

# Historical Geography Research Group



## Welcome to Issue one of the e-newsletter

Dear HGRG member,

The newsletter of the Historical Geography Research Group is a most important means for information to be shared among our membership of scholars in historical geography. Since the establishment of HGRG, the newsletter has been produced three-times yearly and posted to all members. HGRG is committed to the continued production and circulation of our newsletter. However the HGRG committee has recently reported how the costs of newsletter production, photocopying and mailing continue to rise significantly. At the HGRG Annual General Meeting of 2008 the following changes to newsletter production were agreed upon.

1. With a view to reducing costs, while at the same time ensuring continued circulation, the HGRG newsletter will be made available to members in electronic format as standard practice from January 2009.

2. In tandem, HGRG will cease circulating a hardcopy of the newsletter, other than to those members who specifically request continuation of this arrangement.

Accordingly, with the Autumn 2008 edition of the HGRG newsletter members received a stamped and addressed postcard. We politely request that all members return this card by post with a preferred e-mail address for future receipt of the electronic newsletter.

Should members wish to continue to receive newsletters in hard copy please complete the "opt-out" option, including correct up-to-date details of your postal address and mail this postcard back to HGRG.

Production of the newsletter in electronic format is an exciting development for the research group, and one which we hope our members will welcome. At the 2008 AGM, Dr Harriet Hawkins (University of Exeter) was elected to the position of Honorary Newsletter Secretary. We thank Harriet for the excellent and clear design format of this first electronic newsletter and hope that HGRG members will continue to supply her with information and copy on historical geography that can then be attractively formatted and presented in the new look newsletter!

These changes to the arrangements for newsletter production and circulation will ensure the long term viability of the research group and allow us to maintain the current level of activities in support of Historical Geography scholarship.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Hayden Lorimer  
(Chair of the Historical Geography Research Group)

## IN THIS ISSUE

- ♦ Message from the Chair of HGRG about the Newsletter
- ♦ HGRG Postgraduate Conference reports
- ♦ CFP:
  - Mapping the Medieval city
  - ICHG Kyoto
  - Drowned and Drained. Exploring the Fenland landscape
- ♦ Seminar session listings
- ♦ HGRG Announcements
- ♦ RGS-IBG HGRG sponsored sessions
- ♦ Book reviews
- ♦ Dissertation competition
- ♦ Call for thesis abstracts

## COPY FOR NEXT ISSUE

Date for new copy: 25th May  
Please send to  
h.hawkins@exeter.ac.uk



## Conference reports:

### Practising Historical Geography one-day postgraduate and undergraduate conference 5th November 2008

Report by Lucy Veale (University of Nottingham)

The 14th annual 'Practising Historical Geography' conference was held in the Old Library of the Institute of Geography at the University of Edinburgh on the 5th November. The event was well attended, with 43 participants drawn from around a dozen UK universities. Following a welcome from HGRG Chair, Hayden Lorimer, Professor Charles Withers (University of Edinburgh) began the day with the first keynote lecture entitled "Historical Geographies of Geographical Practice". Outlining an 'historical geography of geography', he considered the history of the discipline and subject, looking at where geography has been variously housed, taught, learned, and its relationship to national identity. Geography's strong links to empire and exploration emerged alongside a sense of geography as always negotiated, and made in a variety of locations, great and small. The experiment and laboratory were introduced as neglected fields of historiographical investigation (lagging some way behind fieldwork). The main body of the talk drew on the annual lectures of Section E of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, considering the formulation of civic science and the historical geography of speech and the reception of geography in the public sphere. Explorers drew in the largest

crowds, the audience keen for sensational lecture material. Withers concluded with a provocation: that the impact of historical geography is such, that very nearly all geography now contains an historical consciousness.

Ann-Therese Farmer (graduate of Oxford University and winner of the 2007 HGRG undergraduate dissertation prize) followed giving a short talk outlining the methods and main findings of her research project, "Work, wages and women: researching the capitalisation of employment in agriculture". Her main sources for the study were farm account books for a farm in Surrey which gave almost daily entries for the period between 1760 and 1830. Through the analysis of around 12,000 entries, Ann-Therese had been able to track individual careers and wages over time, finding a dramatic decline in the role of women in agriculture with the transition to capitalism. The complexity of the results emphasised the importance of what Ann-Therese termed "grassroots research" at the local scale.

Two workshops on working with archives followed, the first led by Dr Stephen Legg (University of Nottingham) considered our relationships with documents in the archive, a place in which we all work, and develop levels of familiarity and intimacy with things and with subjects. Steve provided a list of texts exploring the archival experience, and a summary of the variety of personal encounters it is possible to have with the archive. The role of the archive role in governing subjects, and the discovery of power relations in the archive were discussed. In small groups we shared our own archive experiences, and shared in Steve's archive experience and encounter with Meliscent Shephard (representative of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene in India between 1928 and 1947). In the second workshop Dr Carl Griffin (Queen's University, Belfast)

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concentrated on the search for 'resistance' and revolutionary activity in the archive. In small groups we used a number of sources drawn from Carl's own work, to examine the concept of resistance and the different forms it can take, acknowledging the potential for multiple readings. Merle Patchett (University of Glasgow) and Carolyn Anderson (University of Edinburgh) then hosted an extremely useful session on 'Getting Graduate Research Work Published', sharing their own experiences and picking up on general issues, worries and suggestions with the audience.

The second keynote "Subaltern Space" was given by Dr Dan Clayton (University of St. Andrews). He drew our attention to the methods of knowing the subaltern, looking at differential space, the space of diversity, and paradoxical space, noting that the subaltern casts a shadow over geography. Whilst speculating how best to learn to listen to the subaltern, Dan offered seven paradoxes, concluding with that of impunity – a desire both for change and for a geography which does not try too hard to be up to date.

Hayden Lorimer then closed the formal part of the event offering particular thanks to all speakers, Heidi Scott (University of Aberystwyth) the conference secretary and Merle Patchett for her efforts in obtaining funding for the event from the Arts and Humanities Research Council. After a wine reception, delegates enjoyed a tapas style Indian meal in Edinburgh. Many of us reconvened the following day for the "Spaces for and of Historical Geography" symposium – a day of six fascinating and insightful talks, each followed by lively discussion and questioning, illustrating the diverse nature of historical geographical research.

## 'Spaces for and of Historical Geography'

Thursday 6th November 2008,  
Symposium report by Lucy Veale and Kate Lynch (University of Nottingham)

This symposium, jointly organised by the Institute of Geography, University of Edinburgh and the Department of Geographical and Earth Sciences, University of Glasgow was attended by postgraduate students, academic staff and researchers from a variety of institutions. Designed to critically consider key areas of concern in current historical geography research, the day was split into three thematic sessions, each comprising a pair of papers, and followed by short discussions.

