

# Geography Department News

Monthly Newsletter  
Royal Holloway, University of London

September & October 2011  
Number 205

## STAFF AND STUDENTS

**P**rofessor Tim Unwin took early retirement from the Department on 30th September 2011. It is no exaggeration to suggest that this marks a significant moment in the history of Geography at Bedford and Royal Holloway Colleges. Tim joined the Department at Bedford in 1981 and moved to Royal Holloway at the time of the merger. He has served the Department and the Discipline in just about every capacity imaginable, notably as Head of Department. Tim was the driving force in bringing the IBG conference to Royal Holloway in 1992, which played a significant role in putting the Department firmly on the map of international Geography. Tim's contributions and achievements in the Department are simply too manifold to list in a short note - one indication is the extraordinary range of courses taught, from medieval historical geography, through the brilliant and much loved geographies of wine course, to more recent highly innovative work on IT and development. His research has been similarly wide-ranging, with expertise not just in historical geography, the wine industry and ICT4D, but also in the philosophy of the discipline and in its pedagogy. He has throughout this career as a Geographer maintained remarkable (some would say super-human) levels of energy and commitment. It will surprise no-one that his early retirement is nothing of the sort, as he extends the work that began with his work leading Tony Blair's Imfundo: Partnership for IT in Education initiative in the early 2000s and developed with his ongoing passion for the use of ICT in the global south. He has become an Emeritus Chair at Royal Holloway and his position as

UNESCO chair in ICT4D has recently been renewed to 2015. Tim has taken the position as Chief Executive Officer of the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation, but will maintain the closest of working relationships with the Department. We wish him well for his future work, and thank him for all that he has achieved here.

**Mary Dengler** left the Department in September, due to family commitments. We wish Mary all the best for the future.

Congratulations to **Andrew Brooks** who successfully defended his thesis entitled 'Riches from Rags or Persistent Poverty? Inequality in the Transnational Second-hand Clothing Trade in Mozambique'. The examiners were Kate Gough (Geography, Loughborough) and Cris Cramer (Development Studies, SOAS). His supervisor was **David Simon**. Thanks also to **Dorothea**, who was Andy's advisor. Andy has settled in well in the Geography Dept at King's and is enjoying his teaching.

Welcome to **Dr Carlos López Galviz** who joined the Department on 1st October as research assistant on **Mustafa Dikec's** AHRC funded project on 'Pumping Time', a study of the public distribution of time in the late 19th century. Carlos's earlier work has been on the history of urban transport systems.

Welcome to **Dr Céline Tschirhart** from the University of Strasbourg, who has been appointed as

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## NOTICES

Gordon Manley Lecutre 2011 - Prof. Danny Dorling, the University of Sheffield - 'Mapping your futures: a dividing Britain in a shrinking world' - 28.11.11 at 5pm, MLT

Departmental Seminar - Prof. Danielle Schreve, RHUL - 'Going underground: the cave dig in Ebbor Gorge, Somerset' - 23.11.11 at 1pm, QB170

PDS Seminar - Jessica Jacobs, RHUL - 'Participatory video as creative practice: Collaborative film making among Bedouin communities in Jordan' - 28.11.11 at 1pm - QB171.

QUISS Seminar - Chris Satow, RHUL - 'constructing a distal tephrostratigraphy using proximal volcanic deposits; a case study from the Eastern Mediterranean Sea' - 22.11.11 at 5pm, QB136

research assistant on **Jay Mistry's** EU-funded COBRA project - 'Local solutions for future challenges: Community Owned Best practice for sustainable Resource Adaptive management in the Guiana Shield, South America'.

Welcome to **John Abraham** who has been appointed as part-time administrator for the COBRA project.

Welcome to **Noam Leshem** a Visiting Lecturer who will be lecturing GG2053 Cities, Economies & Ecologies.

Welcome to **Claudia Lopez**, who will be with the Department for 3 weeks from the start of October working with **Dorothea Kleine**.

Welcome to **Paul Lincoln**, Laboratory Technician, who will be working with **Rupert Housley** on RESET.

