Historical Geography Research Group

(ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY with THE INSTITUTE OF BRITISH GEOGRAPHERS)



http://hgrg.nuigalway.ie

HGRG Newsletter, Summer Issue 2006

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Copy for the HGRG newsletter should be sent to:

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Copy should be submitted either on floppy disc (PC, MS Word files preferred) or via e-mail to p.merriman@aber.ac.uk

Copy deadlines are: **25 May** for the Summer edition, **25 September** for the Autumn edition, and **16 December** for the New Year edition.

<u>HGRG Electronic Mailing List:</u> if you would you like to be added to the list, please contact Peter Merriman, <u>p.merriman@aber.ac.uk</u>

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Please inform the Membership Secretary if you change your postal address, and the Membership Secretary and Publicity Officer if you change your e-mail address.

Historical Geography at RGS-IBG AC2006:

Annual General Meeting of the Historical Geography Research Group

Friday 1st September 13.10-13.50, Venue tbc. All are invited!

Documentary Film and Historical Geography

Session convened by Felix Driver and Luciana Martins

Luciana Martins, Birkbeck:

'The documentary films of the Hamilton Rice expedition to the Amazon, 1924-1925'

Tim Boon, Science Museum:

'Paul Rotha's documentary geographies of the city'

Judith Kenny, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee:

'Documentary film as planning prescription, The City (1939)'

Robert Fish, University of Exeter:

'Artificial lighting patterns for Poultry, Part 1: Versions of agriculture in Public Information Films, 1945-1970'

Alex Vasudevan, University of Nottingham:

'Documentary "sites": Materiality and memory in the work of Thomas Demand'

Postgraduate Research in Historical Geography

Convener and Chair: Merle Patchett (University of Glasgow)

Module 1:

Innes M. Keighren (University of Edinburgh): Bringing geography to the book: charting the reception of "Influences of geographic environment"

Geraldine Perriam (University of Glasgow): Imaginary Landscapes: The Geo-literary terrains of the Fens

Claire Chambers (Queen's University Belfast): Leafing through the myths of Paris

David Potter (University of Nottingham): 'Capturing great achievement': British Mountaineering and Mountain Magazine 1969-1992

Module 2:

Ruth Craggs (University of Nottingham): Producing Commonwealth Geographies: The Royal Commonwealth Society in the post-war period

Emily Tarlton (University of Nottingham): Spaces of Investigation: Antiquarianism in the Eighteenth Century

Alasdair Kennedy (Queen's University of Belfast): From contested field site to textbook exemplar: the Giant's Causeway and the formation of scientific knowledge in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Bart Ooghe (University of Ghent): Deconstructing academic discourse: the Chari Sa'deh canal

Anu Printsmann (University of Tartu, Estonia): Unreliable History of Kohtla-Järve, Estonia

Landscape, Mobility and Practice

A series of sessions and a panel organized by Peter Merriman and George Revill

Session 1:

Peter Merriman (University of Wales Aberystwyth) and George Revill (Open University): "Landscape, mobility and practice"

Jill Murdoch (University of York): "Steaming through the Landscape: the railway's challenge to the constructed landscapes of power"

Holly McLaren (Queen Mary, University of London): "Border Art' and the poetics and politics of mobility"

Peter Merriman (University of Wales Aberystwyth): "Artistic engagements with the experience of driving through the landscape"

Alison Campbell (Sheffield University): "Dynamic Perception: The role of body movement in empathetic environmental aesthetics"

George Revill (Open University): "William Jessop and the River Trent: mobility, engineering and the production of geographical knowledge"

Session 2:

Derek McCormack (University of Southampton): "The after-affects of the Andrée expedition"

Lisa Hill (University of Bristol): "Leisure practices and engagements with the material: Dwelling on and in the landscape of the Cotswold Way National Trail"

Penny Rossiter (University of Western Sydney): "Moving encounters: intersections of the human and the non-human"

Hannah Macpherson (University of Newcastle upon Tyne): "Blindness, embodiment and the spectre of the visual landscape"

Peter Cox (University of Chester): "Changing narratives of landscape in cycling"