The first session of the day entitled 'Books and Textual Spaces' was led by Dr. Innes Keighren (University of Edinburgh). Innes' paper explored the life of the 18th century travel writer Maria Graham, through her South American novels. At the end of the eighteenth century Humboldt and other botanists had reinvented South America in the European imagination, and the credibility of travel writing at this time depended upon the 'scientific' nature of the work and the reliability of the author. Her accounts were clearly respected and trusted, with her report on an earthquake in Chile later drawn upon at an RGS debate on the role of seismic activity in mountain building. However to some, like the President of the Geological Society, Graham's femininity undermined her position as an eye-witness, her gender perceived to render her writings liable to emotional over-reaction. Louise Henderson (Royal Holloway) then continued the theme of travel writing, this time in the making of David Livingstone's Missionary Travels and Researches in South Africa. Louise explored the multiple print spaces (authorised and non-authorised editions) of this single text, demonstrating how these varying editions were reshaped for different audiences, specifically noting how the inclusion of an

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were reshaped for different audiences, specifically noting how the inclusion of an index encouraged readers to use the text like an encyclopaedia. More broadly Louise considered the contribution of the publisher John Murray to the formulation and circulation of geographical knowledge.

The second session, split by a buffet lunch was 'Landscapes and Sensual Spaces'. Dr. Veronica Della Dora (University of Bristol) began the session speaking to the title, 'Gazes from a frontier tower: The intertwining biographies of a war heroine and a holy mountain'. This paper told the story of Athos, a mountain in northern Greece, a world heritage site home to a large number of monasteries, where female presence is prohibited. Veronica interwove the life of an Australian war heroine who occupied a medieval tower on the frontier of Athos during the Second World War, into this spiritual space. In so doing she demonstrated how feelings of belonging are dependent upon both the physical and imaginative, with visual and mythical connections to place central to personal experience of space. Dr. Hayden Lorimer (University of Glasgow) then introduced us to the character of William Arthur Poucher and to his seemingly contrasting careers as both a prolific and best selling landscape photographer, and perfumer. In his photography Poucher learnt from paintings, emphasising the picturesque, applying the principles of 'the golden section' to his compositions. He was simultaneously an advocate of the use of cosmetics and perfumes as beauty aids for both men and women, and was the creator of the 'Bond Street' fragrance (samples were passed round for the audience to experience!). Through an exploration of his life which emphasised aesthetics and bodily experience, Hayden presented Poucher as a man able to occupy a space between the Highlands and the High-Street. By emphasising the spectrum of human senses, including smell and sight, these bio-geographical studies re-evaluated the methods that

historical geographers can employ to gain access to the past.

The final pair of talks addressed the theme of 'Museums as Spaces of Practice'. Merle Patchett (University of Glasgow) used this theme to frame her paper on the 'Geographies of taxidermy practice: Putting animals on display'. Merle demonstrated taxidermy to be an historic, embodied practice rather than through its representational register in the museum display case. Through a reading of taxidermy manuals and the observation of a museum taxidermist at work, Merle had been able to breathe life into historic practices, linking the past and the present. Turning historical detective, Merle also traced the journey of some tiger mounts, now located in Scotland back to the site of their mounting - a taxidermy business in Mysore, India. The spatial and temporal journey of the tiger mounts caused Merle to speculate about the enduring 'urge to taxiderm' and its visual and cultural consequences. Geoff Swinney (University of Edinburgh) gave the final paper of the day considering the museum register as a museum object. The museum emerged as a particular kind of archive with an embodied set of ideas. Geoff's work on the museum register of the Royal Scottish Museum covered the career biographies of people, tools and display specimens.

The symposium demonstrated historical geography to be a discipline composed of contemporary and ever-evolving academic practices. With sensitivity and enthusiasm the papers presented filled empty historic space with representations, performances and people of the past. After a wine reception held at the University, the majority of delegates went out for an enjoyable meal at a nearby restaurant which offered further opportunity to discuss the research outlined during the day and to make new friends. Video

Clips will be available on the HGRG website

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# CFP: Mapping the Medieval City: space, place and identity.

## Swansea University 30-31 July 2009

*Mapping the Medieval City: space, place and identity*

*An Interdisciplinary Colloquium*

*Swansea University, 30-31 July 2009*

### CALL FOR PAPERS

*This colloquium, held to mark the completion of the AHRC-funded research project 'Mapping Medieval Chester' ([www.medievalchester.ac.uk](http://www.medievalchester.ac.uk)), will launch the digital materials produced by the project and provide a forum for wider discussion of place and identity in the medieval city, as well as concepts of 'mapping' in the Middle Ages and today. The colloquium will feature papers on medieval Chester, but we are also seeking inter-disciplinary contributions relating to the medieval city more generally.*

*The 'Mapping Medieval Chester' project has brought together scholars working in the disciplines of literary studies, geography, archaeology and history to explore how material and imagined urban landscapes construct and convey a sense of place-identity. The focus of the research project itself is the city of Chester and the identities that*

*its inhabitants formed between c. 1200 and 1500. A key aspect of the project is to integrate geographical and literary mappings of the medieval city using cartographic and textual sources and using these to understand more how urban landscapes in the Middle Ages were interpreted and navigated by local inhabitants. We hope the colloquium will use our research on Chester as the basis for broader discussions centering on the project's themes, methods and theoretical preoccupations.*

*We therefore invite 20-minute paper proposals (abstracts of around 300 words) on any subject relating to the project's broad themes of place and identity in the medieval European city. These might include:*

*- Place and identity in medieval Chester*

*- Writers and texts of medieval Chester (e.g. Lucian, Higden, The Cycle Plays, Bradshaw, medieval Welsh poetry)*

*- Place and identity in the medieval city*

*- Medieval border towns and/or border writing*

*- Writers and texts of the medieval city (e. g. Benedict's Mirabilia urbis Romae, William FitzStephen, Richard Devizes, vernacular drama and verse)*

*- Multilingualism and the medieval city*

*- Theories of space, place and mapping*

*Proposals should be sent to Mark Faulkner ([m.j.faulkner@swan.ac.uk](mailto:m.j.faulkner@swan.ac.uk)) by 23 February 2009.*

*For further information on the 'Mapping Medieval Chester' project, please visit [www.medievalchester.ac.uk](http://www.medievalchester.ac.uk) or contact Mark.*

*A copy of the CFP is available at <http://tinyurl.com/6jaagu>.*



# CFP: Landscape, enclosure and rural society in post-medieval Britain and Europe.

**De Havilland campus, University of Hertfordshire, Hatfield  
25th-26th June 2009**



Photograph: Dr B. McDonagh

## ***Call for Papers: Landscape, enclosure and rural society in post-medieval Britain and Europe.***

***De Havilland campus, University of Hertfordshire, Hatfield 25th-26th June 2009***

***Sponsored by the Arts and Humanities Research Council and the Historical Geography Research Group.***

The enclosure landscapes of Britain have been key sites of academic and popular historical interest over the past 50 years. Enclosure – in both its parliamentary and earlier forms – is widely recognised to have transformed the agricultural landscape and reorganised rural society. Its impact on agricultural productivity, land-holding structures and the economic well-being of the poor have each attracted a large literature. Yet relatively little consideration has been given to the enduring histories that surround enclosure episodes – and still less to the question of how individuals and communities understood and experienced the (changing) landscape around them.