Welcome to **Lauren Davies**, Laboratory Technician, who will be working with **Rupert Housley** on RESET.

**Felix Driver** has been appointed as international officer in the British Academy's Geography & Anthropology section.

**Klaus Dodds** was on the BBC World Service, the World Today, BBC Radio Wales on 7th October to discuss the potential of untapped fuel resources in the arctic as melting ice makes areas more accessible but warns of the pollution risks of mining in these areas.

Congratulations to **Natasha Dayes** who won a place on the highly competitive BP Widening Participation Programme. The summer scheme, run by BP's Positively Ethnic Network (PEN), saw Natasha spend a week in Sunbury at the company's offices.

## OUTSIDE ENGAGEMENTS

**Tim Unwin** has been awarded the title of Honorary Professor at the Research School of Arid Environment and Climate Change

Information at Lanzhou University, Gansu, China, and in this role gave a lecture on 26 August 2011 on the title of "Communication Technologies for Development: rhetoric or reality?"

**Felix Driver** gave a paper on 'The imperial map: iconography, genealogy, government' in a symposium on New Imperial Geographies convened by David Lambert and Steve Legg, Bedford Square, 30 August.

**Tim Cresswell** was part of the Nowhereisland team that accompanied artist, Alex Hartley, to Svalbard, in the High Arctic, in order to collect six tonnes of rock and gravel from an island recently revealed by a retreating glacier. The material was then sailed into international waters north of the 80th parallel and declared a new nation. It will be used to make a sculpture of Nowhereisland to be towed around the southwest of England during the Olympics. Tim formed part of a team of "brightest minds" who discussed the various political, cultural and environmental possibilities in forming a new nation while on board the boat. You can sign up as a citizen and follow the thoughts of the team and weekly resident thinkers at [nowhereisland.org](http://nowhereisland.org).

**Katherine Brickell** was invited to give a paper on 'Home Interiors, Nationalism and Identity in Peninsular Malaysia and Inland Australia: The Art Photography of Simryn Gill at the 'Home Spaces' workshop held at Birkbeck University, London.

**Katherine Brickell** organised a panel with 12 scholars presenting on 'Laos: Historical and Contemporary Transitions' at the 27th Association of Southeast Asian Studies in the United Kingdom conference held at the Magdalen College, Cambridge. She also gave a paper entitled 'Gender, Livelihoods, and Change in Luang Prabang, Northern Laos'

**Simon Blockley** attended the Vale of Pickering statement of importance meeting hosted by

English Heritage, held in Pickering North Yorks.

**Simon Blockley** Attended the COST-INTIMATE workshop on marine radiocarbon reservoirs at the Geological Society, London.

**Bradley L. Garrett** was interviewed in Studio Magazine about exploring the London Underground in a piece 'Londra Underground: L'esplorazione del sottosuolo ci rende cittadini più consapevoli? Il caso Londra', by Nicola Bozzi, Studio Magazine, 4th October 2011 <http://www.rivistastudio.com/articoli/sviscerando-lunderground-di-londra/>

**Amanda Rogers** gave a paper entitled "Touring British East Asian transnationality: Identity, creativity and intersecting Mobilities" at 'Contesting British Chinese Cultures' conference University of Reading, 24-25th September.

**Dorothea Kleine** was Co-Convenor, with Saskia Harmsen and Ilse Oosterlaken, of an Expert Workshop on ICT4D and the Capabilities Approach, pre-conference event at the Annual Conference of the Human Development and Capabilities Association, sponsored by the HDCA Design and Technology Thematic Group, and co-hosted by the RHUL ICT4D Centre, the foundation International Institute for Communication and Development (IICD) and the Ethics and Technology Group at Delft University; IICD, The Hague, Sept 5, 2011. Three colleagues from the ICT4D Centre/UNESCO Chair, Yingqin Zheng (Management), David Grimshaw (Visiting Professor) and Dorothea Kleine, attended the conference. Dorothea gave a conference paper on: The spaces of Amartya Sen revisited: capabilities, technologies and the geographical, Sept 8, 2011

**Vandana Desai** and **David Simon** participated in a meeting of the All Party Parliamentary Group on

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International Development and the Environment, chaired by Michael Meacher MP, in the Palace of Westminster on 17th October. The subject was the view from the streets: citizen-led contributions to urban poverty reduction, with speakers from several community-based NGOs in India and South Africa.