Dave Horton (Lancaster University) and Justin Spinney (Royal Holloway, University of London): "Cycling and Rhythm: An Attempt at a Rhythmanalysis of the Practice of Cycling"

Session 3:

Tim Cresswell (Royal Holloway, University of London): "Fixity, Flow and the Politics of the Past: The Case of Maxwell Street, Chicago"

Lars Frers (University of Technology Darmstadt): "Moving through the terminal - Investigations into material practices"

Peter Adey (University of Wales Aberystwyth): "Moving Materiality: airport landscapes of mobility, stillness and obduracy"

David Crouch (University of Derby): "Fleshy Mobilities"

John Wylie (University of Sheffield) and Mitch Rose (University of Hull): "Animating Landscape: topography/intentionality"

Session 4: A panel discussion between:

Tim Cresswell (Royal Holloway, University of London)
Hayden Lorimer (University of Glasgow)
David Matless (University of Nottingham)
Gillian Rose (Open University)
John Wylie (University of Sheffield)

Counter-factual Geographies: Worlds that might have been

Convenors: David Gilbert and David Lambert

First Session:

- 1. David Gilbert (Geography, Royal Holloway, University of London): Worlds that might have been: counterfactuals and the geographical imagination.
- 2. Mark Day (Philosophy, University of Nottingham): *Counterfactuals and Geographical Explanation*
- 3. Li Narangoa and Robert Cribb (Asian Studies, Australian National University): From Counterfactual History to Counterfactual Geography: The Case of the Mongols
- 4. Sheila Hones (University of Tokyo): Contradictory Geographies in Counterfactual Fiction
- 5. David Wood (University of Newcastle): *Ubiquitous separations: alternative histories and unstable presents in the worlds of Philip K. Dick and Christopher Priest.*
- 6. James Kneale (Geography, University College London):

Second Session:

- 1. David Lambert (Geography, Royal Holloway, University of London): 'Britons never never never shall be slaves': Counter-factual claims from the underdevelopment of Africa to the global reparations movement.
- 2. Peter Hugill (Geography, Texas A&M University): Counterfactual Geographies of the American South (Title tbc)
- 3. Klaus Dodds (Geography, Royal Holloway, University of London): What if? Geopolitics, 9/11 and the US Presidential Election (2000)
- 4. Kate Reid-Smith (Charles Darwin University, Darwin): *Unrolling the Map: South East Asia, the land that never was.*
- 5. Michael Heffernan (Geography, University of Nottingham): The Absence of War: A Counterfactual History of Geography 1900-1920
- 6. Colin Pooley (Geography, University of Lancaster):

 Landscapes without the car: a counterfactual historical geography of twentieth-century

 Britain

Thesis Abstracts:

HGRG are keen to provide a forum for disseminating abstracts of recently completed doctoral theses in historical geography. We encourage graduates from geography and related disciplines to submit abstracts for publication in our tri-annual newsletter. Abstracts of no more than 250 words (with relevant contact details, and following the format below), should be sent via e-mail to the HGRG Publicity Officer, Peter Merriman, p.merriman@aber.ac.uk

William E. Pilfold, Sir Laurence Dudley Stamp (1898-1966), Geographer and Public Servant: a Critical Biography, Abstract of PhD examined at University of Sussex, 2005.

Laurence Dudley Stamp was a leading twentieth-century British geographer who made significant contributions to land use studies, planning, international resource management and the authorship of school textbooks. This biographical study examines his career and illuminates the wider development of twentieth century geography. Set against the background of his family, upbringing and personal life Stamp's major areas of work are explored: school level education, the Land Utilisation Survey (LUS) and citizenship education, contributions to learned societies, public service in the areas of planning and agriculture and contributions to resource conservation. This is the first major biographical study of Stamp and there have been few in-depth biographies of geographers of Stamp's era, although shorter biographies of Stamp and some investigations into specific aspects of his work have previously been produced. This research has confirmed some of the conclusions drawn by these works, but new information has enabled significantly revised interpretations of his work to be made. It is concluded that his work was rarely the product of radical thinking, rather he could synthesise large amounts of information and he was very good at

turning the ideas of others into action. The LUS provided very useful data but has been shown to have largely failed in its aims with regard to citizenship education. Stamp's contribution to the Scott Committee has been shown to be less influential than previously claimed. Success in his later work in world land use and resource management was hampered by the practical difficulties of collaboration on a global scale.

