, Stuttgart, Germany,

as a participant in an EU proposal to be submitted in January, 2009. The project concerns the reconstruction of environments from a number of sites around the world (Europe, Africa, China) in which the rapid climatic warming associated with the beginnings of the last interglacial period (ca. 125,000 years ago) are documented in sedimentary records. The workshop included 20 participants from Germany, Italy, Sweden, Serbia, Sweden, and the UK.

David Lambert presented a paper to the London Group of Historical Geographers on 18 November entitled 'Geographical knowledge, Atlantic slavery and the culture of West African exploration'.

ANY OTHER NEWS

Rick Mitcham, who did a BA, MA and PhD in the Department (the last completed in 2001) got married in his new home in Kyoto, Japan, on 16-17 September. Rick was previously employed in the National Archives at Kew. The photos show Rick and Yuri enjoying both the bureaucratic and the ceremonial aspects of the event!