**Danielle Schreve** gave a lecture on behalf of the Geological Society of London entitled 'The Thames Through Time' on the 20th of September as part of the prestigious Burlington House Lecture Series. This is a joint interdisciplinary initiative organised by the Royal Academy and the five learned societies that occupy the quad (Society of Antiquaries, Linnean Society, Geological Society of London, Royal Astronomical Society and the Royal Society of Chemistry). The aim of the lecture series is to allow the organisations to 'break down the barriers between the arts and sciences, improving cross-fertilisation and communication between the disciplines'.

**Simon Armitage, Thomas Stevens** and **Anna Bird** all attended the 'Windy Day' conference on aeolian processes, landforms and deposits at the University of Sheffield on the 19th of October 2011.

**Tim Cresswell** gave a keynote address to the 7th annual Urbanism PHD Conference at IUAV Venice on 28th October. This talk was titled "Citizenship in a Mobile World"

### **RGS-IBG Conference**

The RGS-IBG commenced its annual conference with an inaugural Postgraduate Forum Annual Conference Training Symposium (PGF -ACTS).

**Prof. Klaus Dodds** was one of the key speakers, sharing his expertise and experience on many matters including publishing, career advice and public engagement. A good number of Royal Holloway students were in attendance.



RHUL delegates with **Klaus Dodds** after his speech at the inaugural PG Forum Training Symposium at the 2011 RGS-IBG conference. **L-R Caterina Martinelli; Terri Moreau; Klaus Dodds; Lise Andreassen; Wouter Geerts; Mia Hunt ; Anna Heywood.** Thanks to Anna Heywood for the photo.

On 31st August, **Mike Dolton** and **Rob Imrie** (Kings College London) gave a paper at the IBG entitled 'From supermarkets to community building: Tesco plc, place making and urban regeneration'.

**Felix Driver** gave a paper entitled 'Visual culture and the geographical imagination: Michael Huxley and the Geographical Magazine', in the session on Geographical Publishing and Print Culture convened by Louise Henderson, RGS-IBG Annual Conference, 31 August.

**Felix Driver** was discussant in the day session on 'Geographies of collecting', convened by Caroline Cornish and **Philip Hatfield** (British Library), RGS-IBG Annual Conference, 2 September.

**Felix Driver** chaired the session on 'Art, culture and identity', RGS-IBG Annual Conference, 1 September.

**Amanda Rogers** organised two sessions on Mobile Geographies of Art at the RGS, with a paper entitled "Scotland-Singapore Collaborations: sites of creative exchange".

**Leonhardt van Efferink** presented his paper "The indispensable key to India? The British Empire and the 'scripting' of Afghanistan" at the 'New and Emerging Research in Historical Geography' panel of the RGS-IBG Annual Conference.

**Dorothea Kleine** was Co-Convenor of the EGRG/DARG sponsored session: "Geographical perspectives on ICT and Development Discourse, Policy and Practice", co-organised with Dr Mark Graham (Oxford Internet Institute) at the RGS-IBG AC2011. The Session was co-hosted by the ICT4D Centre and the Oxford Internet Institute; Dorothea gave a paper on: The place in technology, the place of technology - Meeting ICT4D on Geography's terms, 1 Sept 2011.

**Bradley Garrett, Jessica Jacob** and **Katherine Brickell** convened at the RGS-IBG Annual Meeting, 31st August - 2nd September 2011, London, under the broad theme Moving geographies: film and video as research method, the following three sessions:

Moving geographies (1): Projects, participants and perspectives - participatory video in practice

Moving geographies (2): Spaces, places and communities, picturing places through film and video

Moving geographies (3): Sensory video and the embodied spaces of film and video

### **OVERSEAS ONLY - FIELDWORK/CONFERENCE**

**Simon Armitage** attended the first TracSymbols project workshop, held between the 14th and 18th of September in Bordeaux, France. He presented a paper entitled "Single-grain OSL dating of Klipdrif Cave, South Africa", detailing his contribution to the chronological component of the project.