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Lawrence S. Dritsas, **The Zambesi Expedition**, **1858-64: African Nature in the British Scientific Metropolis**, Abstract of PhD examined at University of Edinburgh, 2005.

This thesis investigates the geography in and of Victorian scientific practice by examining the Zambesi Expedition. The expedition's goals were to catalogue the natural resources of the regions adjacent to the Zambezi River (south-eastern Africa) in order to identify new sources of raw materials for British industry and to introduce commercial markets to supplant the slave trade. A survey was made of relevant manuscript and published scientific literature to identify analyses of the data and specimen collections produced by the Expedition's staff. Fieldwork practices are examined in depth and an ideology of technology, expressed in different ways, is shown to have structured the encounters between the British and the locals. Credibility in the field is argued to have been a tenuous quality negotiated between local informants, explorers and the metropolitan scientific community. The expedition's members were required to navigate the social and physical spaces of the field and the metropolis in order to produce and present credible knowledge. The thesis examines for the first time elements of the reception of the expedition by considering the publication of its scientific results. Critics' voices are used to uncover those attitudes of the time that judged explorers—and this expedition—according to their prior experiences, social connections and field skills. The work of the Expedition, then, was performed in different spaces and at different scales; operating within and between the field and metropolis and actively linking local practices to global networks. These multivalent practices enabled and circumscribed a British construction of African nature

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Elyze Smeets, Land and society in Twente & Utrecht: a geography of Dutch country estates, circa 1800-1950, Abstract of PhD awarded by the University of Leeds, September 2005.

This thesis presents new insights into the development, organisation and spatial distribution of country estates established between 1800 and 1950 in the province of Utrecht and the region of Twente in the Netherlands. The new estate owners were mostly newly wealthy whose origins lay in commerce, finance and industry. The emergence of such 'nouveaux riches' was apparent throughout Europe. The study of Dutch individuals thus represents a particular dimension of a broader change in European society during the nineteenth century. The thesis therefore incorporates an international comparison between Twente textile industrialists and their counterparts in West Yorkshire.

Three key themes structure this thesis, namely 'landownership', 'estate building' and 'landscape design'. The first theme deals with who the new landowners were, what enabled them to

invest in land and what their motivations have been for such investments. The second theme focuses on the spatial patterning of the new country estates and the manner in which they have been established. The third theme is related to the use made of the land and how the new landowners laid out their properties. For studying these themes, a geographical approach has been used that is largely based on Dutch and Anglo-American historical-geographical traditions of landscape study, incorporating a variety of methods, techniques and ways of seeing. This meant that the estate landscapes have been studied both as physical entities that can be mapped and as representations of a culture group or individuals. As such the thesis also presents a framework for future research on country estates.

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Conference reports:

Tenth Annual HGRG Practicing Historical Geography Workshop

The attendees of the 10th Annual HGRG Postgraduate and Undergraduate Practicing Historical Geography One-Day Conference on the 2nd of November were treated to a day of entertaining and challenging lectures and workshops. The University of Bristol was a fine host to the large group of more than 50 students, making the day's workshops in particular an excellent opportunity for meeting people and sharing ideas.

The day opened with Dr Avril Maddrell (of Oxford Brookes University) reminding us that we must not forget the ordinary stories in historical geography. Her examination of women geographers through archives, oral history and historiography demonstrated the ways in which we often overlook the people and contexts closest to us (in this case, for example, the histories of our own Departments) as worthy of research and recording.

The two practical workshops of the day, on print cultures (led by Dr Robert Mayhew, of the University of Bristol) and photographic archives (led by Dr Elizabeth Gagen, of the University of Hull), emphasised the importance of questioning sources and interrogating their meaning beyond first impressions. Small group work had us asking questions about the agency of books and photographs as objects beyond their use to us as an historical source, especially the nature of authorship, ownership, audience and intended use.