This two-day interdisciplinary conference draws attention to this under-researched aspect of enclosure studies, asking a series of questions about the relationship between landscape and enclosure in Britain and Europe over the *longue durée*. For example, how did the fact that open fields, commons and wastes were being transferred into private hands impact upon ordinary people's perceptions of the world around them and their place within it? What do cartographic, artistic and literary representations of the enclosed fields reveal about (new) ways of seeing and experiencing the landscape? How was the newly enclosed and rationalised landscape caught up in attempts to define aristocratic and other identities, and when and where did communal attachment to the old landscape articulate itself?

Papers are invited on these and related themes. Proposals (max. 250 words) for 20 minute papers, together with a brief CV, should be sent to Dr. Briony McDonagh (on [b.a.k.mcdonagh@herts.ac.uk](mailto:b.a.k.mcdonagh@herts.ac.uk)) by 20th February 2009. For more information about the conference and the related AHRC-sponsored 'Changing Landscapes, Changing Environments' project, please see [www.landscapeandenclosure.com](http://www.landscapeandenclosure.com).



## 14th International Conference of Historical Geographers ICHG 2009 Kyoto 23 – 27th August 2009

**HGRG bursaries to support postgraduate attendance at the ICHG will be available. Please see HGRG website for details, closing date 31st January 2009.**

### **Preliminary Programme**

23 Aug: registration, opening session, icebreaker

24 Aug: paper sessions

25 Aug: full-day field trips

- Kobe: History and industry of the modern port city
- The memory of Kyoto, 794-2009: Historical landscapes of the capital
- Nara: The ancient capital toward the 1,300th anniversary in 2010
- Lake Biwa: Transformation of the cultural landscape
- 26 Aug: paper sessions, conference dinner
- 27 Aug: paper sessions, business meeting

Post-conference Field Trip: 28-30 August 2009

Central mountainous Japan: Traditional village life in World Heritage houses

- **Submission of abstracts 31/01/ 2009**
- **Acceptance of Papers: 28/02/2009**
- **Early Registration: 31/03/2009 \*35,000 yen (c. £171) Registration\*\*40,000 yen**
- **Student participants 15,000 yen (c. £73)**

### **Conference Themes**

*Papers are invited on all aspects of historical geography, especially the following:*

- **Theory & history of historical geography**
- **Digital humanities & Historical GIS**
- **Mapping, survey & geographical knowledge**
- **Nature & environmental change**
- **Population, health & welfare**

- **Farms, food & rural landscape**
- **Industrialization & capitalism**
- **Urbanism & built environments**
- **Networking, communication & globalization**
- **Tourism, sport & recreation**
- **Heritage & landscape conservation**
- **Power, imperialism & colonialism**
- **Historical geographies of East Asia**

For more information click [here for second circular](#)

**Please note the HGRG is able to offer a number of post-graduate bursaries for the ICHG**

**Please go to the [HGRG website](#) for further information and to download an application form.**

## Drowned and Drained: Exploring Fenland Records and Landscape



The Ouse Washes

Source: [http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/commodata/figureimages/ousewashesf\\_765515ull](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/commodata/figureimages/ousewashesf_765515ull)

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2009**

**The Lee Hall, Wolfson College, Barton Road,  
Cambridge CB3 9BB**

<http://www.wolfson.cam.ac.uk/directions/>

**The Fens, drowned and drained: exploring and documenting the history of a landscape and unique environment**

This one-day conference brings together historians, archaeologists and others who have worked on aspects of Fenland history in recent years, to highlight the richness of the archival and archaeological material available for such research and to explore possible avenues for the future.

The history of the Fens of eastern England provides unique opportunities to examine the effects of changing climatic, environmental, political and economic conditions, interactions between them, and human attempts to manage or resist them through the deployment of technological schemes and devices.

These topics have obvious contemporary resonances, with links not only to global climate change issues but to local controversies over land use, such as those surrounding the National Trust's Great Fen project.

*Whilst every effort is made to avoid changes to this programme, published details may be altered without notice at any time. The organisers reserve the right to withdraw or amend any part of this programme without prior notice.*

### PROGRAMME

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| 10.00 a.m. | Welcome  |
| 10.10 a.m. | Fenland Papers in the Cambridgeshire Archives  |
| 10.30 a.m. | Archives and Archaeology of the Last Vernacular Landscape in the Black Fens<br><i>Dr Nicholas James</i>                              |
| 11.00 a.m. | Coffee   |
| 11.30 a.m. | Fen Maps and Moore's Mapp<br><i>Dr Frances Wilmoth</i>   |
| 12.00 noon | 'A True and Perfect Plot': William Dugdale's Use of Maps in the <i>History of Imbanking and Draining</i><br><i>Jan Broadway</i>      |
| 12.45 p.m. | Lunch  |
| 2.15 p.m.  | 'The Unrecovered Country': The Non-Drainage of 1619-20<br><i>Eric Hotchkin-Ash</i>   |
| 3.00 p.m.  | Exploring Landscape and Livelihood: the Bedford Level Corporation Collection and the Great Level of the Fens<br><i>Julie Bowring</i> |
| 3.45 p.m.  | Tea  |
| 4.10 p.m.  | The Great Fen Project<br><i>Dr Chris Gerrard</i>   |
| 4.30 p.m.  | Fen Landscapes: Problems and Possibilities<br><i>Professor Tom Williamson</i>  |

**Please note:** Receipts will not be issued unless requested. If you would like a receipt and/or a map, please send an s.a.e. with your Application Form.

Car parking is available in the Wolfson College car park at the front of the College.

### APPLICATION FORM

Please detach and send this form by **Friday 20 February 2009** to:  
Fen Conference 2009, Research Division, Institute of Continuing Education, University of Cambridge, Madingley Hall, Madingley, Cambridge CB23 8AQ

Name:.....

Address:.....

.....Postcode.....

Telephone.....or E-mail.....