**Rupert Housley** visited the Institute of Botany, University of Hohenheim (Stuttgart) to sample stored material from past investigations (1993-2002) at Reichwalde, Upper Lusatia, eastern Germany from where environmental and archaeological finds had been discovered ahead

of opencast lignite mining. Monitoring by the Landesamt für Archäologie Sachsen revealed archaeological localities relevant to RESET, one Hamburgian and several Federmesser sites. Reichwalde lies in the southern part of the Lusatian ice-marginal valley. Primary mounds of fluviatile sands were covered by aeolian sands during the late Pleistocene and early Holocene, with sub-fossil lakes forming during the Allerød before developing into fens in the mid-Holocene. Sampling was undertaken in collaboration with Maria Knipping, Hans-Peter Stika and Michael Friedrich, 13-15 September.

**Rupert Housley** visited northwest Poland to take further material for OSL dating and tephra analysis from the Late Glacial open-air archaeological site of Mirkowice 33. Situated NE of the city of Poznan, earlier sampling undertaken by RESET has indicated that part of the sequence is promising but that further work is needed to fully understand the processes influencing the tephra record. The sampling was undertaken with full cooperation from the original excavator of the site, Jacek Kabacinski, 5-7 October.

**Mustafa Dikeç** was invited to give a paper at the 'Is planning past politics?' symposium in Stockholm, Sweden, 8-10 September, 2011. His paper was entitled 'Aesthetics and ideology: French banlieues and the politics of revolts'.

**Simon Blockley** gave a keynote lecture at the annual Weather Risk Management Association conference, held this year in Dusseldorf, Germany.

**Bradley L. Garrett** screened his film Crack the Surface (with a live audience Q&A) at the Today'sArt Film Festival, 24th September 2011, The Hague, Netherlands. +

**Caroline Cornish** leaves for a research trip to India on November 3rd, funded by the RHUL Irene Marshall award and a grant from the Royal Historical Society. The trip will take in

museums and botanical gardens in Kolkata and Mumbai, as well as the Forestry Institute at Dehradun in Uttarakhand. The aims of the trip are: to research the biographies of a number of objects in the Economic Botany Collection at Kew Gardens, to examine museum displays contemporaneous with those at Kew, and to gain a greater understanding of the role of local agency in the development of imperial botany.

**Leonhardt van Efferink** visited Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main to study Germany's foreign policy, select newspaper articles for his PhD research and prepare future interviews.

**Mustafa Dikeç** gave a keynote lecture at the Finnish Geographers Annual Conference, Turku, Sweden, 26-28 October, 2011. His lecture was entitled 'Space, politics, and aesthetics'.

**Mustafa Dikeç** gave two lectures at the Geography Graduate School intensive course on 'Economy, Culture and Power', organised at the University of Turku, Finland, 26-27 October, 2011. His lectures were entitled 'Revolting geographies' and 'Aesthetics and ideology'.

**Mustafa Dikeç** was invited to give a paper at the 'Is planning past politics?' symposium in Stockholm, Sweden, 8-10 September, 2011. His paper was entitled 'Aesthetics and ideology: French banlieues and the politics of revolts'.

**Katie Willis** gave the plenary lecture, entitled 'Migration, Development and Justice' at the Annual Conference of Development Studies, Taiwan.

**Katie Willis** gave a departmental seminar entitled 'Gender and Migration: Current theories and future challenges' in the Department of Geography, National Taiwan Normal University where she is currently spending a term as Visiting Professor.

**David Simon** was in Oslo 27-9th October to participate in the

retirement symposium and launch of the Festschrift volume for Prof Nadarajah Shanmugaratnam, entitled 'The Political Economy of Environment, Development and Conflict in a Globalised World; Exploring the frontiers, at the University of Life Sciences, Ås on 28th (see details in publications list below). He also held meetings with colleagues at CICERO and Oslo University.