In the 'Postgraduate Voices' session in the afternoon, the HGRG Undergraduate Essay Prize Winner, Tom Wipperman, described his research on political activism in Clerkenwell. Brief presentations then followed by second and third year PhD students (Mary Kelly, Innes Keighren, and Stephanie Wyse) on their research approaches, sources, and the high and low points of undertaking historical geography.

The day ended with a lecture by Simon Naylor (University of Bristol) on the challenges and rewards in recording how geography as a discipline has been experienced historically. He used a geography department's all but forgotten glass teaching slides, the refurbishment of a lecture theatre, and the contested records of an Antarctic expedition as examples of both the preoccupations and the expertise of geographers historically. In doing so, he reminded us again of the day's central themes – that practitioners of historical geography should not forget that the discipline itself and how it is practiced provide us with rich and often untapped sources (many beyond the traditional text and image) that reveal both the spaces and times in which geography is experienced by us all.

Stephanie Wyse Kings College London stephanie.wyse@kcl.ac.uk

Ambivalent Geographies of Architectural History: Workshop on the late Ottoman and the Republican Period in a Comparative Context

Middle East Technical University, Faculty of Architecture Research Centre, Ankara, Turkey, April 28-29, 2006. Sponsored by the British Institute of Archaeology at Ankara.

This workshop was convened by architectural historian Dana Arnold as part of an ongoing and interdisciplinary dialogue addressing spaces between the "east" and "west", following previous meetings entitled *The Black Sea: Architectural History between East and West* (Southampton 2004) and *Ambivalent Geographies: Situating Difference in Architectural History* (Paris 2005). The Ottoman Empire/Turkey, in a well worn cliché, straddled/s the east and west, yet sought to orient itself towards the west in the period under discussion. The papers attempted to explore the spaces and tensions that emerged in these, and other complementary, processes.

The opening session focused on identity and representation. Wendy Shaw discussed the use of art work and display in Turkish and Middle Eastern museums, contrasting these examples to the universalising impulses of colonial museums. Elvan Ergut highlighted the role of museums in both modernising and stabilising the Turkish Republic in the 20th century, combining lessons on morality with enthusiasm for the newly westernising nation. This nationalism was represented internationally in the Embassy of Turkey at Tehran and the Turkish pavilion at the New York World Fair, although Haluk Zelef stressed the importance of local networks and collaborations in forming these national fragments. Patricia Morton concluded the session by showing how Turkish attempts to represent the nation reproduced tensions that had emerged in the Universal Expositions of the 19th-20th centuries. These tensions centred not least on whether colonies should have their own displays, or be represented by their parent colony, which condemned them to ever more stereotypical depictions of decline and exotic enticement.

The second set of papers focused more tightly on the urban and architectural form. Doris Behrens-Abouseif explored architectural styles in Ottoman Egypt, reading mosque designs as a means of understanding social and political relations between different centres of governmental power. I attempted to draw out some comparisons between my own research on 20th century colonial Delhi, and 19th century Istanbul. Different spaces of imperialism were traced in the latter, from the construction of Anglican Churches to the financial landscapes of gentlemanly capitalism, although such spaces were localised, hybridised, and often ignored. Namik Erkal traced a counterflow of Istanbul images back to London that were displayed in huge, wrap-around panoramas, providing some of the first mass media imaginary geographies for the public not just to visually consume but to physically experience. The session concluded with Cana Bilsel's discussion of the proposed and completed works in Izmir and Istanbul of Henri Prost. The paper, and following discussion, highlighted the similarity of Prost's work with British Garden City principles, as well the continuity with his better known work in French North Africa.