Please reserve

..... conference places @ £25\* per person £

..... lunches @ £10 per person £

**TOTAL £** \_\_\_\_\_

7. I enclose a cheque for £..... payable to 'University of Cambridge'

8. I have special dietary requirements as follows

.....

Signed .....

Date .....

\* including morning and afternoon coffee/tea & biscuits



THE WARBURG INSTITUTE  
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Woburn Square, London WC1H OAB

MAPS AND SOCIETY

Lectures in the history of cartography convened by Catherine Delano Smith (Institute of Historical Research), Tony Campbell (formerly Map Library, British Library), and Alessandro Scafi (Warburg Institute). Meetings are held on selected Thursdays at The Warburg Institute at 5.00 pm. Admission is free. Meetings are followed by refreshment. All are welcome. Enquiries: +44 (0) 20 8346 5112 (Dr Delano Smith).

EIGHTEENTH SERIES: 2008–2009

**2008**

**November 6 Graham Dolan, F.R.A.S.** (Senior Educational Officer, The Greenwich Observatory, London). On the Meridian of Greenwich: When Did It Move, and Why, and Where Is It?

**December 4 Professor Francesca Rochberg** (Department of Near Eastern Studies, University of California, Berkeley). New Light on the Maps and Mapping in Ancient Mesopotamia.

**2009**

**January 22 Dr Benjamin Olshin** (Assistant Professor of Philosophy, History, and History of Science, The University of the Arts, Philadelphia). Speculations and Discoveries: Brazil and the Other Side of the Globe at the End of the 15th Century.

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MEETING SPONSORED BY THE HAKLUYT SOCIETY

**February 26 Sarah Tyacke** (Leverhulme Emeritus Research Fellow, Royal Holloway University of London). Understanding Robert Dudley's *Arcano del Mare*, 1646–8.

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**March 12 Stéphane Blond** (Department of History, University of Evry-Val d'Essonne). The Trudaine Road Maps, a Masterpiece in French Enlightenment Cartography.

**March 26 Dr Hanna Vorholt** (British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow, The Warburg Institute). Provenance and Dissemination of Medieval Maps of Jerusalem: Constructing and Deconstructing a Stemma.

**April 23 Eva Stamoulou** (Art History and Visual Studies, University of Manchester). Portraying the Mediterranean: Sixteenth-Century Books of Islands (*Isolarij*) and the Venetian Maritime Empire.

**May 14 Dr Alastair Pearson** (Department of Geography, University of Portsmouth). 'The Greatest Map Ever Published': The American Geographical Society and the Map of Hispanic America at 1:1 Million Scale, 1922–1945.

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This programme has been made possible through the generous sponsorship of the Antiquarian Booksellers Association, the International Map Collectors' Society, and Jonathan Potter of Jonathan Potter Ltd.

## LONDON GROUP OF HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHERS

with

The City Centre  
Department of Geography  
Queen Mary University of London

*Seminar Programme, Spring Term 2009*

### ARTS OF CITIES

co-convened by David Pinder

20<sup>th</sup> January     **Luke Dickens** (Royal Holloway, University of London)

*These are a few of my favourite fiends: post-graffiti, art worlds and the city*

3<sup>rd</sup> February     **Ian Walker** (Newport School of Art, Media and Design)

*City gorged with dreams: surrealism and urban photography in Paris, London and Prague*

17<sup>th</sup> February     **Rachel Lichtenstein** (Artist, writer and oral historian)

*Memory embedded in place: exploration of city streets*

3<sup>rd</sup> March     **Esther Leslie** (Birkbeck, University of London)

*On cold climates*

17<sup>th</sup> March     **Jane Rendell** (Bartlett, University College London)

*Critical spatial practice: site-writing*

These seminars are held on **Tuesdays at 5pm** in the Wolfson Room at the Institute of Historical Research, Senate House, University of London. For further details, contact David Lambert, Royal Holloway (01784 443640) or Miles Ogborn, Queen Mary (020 7882 5407). We are grateful to Queen Mary, Royal Holloway, Kings, UCL, Birkbeck, the Open University, Sussex University the Historical Geography Research Group of the RGS/IBG and the IHR for supporting this series.

# HGRG

## General Information

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### ***Journal of Historical Geography discount available for HGRG postgraduate students:***

Postgraduate students who are members of HGRG can receive the 2009 subscription (Volume 35, 4 issues) of the Journal of Historical Geography at a discounted rate of £25.

To subscribe please contact our Customer Service Department [Email: [JournalsCustomerServiceEMEA@elsevier.com](mailto:JournalsCustomerServiceEMEA@elsevier.com) or Tel: +31 20 485 3757] and specify that you are postgraduate member of HGRG. For more information about the Journal of Historical Geography please visit the homepage [[www.elsevier.com/locate/jhg](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/jhg)].

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### ***HGRG Small Conference and Seminar Funding:***

Download Application Form at the [HGRG website](#). Guidelines for Conference and Seminar Programme Funding Organisers may apply for grants or loans up to a max. of £250.

#### **Funding Regulations**

- i. the applicant should be a HGRG member;
- ii. all publicity materials and resultant publications acknowledge HGRG support;
- iii. the organising committee give an assurance that any money not used will be returned;
- iv. the grant is used to fund the travel costs and conference attendance;
- v. a minimum of £50 is used to fund postgraduate attendance;
- vi. all funded postgraduates join the HGRG;
- vii. conference organisers provide a financial statement regarding use of the money;
- viii. conference organisers provide a short conference report of 300 words for the HGRG newsletter.

#### **Grant application procedures**

Application forms are available from the Secretary and on the HGRG website.

#### **Grant application deadline**

The deadline for receipt of grant applications is 1 December in any one year. Applicants in any doubt about their eligibility or any other aspect of their application are advised to contact the HGRG Chair, Dr Hayden Lorimer, or Secretary, Dr Nicola Thomas, who will be pleased to help.

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# HGRG

## Other announcements

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### **Letter from the Editors of Journal of Historical Geography:**

#### **RE: Reviews Editor Post**

Dear HGRG members

Following a successful term as Reviews Editor for the JHG, Simon Naylor has indicated that he wishes to step down from this position in 2009. We are very grateful to him for all the excellent work he has done for the journal. The role of reviews editor is very important to the continued success of the JHG, and we are now actively seeking applications for a replacement. The JHG review editor manages the process of commissioning and editing reviews for the journal, in collaboration with the reviews co-editor based in North America, Christian Brannstrom. S/he will have a good knowledge of the field of historical geography and allied disciplines; be willing to work in close collaboration with editorial and publishing colleagues; and have basic computing literacy.

Suitably qualified individuals interested in the position are invited to submit their curriculum vitae, and a one-page statement indicating what they would seek to achieve as JHG reviews editor over the next 3-5 years., and how they will ensure that the book reviews are a strong feature of the journal.