**Thomas Stevens** undertook fieldwork at the Madaras loess section in Hungary between the 4th and 7th of October 2011. Samples were taken for detailed luminescence dating (10 cm intervals) over a 10 m section covering part of the last glacial period in great detail.

**Thomas Stevens** gave a 1 hour lecture on the 7th of October 2011 to the Department of Geography, University of Novi Sad, Serbia, on 'The Uplift of Tibet and the Ice Age'.

## PUBLICATIONS

**Keighren, Innes M.**, and Charles W. J. Withers. "Questions of inscription and epistemology in British travelers' accounts of early nineteenth-century South America." *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 101, no. 6 (2011): 1331-46.

Withers, Charles W. J., and Innes M. Keighren. "Travels into print: authoring, editing and narratives of travel and exploration, c.1815-c.1857." *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers* 36, no. 4 (2011): 560-73.

**Tim Cresswell**, 2011, *Mobilities I: Catching Up Progress in Human Geography* 35/4 pp550-558.

**Tim Cresswell** (2011) "Ergin Çavuşoğlu ve Aradalışın Sanatı" *Sanat-Dunyamız* 124 (Turkish)

**Tim Cresswell** (2011) "La Política de la turbulencia" in Giselle Beiguelman and Jorge Ferla (eds) *Nomadismos Tecnológicos* (Ariel, Buenos Aires) pp39-48. (Spanish)

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Lu, H., Mason, J.A., Stevens, T., Zhou, Y., Yi, S., Miao, X., 2011. Response of surface processes to climatic change in the dunefields and Loess Plateau of North China during the late Quaternary. *Earth Surface Processes and Landforms* 36, 1590-1603.

Rogers, A (2011) Butterfly Takes Flight: The translocal circulation of creative practice in *Social and Cultural Geography* 12, 7, 663-683.

Blockley, S.P.E., Lane, C.S., Hardiman, M., Rassmussen, S., Seierstad, I., Steffensen, J.P., Svenson, A., Lotter, A.F., Turney, C.S., Ramsey, C.B., - and INTIMATE members. In Press. Synchronisation Of Palaeoenvironmental Records Over The Last 60,000 Years, And An Extended INTIMATE Event Stratigraphy To 48,000 b2k. *Quaternary Science Reviews, INTIMATE Special issue*.

Davies, S. Abbott, P.M., Pearce, N.J., Wastegård, S., Blockley, S.P.E. Integrating the INTIMATE records using tephrochronology: rising to the challenge. *Quaternary Science Reviews, INTIMATE Special Issue*. doi:10.1016/j.quascirev.2011.04.005.

Smith, V., Mark, D., Staff, R., Blockley, S.P.E., Bronk-Ramsey, C., Bryant, C.S., Nakagawa, T., Kyu Han, K., Weh, A., Takemura, K., Danhara, T., Suigetsu 2006 Project Members. Toward establishing precise 40Ar/39Ar chronologies for Late Pleistocenepalaeoclimate archives: an example from the Lake Suigetsu (Japan) sedimentary record. *Quaternary Science Reviews* 30, 2845-2850.

Lane, C. S., Blockley, S. P. E., Lotter, A. F. and Bronk Ramsey, C. Tephrochronology and absolute centennial scale synchronisation of European and Greenland records for the last glacial to interglacial transition: a case study of Soppensee and NGRIP. *Quaternary International*. doi:10.1016/j.quaint.2010.11.028

Craig Martin (2011). 'Controlling Flow: On the Logistics of

Distributive Space'. In: Ballantyne, A. & Smith, C.L. (Eds.). *Architecture in the Space of Flows*. pp.147-159. London: Routledge

Van Efferink, Leonhardt A.S. (2011) Polar Partners or Poles Apart? On the discourses of two US think tanks on Russia's presence in the 'High North', *The Geographical Journal*, published online on 30 August.

Brock, F., Lee, S., Housley, R.A. and Bronk Ramsey, C., 2011, Variation in the radiocarbon age of different fractions of peat: a case study from Ahrenshöft, northern Germany, *Quaternary Geochronology* 6 (6), 550-555.