Stephen Legg, University of Nottingham Stephen.Legg@nottingham.ac.uk

HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY



RESEARCH GROUP

Research Series Call for submissions

NEGOTIATING COLONIALISM











The Historical Geography Research Series is produced by the Historical Geography Research Group. The Research Series is designed to provide scholars with an outlet for extended essays/short monographs of an interpretative or conceptual nature that make a substantive contribution to some aspect of the subject; critical reviews of the literature on a major problem; and commentaries on relevant sources. One or two numbers are produced annually. Contributions to the series are always welcome. Manuscripts should not normally exceed 30,000 words in length, inclusive of notes, tables and diagrams, and should be in English. In addition to single or jointly authored monographs, the Series welcomes edited collections of papers grouped around a topic of research relevant to the broad interests of the group. Intending contributors should, in the first instance, send an outline of their proposed manuscript to the Editor:



Back issues of the Research Series can be purchased at a special annual subscription rate through membership of the Historical Geography Research Group. Orders for libraries or for individual copies should be addressed to the Editor of the Series. A full list of back issues is available from the Editor or on the website: http://hgrg.nuigalway.ie

Seminar Series:

The History of Gardens and Landscapes

Institute of Historical Research Senate House, London

All interested in researching gardens and landscapes are welcome at these seminars, which are held on Fridays at 5.30 pm in the Wolfson Room of the Institute of Historical Research, Senate House, Malet Street. Please check on the website (given below) in case there are any changes in venue. The theme for the spring term is 'Gardens and Literature'.

6 October Gardens in Edwardian children's literature.

Lorna Stacy, University of Bristol.

20 October 'Weeding out the rhetoric. Francis Bacon's Essay 'Of Gardens'.

Dr Paula Henderson, Courtauld Institute.

27 October Shirley Hibberd and his garden in Hackney.

Dr Anne Wilkinson. **Please check for venue.**

17 November The poetics of gardens in the work of Virginia Woolf.

Nuala Hancock, University of Sussex.

1 December W.G.Hoskins and the Hound of the Baskervilles.

Professor Matthew Johnson, University of Southampton.

For further information contact the convenors:

Dr Janet Waymark, Birkbeck, University of London: janetwaymark@yahoo.co.uk

Dr Rebecca Preston, University of Kingston: r.preston@kingston.ac.uk

More information about seminars at the IHR at: www.history.ac.uk/gardens.htm/.

HGRG Postgraduate Conference:

Historical Geography Research Group

Practising Historical Geography

11th Annual Postgraduate and Undergraduate One-Day Conference

Wednesday 1 November 2006 10am-4.30pm (and evening social event)

School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology, Queen's University, Belfast

Keynote address: Professor David N. Livingstone.

Other keynote speakers and workshop participants will be announced nearer the time.

This one-day conference is organised by the Historical Geography Research Group. Designed for postgraduate students and senior-level undergraduates, the conference is free to attend, and refreshments are provided. To register or obtain further details please send your name and affiliation to Dr Yvonne Whelan, email: yvonne.whelan@bristol.ac.uk

Please photocopy and distribute to potential members in your departments.....

Historical Geography Research Group Membership

The HGRG is a very large (around 400 members) and active research group of the Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers). The Group aims to initiate and foster research in the field of Historical Geography; to promote discussion by means of meetings and conferences; to further co-operation between cognate disciplines and organisations; and to effect publication of monographs, collected papers and discussion materials. Membership is open to all those who subscribe to these aims.

The Group publishes three issues of its newsletter every year updating members on activities and the working of the Group. It also publishes the Research Series (38 issues published since 1979) which is designed to provide scholars with an outlet for extended essays of an interpretative or conceptual nature that make a substantive contribution to some aspect of the subject; critical reviews of the literature on a major problem; and commentaries on relevant sources.

The HGRG differs from most other RGS-IBG Research Groups in that it charges a membership subscription for the additional services that it offers. Subscriptions are due on 1 October each year. We have different membership rates for Ordinary Members and Postgraduate Members

The two categories of membership are:

Category A membership: Receive HGRG research series and HGRG Newsletter, eligible for various grants, reduced rate on back issues of HGRG research series.

£8.00 for Ordinary Members, £6.00 for Postgraduate Members

Category B membership: Receive HGRG Newsletter, eligible for various grants, reduced rate on back issues of HGRG research series.

£2.00 for Ordinary Members, free for Postgraduate Members

For further details of how to join the HGRG, please e-mail Dr David Lambert, the Honorary Membership Secretary, at d.lambert@rhul.ac.uk. Alternatively, please write to...

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