This position is being advertised via appropriate electronic mailing lists and discussion fora in the UK, and elsewhere. Please do draw the attention of potential candidates to this message. Anyone interested is welcome to discuss this informally with Felix Driver.

Applications should be sent by e-mail to Shamus O'Reilly, Publishing Editor, Elsevier, e-mail: [S.O'Reilly@elsevier.com](mailto:S.O'Reilly@elsevier.com)

**IMPORTANT:** The deadline for applications is 27 February 2009.

Once received, applications will be passed to a selection committee, comprising the editors of the JHG, two other members of the editorial board and the publisher, who will make the final decision. We hope to be able to confirm the new appointment by May 2009, so that the new editor can begin work in September 2009 with a view to assuming full responsibility from January 2010.

Best wishes  
Felix Driver  
Graeme Wynn

Editors, Journal of Historical Geography

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### ***History of Gardens and Landscapes Seminar sessions***

The History of Gardens and Landscapes seminars will resume at the IHR in the summer term, with a series on seventeenth century landscapes. Propositions for papers will be welcome. Please contact Dr Janet Waymark: [janetwaymark@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:janetwaymark@yahoo.co.uk)

**RGS/IBG-  
2009  
Manchester  
Geographies of  
Knowledge**

## HGRG Sponsored sessions

The deadline for submission of abstracts is February 3rd 2009. Please send the following information to the appropriate session convenor

Name; Affiliation; Contact email:

Title of proposed paper:

Abstract (no more than 250 words): Any technical requirements (video, data projector, sound, etc.):

***Histories of  
(un)natural  
disasters:  
knowledge, blame  
and defenses***

[anna.carlsson@postgrad.manchester.ac.uk](mailto:anna.carlsson@postgrad.manchester.ac.uk)

Natural' disasters are just as social as they are natural. Their impact depends heavily on social issues such as vulnerability while the work done by society to mitigate their impact is obviously social. However, social aspects of 'natural' disasters have often been neglected and they have frequently been understood as caused solely by nature or by divine intervention. The different causal narratives of disasters have given rise to different understandings of responsibilities and blame. Despite their recurrent nature these sudden extreme events are often portrayed as exceptional.

This session will explore the histories of (un)natural disasters across time and space. Paper proposal on any aspects related to any aspects of this topic are welcome. A general theme may be how knowledge and practices have worked to change the likelihood, nature and impact of disasters. How have physical and human geography interacted around disasters historically? Papers for the session could for example discuss how natural disasters have been framed as 'natural' and/or 'social' and the implications of different framings. How has the knowledge or understanding of disasters as 'natural', 'Acts of God' or 'social' developed throughout history? Who or what was blamed?

Today the impacts of these events are managed by warning systems, emergency planning and physical defences. These systems have a long history, and are dependent on complex scientific and social networks. What is this history and how does it link to narratives of causality and blame? For example, whose responsibility have extreme events been seen to be and whose work was it to deal with the consequences of them? Who paid for defensive work? Individuals or the state? National or local government? What were views on how defensive work should be organised?

***Geography and  
Religion in the  
Long Nineteenth  
Century***

**Please direct enquiries to  
Dr Diarmid Finnegan  
([d.finnegan@qub.ac.uk](mailto:d.finnegan@qub.ac.uk))  
or Dr Edwin Aiken  
([e.aiken@qub.ac.uk](mailto:e.aiken@qub.ac.uk))**

How important is religion to our understanding of the history of geographical knowledge? Although we are now better equipped to answer this question thanks to important work on the religious concerns which animated geographical endeavour in the past (e.g. Driver 2001; Livingstone 1992; Mayhew 2000) religion has rarely been taken as a central problematic in the historiography of geography. Taking the long nineteenth century as a temporal frame, this session seeks to evaluate further the significance of past connections between religious and geographical knowledge and praxis. Papers are invited which resist anachronistic applications of 'geography' and 'religion' to the past while avoiding overly circumscribed definitions of those frequently conjoint and contested enterprises. Participants might also work towards a rapprochement between historical geographies of religion (e.g. Brace et al 2007) and a spatialised history of geographical knowledge (e.g. Withers 2001). More generally, highlighting the interplay between religion and geography might be used as a basis for more extensive explorations of the relations between geography, knowledge and society during the long nineteenth century. The following list of sub- themes provides an indication of the session's intellectual scope:

Theologies of nature and geographical knowledge; Darwinism, geography and natural theology  
'Disciplinary' history and secularisation ; Scriptural geography and Orientalism  
Christian missions and geography ; Travellers, ethnography and comparative religion  
The persistence of 'Renaissance' geography and its theological correlates; The religious lives of geographers; Spiritualism, mysticism and fin de siècle geography; Text books, school geography and religion; Popular geographical knowledge in religious contexts ; Imperialism and 'religious geopolitics; Mapping religion: nineteenth-century cartographic projects

## RGS/IBG- 2009 Manchester Geographies of Knowledge

## HGRG Sponsored sessions

The deadline for submission of abstracts is February 3rd 2009. Please send the following information to the appropriate session convenor

Name; Affiliation; Contact email:

Title of proposed paper:

Abstract (no more than 250 words): Any technical requirements (video, data projector, sound, etc.):

### **Certain subjects? Constructing identities, personalities and personas from the archive.**

**Proposed by Isla Forsyth,  
Will Hasty, Cheryl  
McGeachan and Jo  
Norcup (University of  
Glasgow). If you are  
interested in submitting a  
paper, please contact  
Cheryl McGeachan  
([cheryl.mcgeachan@ges.gla.ac.uk](mailto:cheryl.mcgeachan@ges.gla.ac.uk)).**

*'I have become a collector of shards. Shards of memory, things passed down: told to me at the end of this long line of telling. I want to catch these shards, these half-lit, often, paste jewels. I don't know how authentic they are, does it even matter? For me it doesn't matter. I am making anew, building something from the remains. Wanting to honour the fleeting; the fragment, fractured histories and stories. Not passed down, but dredged up.'* (Terri-Ann White, 2004)

For the historical geographer the site of the archive has always been of significant importance, a treasure trove of wonderments and often deep frustrations. In its many guises, the archive often provides the researcher with the opportunity to explore the terrains of worlds past through the lives of real people. Lives can be (re)constructed through (geo)biographical research, fragments of a life pieced together from the texts, memories and artefacts of the archive; and, if only momentarily, that life has an afterlife, a second opportunity to exert an affect upon the world.