Brickell, K. (2011). 'Mapping' and 'Doing' Critical Geographies of Home. *Progress in Human Geography*. Published online before print August 24, 2011, doi: 10.1177/0309132511418708.

Brickell, K. (2011). The 'Stubborn Stain' on Development: Gendered Meanings of Housework (Non)-Participation in Cambodia. *The Journal of Development Studies*, 47: 9, 1353-1370.

David Simon (2011) Reconciling development with the challenges of climate change: business as usual or a new paradigm? Chapter 9 in 'The Political Economy of Environment, Development and Conflict in a Globalised World; Exploring the frontiers. Essays in honour of Nadarajah Shanmugaratnam' edited by Darley Jose Kjosavik and Paul Vedeld. Tapir Academic Press, Trondheim, pp. 195-217.

Fregonese, S. (2011) Beyond the domino. Transnational (in)security and the 2011 protests. *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* blog, <http://societyandspace.com/2011/10/20/sara-fregonese-arab-protests/>

Thomas Stevens, Anna Bird, Pieter Vermeesch, Randy Parrish, Andy Carter, Lu Huayu, Carl Palk, Timothy Watson, Inga Sevastjanova. 2011. Single heavy mineral grains in loess-dust and

desert sand provenance analysis in China. *Windy Day* 2011, Sheffield, UK.

#### BOOK REVIEWS

Keighren, Innes M. "Maritime Roundtable: The Geographies of Ships, 8 March 2011". *Historical Geography Research Group Newsletter*, summer (2011): 3-4.

Keighren, Innes M. "Review of Political essay on the island of Cuba, by Alexander von Humboldt. Edited with an introduction by Vera M. Kutzinski and Ottmar Ette". *H-HistGeog, H-Net Reviews*.

#### GRANTS AND AWARDS

Innes Keighren was awarded £2,250 from the College's Research Strategy Fund to undertake pilot archival research and oral history interviews in the United States for a project entitled "Rumour, suspicion, and un-American activities: geography and geographers under McCarthyism".

Leonhardt van Efferink received a grant for his German field work from Die Vereinigung von Freunden und Förderern der Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main.

Rupert Housley has been awarded (£3988) by the National Science Centre in Poland to finance cryptotephra work in 2012-14 in connection with a project entitled "Late Glacial hunter-gatherer societies of the Lubuskie Lake District: chronology, systematics and subsistence strategies".

Thomas Stevens and Simon Blockley have been awarded an RSF grant for £3600 to investigate the possibility of using tephra shards in Chinese loess as a powerful new chronostratigraphic tool in one of the world's most important climate archives. This

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project stems from the preliminary work conducted by Alexandra Rowell in her 2010-2011 Quaternary Science MSc dissertation project.

## VISITORS/MEETINGS IN THE DEPARTMENT

Prof. Felix Driver, Dept. of Geography, RHUL presented the Departmental Seminar on 19th October entitled 'Visual Culture and the Geographical Imagination: Michael Huxley and the Geographical Magazine'

Professor Thomas Higham, Oxford Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit RLAHA, University of Oxford presented the CQR Seminar on 10th October entitled "Improving the chronology of the Middle to Upper Palaeolithic transition of Europe: New results from accelerator dating".

Thao Nguyen, Newton Fellow, ICT4D Collective/ICT4D Centre, RHUL presented the Politics, Development & Sustainability (PDS) Group Seminar Joint with ICT4D Centre entitled 'Women Micro-Entrepreneurs and ICT' on 17th October.

Chris Satowm 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'.

Anna Swales, RHUL, presented the Careers Seminar on 24th October entitled 'What to do with a geography degree?'. 94 of our undergraduates/postgraduates attended.

## ANY OTHER NEWS

Congratulations to **Amanda Rogers** and Christopher Bear (Geography, Aberystwyth) on their wedding on 9th September.



Congratulations to **Sara Fregonese** and Dr. Adam Ramadan (also a geographer!) on their wedding on 4th September.



Leonhardt van Efferink published an interview with Jeremy Crampton about his book "Mapping: A Critical Introduction to Cartography and GIS" on his website (<http://www.exploringgeopolitics.org/>).