This session aims to critically engage with the archival encounter of the historical geographer who tries to trace past lives'. It intends to ask questions about the different types of identities, personalities, and personas which can emerge through archival investigation. What types of identities are being constructed by the researcher and in doing so what is inevitably being left hidden? What different types of archives are being used to construct these identities, personalities and personas? In what ways are we implicit in the creation of identity, personality and persona attributed to our certain subjects, indeed in what ways are our subjects certain at all?

Potential topics that papers could focus upon include (but are not limited to): The alternative types of archives being sought out by the historical geographer ; The different types of stories/narratives emerging from these alternative sources; Questions arising from the 'incomplete' archive and what challenges this can pose for the historical researcher; The role of the researcher in constructing the different identities, personalities and personas of their chosen subjects; The implications of absence in the archive.

### **Cartographies of Inclusion and Exclusion**

**(If you are interested in  
submitting a paper please  
contact Heather Winlow  
([h.winlow@bathspa.ac.uk](mailto:h.winlow@bathspa.ac.uk))**

Recent cartographic debates have focused on the relationship between cartography, territory and power. This has included a focus on the creation of ordered imperial spaces imposing European mapping systems on native territories as well as on the mapping traditions of indigenous societies, and examinations of counter-cartographies. During the colonial period European cartographic representation included several processes which legitimated European authority, including the creation of hierarchically ordered landscapes, 'silences' in the map text, and place renaming (Harley 2001). Much of the academic debate has focused on the colonial period, but the aim of this session is to explore the ways in which cartographies of inclusion and exclusion extended into the nineteenth century (and onwards). A particular focus will be on the ways in which cartographies were/are interconnected with state formation and development and wider aspects of governmentality and the mapping of the social body, including the development of national censuses and the ordering of knowledge about society (Hannah, 2000). The session will focus on the relationships between state mappings and identity construction across various geographical locations. Topics could include:

Racial or ethnic exclusion through both cartographic and actual confinement to particular spaces (e.g. reservation systems); State mapping of territory and national identity (e.g. following territorial boundary changes); Counter-cartographies: studies of ways in which social groups have challenged the state (or hegemonic identity) through development of alternative mappings; Explorations of relationships between state legislation and cartography; Cartographic production of knowledge about social groups and identities.



# RGS/IBG- 2009 Manchester Geographies of Knowledge

## HGRG Sponsored sessions

The deadline for submission of abstracts is February 3rd 2009. Please send the following information to the appropriate session convenor

Name; Affiliation; Contact email:

Title of proposed paper:

Abstract (no more than 250 words): Any technical requirements (video, data projector, sound, etc.):

### **Narrating landscape and Environment**

**Co-sponsored by the  
Historical Geography  
Research Group and the  
Arts and Humanities  
Research Council  
'Landscape and  
Environment' Programme.**

**Convened by Stephen  
Daniels (University of  
Nottingham) and Hayden  
Lorimer (University of  
Glasgow)**

[Hayden.Lorimer@ges.gla.ac.uk](mailto:Hayden.Lorimer@ges.gla.ac.uk)

[Stephen.Daniels@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:Stephen.Daniels@nottingham.ac.uk)

This session will re-appraise narrative as way of shaping and arranging our manifold understandings of landscape and environment, both in language and in image. It asks: 'how do we story our worlds into shape?', and invites different kinds of response.

We seek research presentations that:

- address matters of temporality and history in the unfolding of landscape and environment, or the placing of processes and movement, or the personification of livelihoods and identities, or the chronicling of the seen and unseen.
- consider the deployment of narrative in factual histories of landscape and environment, or its styling in map-making, or its dramatic configuration of the imaginative worlds of lore and reverie
- comment on the scale(s) at which stories of landscape and environment are projected
- recall expressive formations of landscape and environment in oral traditions and storytelling
- explore the potential for narrative in widening participation in debates on the making, meanings and changing uses of landscape and environment
- unravel the landscaping of narrative, by considering how a geographical perspective can contribute to broader questions of power and knowledge in narratology
- deploy narrative as a rhythmic and expressive style, as well as the object of research and analysis
- consider the authority given to (self) experience in narrative accounts of landscape and environment
- chart new terrains for critique, and prospects for novel dialogue, in narrative-led accounts of landscape and environment

Narrative experiments and creative methods in different forms (and audio-visual formats) are welcome...

...contributors might wish to think in terms of: travellers' tales; theoretical histories; scientific stories; economic homilies; topographical traditions; place memories; hearthside tales; environmental futures; geo-biographies; bio-geographies; archival creations; archaeological reconstructions; site designs and installations; archetypal/ideal-type plots; meta-narratives (eden, deep geology, palimpsest, apocalypse etc.); narrative genres (mythic, epic, tragedy, romance, adventure, satire, melodrama, farce).

### **Art and geographical knowledge.**

**Please direct all enquiries  
to Harriet Hawkins at  
[h.hawkins@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:h.hawkins@exeter.ac.uk)**

Are you critic, collaborator, creator, curator? Does your research in some way develop a relationship between geography and art? A look at recent publications and conference programs indicates the growing scope of the interrelationship between art and geography and the increasing range of forms this work is taking as boundaries between geographers, artists and curators blur. This session aims to explore the scope, methods and potential of art as a form of geographical knowledge. Papers are invited which address the what, why and how of this relationship. In other words what sorts of geographical knowledge can and have art forms participated in the making of? What potential do geographers find in art and creative practices? And how – by what mechanisms and methods – does art become part of geographical knowledge making?

It may be that your artistic and creative practices, or those which you study, are understood as performative of identities, or of ways of being in and relating to particular landscapes, peoples and places and the environment. It could be that you find in artistic practice an alternative mode of geographical knowledge making, offering access to sensory experiences of landscapes, people or places. Or maybe artistic modes of research and dissemination practices provide more creative modes of geographical scholarship or even more public, or political geographies. In short what value for the geographer and the artist can be drawn from the consideration and collaboration of art and geography? Your focus may be contemporary or historical practice and it is certainly not restricted to visual art. Formats may include but are not restricted to: papers, videos, performance works, sound works.

## RGS/IBG- 2009 Manchester Geographies of Knowledge

## HGRG Sponsored sessions

The deadline for submission of abstracts is February 3rd 2009. Please send the following information to the appropriate session convenor

Name; Affiliation; Contact email:

Title of proposed paper:

Abstract (no more than 250 words): Any technical requirements (video, data projector, sound, etc.):

### **Cultural Spaces of climate**

**Proposed by: Professor David N. Livingstone OBE FBA; Dr Georgina Endfield; Dr Carol Morris, If you are interested in submitting a paper, please contact**

**[Georgina.Endfield@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:Georgina.Endfield@nottingham.ac.uk). Or [Carol.morris@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:Carol.morris@nottingham.ac.uk)**

In recent decades, climate change as a physical and socio-cultural phenomenon has been catapulted into global centre stage scientifically and politically (Hulme and Turnpenny, 2004). Yet as Hulme (2008) has argued, there has been a deculturalisation of climate in the process. Contemporary debates over the 'imminent' climate threat obscure the variety of meanings that climate and weather hold for different people in different places and mask a long, complicated history of scientific and public engagement in meteorological science and changing ideas about climate.

Enthusiasts and amateur societies played a pivotal role in the production of climate knowledge in the 18th and early 19th centuries (Naylor, 2006; Jankovic, 2001) and provincial cultures are thought to have been critical in shaping meteorological studies (Naylor, 2006; Finnegan, 2005), while the myriad spaces in which this knowledge was produced and circulated was significant in these processes. Indeed, the geography of meteorological science and the mobility of scientific knowledge may have been as important as its history (Livingstone, 2003; Powell, 2007). The professionalisation of meteorology in the 19th century did not wholly supersede its amateur foundations, yet there has been a relative neglect of role of the amateur and weather enthusiast in contemporary climate change debates.

This session focuses on the changing cultural spaces of climate knowledge production, past and present, and specifically explores the role of different actors and interest groups in the production and circulation of climate knowledge historically and in the present day. We welcome contributions from various disciplinary perspectives.

### **Constructing Spaces of (Im)-mobility:**

**please contact Nir Cohen ([nircohen@bgu.ac.il](mailto:nircohen@bgu.ac.il))**

Recent scholarship has highlighted the socially constructed nature of mobility and focused on its changing spatialities under the current global regime. Less has been written about the historical development of mobility in general and mobile subjects (migrants, travelers, and refugees) in particular. The session seeks to explore various historical contexts within which mobility - and the mobile - have been constructed and uncover the material and immaterial geographies that enabled and were unleashed by it. We invite papers that examine the (im)-mobility of people, cultures, knowledge, labor, money and other objects in historical perspectives. We welcome papers dealing with issues outside the Anglo-American world. Suggested themes include but are not limited to; Mobile subjects and identities (especially in the developing world); Urban/rural mobility; Mobility and the socially excluded; Mobile cultures; Pre-globalization travel and migration; Financial flows (including migrants' remittances); Mobility and place-making; Fixity and Anti-Mobility

### **New and Emerging Research in Historical Geography**

**Convened by Lois Jones (University of St Andrews) and Isla Forsyth (University of Glasgow) [Lois Jones \(lj8@st-andrews.ac.uk\)](mailto:Lois.Jones@st-andrews.ac.uk).**

This session aims to provide an informal and relaxed forum for postgraduates undertaking research in historical geography to present at a major conference. Building upon past successful HGRG postgraduate sessions, it is hoped that a friendly and supportive atmosphere will produce stimulating debates on the issues raised and provide postgraduates with helpful feedback on their work. There is no chronological or geographical limit to papers and they can be variously theoretical, empirical and/or methodological in orientation.

## Recently published titles in historical geography

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### ***Global Lives: Britain and the World, 1550-1800***

***Miles Ogborn (2008)***

***(Cambridge University Press, Cambridge)***

'This is a fascinating and unique account of Britain's rise as a global imperial power told through the lives of over forty individuals from a huge range of backgrounds. Miles Ogborn relates and connects the stories of monarchs and merchants, planters and pirates, slaves and sailors, captives and captains, reactionaries and revolutionaries, artists and abolitionists from all corners of the globe. These dramatic stories give new life to the exploration of the history and geography of changing global relationships, including settlement in North America, the East India Company's trade and empire, transatlantic trade, the slave trade, the rise and fall of piracy, and scientific voyaging in the Pacific.

Through these many biographies, including those of Anne Bonny, Captain Cook, Queen Elizabeth I, Pocahontas, and Walter Raleigh, early modern globalisation is presented as something through which different people lived in dramatically contrasting ways, but in which everyone played a part.'

'Today's most enthralling histories tell grand narratives of empires, oceans and peoples but can often lose touch with the human scale. Like some panoramic Plutarch, Miles Ogborn uses parallel lives to illustrate global processes. *Global Lives* weaves more than forty succinct biographies - some familiar, like those of Sir Walter Raleigh and Captain Cook, others hitherto obscure, like the Madras merchant Kasi Viranni's and the Jamaican slave-woman Sarah Affir's - into a kaleidoscopic account of Britain's rise to world power. Ogborn's remarkable book brings an empire to life through the lives that built the empire'.

David Armitage, Lloyd C. Blankfein Professor of History, Harvard University

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### ***Social Geographies in England (1200-1640)***

***David A Postles (2007)***  
***New Academia Publishing, LLC***

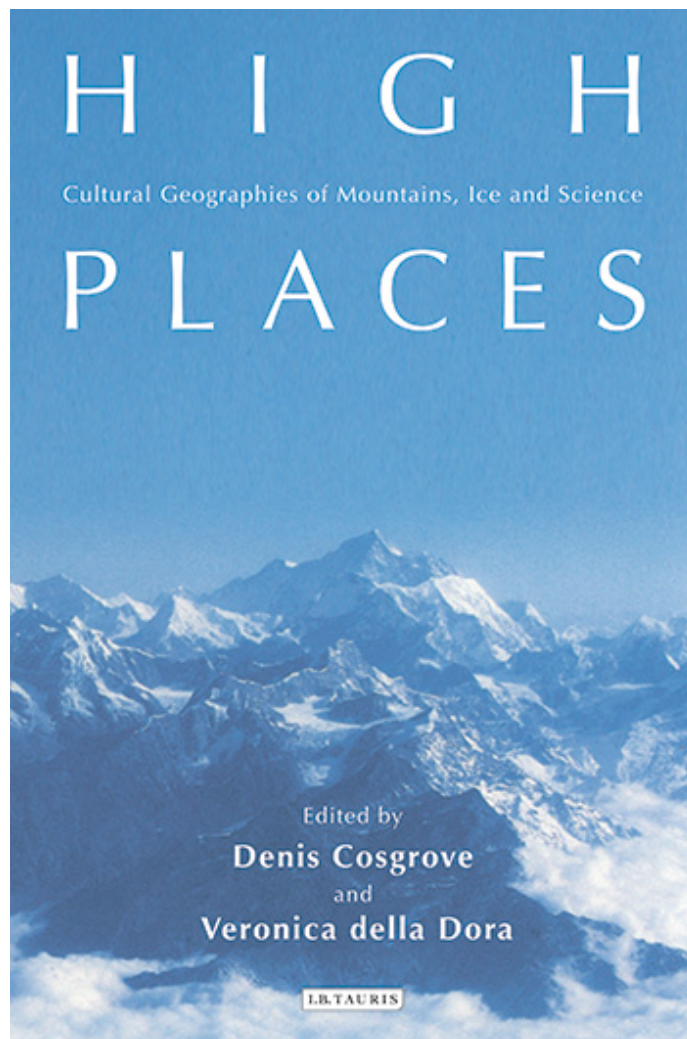
'An attempt is made to understand the relationships between social groups and the spaces and places which they inhabited. There have been for some time historians who have been concerned about the relationship between society and space/place (more so the latter). Some have chosen to approach the rhetoric of representations of space and place, in the cultural vein; others have focused on the experience of space and place, the social and the political. The two were not, of course, separable, and all historians have been sensitive to the interdependencies. In this book, an attempt is made to begin to understand the relationships between different social groups and social categories with the spaces and places which they inhabited and moved through and whether or not in their life-courses they were able to make an attachment to place. The book engages with different social groups, different times, and different spaces and places-with that emphasis on the importance of difference. Its concern is with times before the beginnings of modernity. *Social Geographies in England (1200-1640)*'  
by David A. Postles (Author)

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## Recently published titles in historical geography

HGRG members are offered High Places at the discounted price of £13.65 (full price £19.50). To get the discounted price [click here](#)



### **High Places**

#### ***Cultural Geographies of Mountains, Ice and Science***

#### ***Denis Cosgrove and Veronica della Dora [Eds]***

The late Denis Cosgrove was Alexander von Humboldt Professor of Geography at the University of California, Los Angeles. His recent books include *Geography and Vision: Seeing, Imagining and Representing the World* (I.B.Tauris, 2008); *Apollo's Eye: A Cartographic Genealogy of the Earth in the Western Imagination* (2001); and, as editor, *Mappings* (1999).

Veronica della Dora is Lecturer in Geography at the University of Bristol.

'High places - be they mountain peaks or the vast expanses of the polar latitudes - have always captured the human imagination. Inaccessible, extreme, they are commonly invested with awe and reverence, as places of physical challenge, intense experience. Increasingly, they are also treated as unique locations for science. High Places explores the fascinating geographies of these special environments, revealing how senses are challenged, objectivities exposed, cultural assumptions laid bare. Whether walking the summit of Pico de Orizaba, the fourth highest volcano in the northern hemisphere; recounting the tale of the American explorer Charles Wilkes, charged with 'immoral mapping' in Antarctica; or exploring the 200,000 year old Greenland ice core; the international contributors reveal the richness and significance of these unique locations. Embracing Europe, Asia, North and Central America, Antarctica and the Arctic, High Places will interest geographers, historians of science, and those interested in polar/mountain studies, landscape, culture and environment.'



## Dissertation prize

Every year the Historical Geography Research Group, in association with Cambridge University Press, offers a prize to the best undergraduate dissertation based on original research and showing conceptual sophistication in any area of historical geography. The winner this year is Miss Emma Jones from the School of Geography, University of Oxford. Her dissertation was entitled, 'The Integrating Role of Information Circulation in the English Banking Industry: An Historical-Geographical Perspective,' and offered a careful and well-grounded contribution to wider debates about regional integration or differentiation in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. It was judged an immaculate piece of work which combined cartographic and quantitative approaches with a materialist hermeneutic to produce a sophisticated spatial analysis of information exchange.

Diarmid Finnegan

\*

### **The Integrating Role of Information Circulation in the English Banking Industry: An Historical-Geographical Perspective**

Report by Emma Jones

This dissertation re-visited the regional integration-differentiation debate in historical geography through an examination of information flows within the English banking industry during the period of the industrial revolution. It consequently redressed the relative neglect of the movement of information and ideas by geographers, despite their dissemination through space. Additionally, the importance attached to the railways against the apparent insignificance of banks is at worst a travesty and at best an imbalance in the geography of 19th

century Britain; this disparity was necessarily challenged.

The flow of letters to the Cobb Bank of Margate between c.1780 and c. 1840 was reconstructed through a dual methodology, which combined positivist empirical and postmodernist materialist hermeneutic techniques. Thus, in addition to examining the spatiality and temporality of the documents, the content and format of these things in motion was analysed to yield further conclusions on the degree of integration in the nascent English banking system.

The study supported Langton and Gregory's notion of centralised integration and regional differentiation co-existing in a creative tension. This was manifested in the dominance of intra-regional and provincial-metropolitan spatial dependencies in information flows to the Cobb Bank. The role of London in fostering and facilitating integration on inter-regional and international scales was clearly evident, but this was superimposed upon a tight and well-developed system of intra-regional and local correspondence networks. Despite being embedded in a highly seasonal agricultural and tourist economy, temporal investigations revealed stable intra- and inter-annual levels of correspondence between the Cobb Bank and London financial institutions. However, inter-annual fluctuations in the volume of local inter-bank exchanges, often coincident with periods of national economic crisis, drew attention to a potential element of instability in the emerging banking network. Content analysis and the unprecedented application of materialist hermeneutics to the letters enlivened the debate and provided a complement to the potentially over-objectifying spatio-temporal modes of analysis. Hence Latour's concept of an 'immutable mobile' was utilised to ascertain the degree to

## 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



to which standardisation and mobilisation in the material representations circulating within the banking industry could be seen to indicate shifts in its structure and integration. Ultimately, however, these approaches reinforced the deductions arising from the cartographic and numerical techniques applied to the 18,152 documents surveyed.

This study also provided an opportunity to observe the immense structural changes taking place in the English banking industry, simultaneously drawing attention to elements of inertia, continuity and change. The value of historical depth in the task of explanation was therefore highlighted as being a 'necessity, rather than an incidental moment.'

On reflection, despite the inevitable pressures associated with such a significant piece of work, my undergraduate dissertation was one of the highlights of my time at Oxford. Having been fortunate enough to have received tutoring from Dr Langton in a course of historical geography, it provided an opportunity to pursue my growing enthusiasm for this aspect of the subject, and under his supervision, I embarked upon an investigation into the development, stability, and geographical significance of banking in the period conventionally described as the industrial revolution. Although a mere coincidence to have been working in a bank at the time of researching and writing, the cracks in the modern monetary structures, which began to appear last summer and have since widened and deepened, arguably created an added incentive to probe the origins of our banking system. Consequently, I feel deeply indebted to my tutors at Hertford College, not only for their encouragement, but also for their infectious passion for a subject that will

always remain relevant, interesting and innovative.

Thanks to Emma for providing the report on her work. Emma is currently pursuing a pupillage in a commercial chambers in London.

### 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

Newsletter Editor Harriet Hawkins,  
e-mail: [h.hawkins@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:h.hawkins@exeter.ac.uk)

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](mailto:d.lambert@rhul.ac.uk)