

Historical Geography Research Group



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COPY FOR NEXT ISSUE

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

Letter from the chair

Dear HGRG members,

Autumn is always a busy time for the research group and this newsletter demonstrates the fruits of our activities. I would like to thank you for your subscription, as we would be unable to function without this support.

We were delighted to hold the 15th Practising Historical Geography Postgraduate Conference at Royal Holloway in October, enabled by HGRG members, the RGS-IBG and Department of Geography, Royal Holloway. The day was organised by Heidi Scott and Briony McDonagh with support from Isla Forsyth, David Gilbert and the Department of Geography, Royal Holloway. Participants enjoyed guest lectures from Luciana Martins and Keith Lilly; workshops by Alasdair Pinkerton and Ruth Craggs, and a view from the PhD trenches from Lowri Jones. My thanks to them all for their hard work in making the day such a success.

HGRG's Small Conference Scheme continues to operate on an annual basis. This year we have allocated £500 to support postgraduate bursaries at the following conferences:

- Correspondence: Travel, Writing and Literatures of Exploration, c. 1750-c. 1850, 7-10 April 2010, University of Edinburgh and National Library of Scotland (<http://www.geos.ed.ac.uk/geography/correspondence>)
- 'Salty' Geographies: Subaltern maritime spaces, networks and practices, 10-12 June 2010, University of Glasgow (contact will.hasty@ges.gla.ac.uk)

The RGS-IBG Annual Conference will be held in London from 1st – 3rd September 2010. HGRG is sponsoring six sessions that promise, once again, to demonstrate the diversity and vibrancy of our subject. Please see the calls for papers in the newsletter and forward them to anyone who may be interested.

It is always a pleasure to celebrate the success of HGRG members and this Autumn saw the award of the prestigious Phillip Leverhulme Prize to three Historical Geographers. Congratulations to Caroline Bressey, David Lambert and Steve Legg for their well deserved achievement. You can read about their plans in this newsletter.

The HGRG committee will be holding a committee meeting in March. Please get in touch with me if you have anything that you would like us to consider. Thanks to Carl Griffin, Lloyd Jenkins and Rebecca Ford we now have a full cohort for our committee.

All best wishes
Nicola



HGRG General Information

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 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].

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Practicing Historical Geography conference

Royal Holloway, University of London

4th November 2009

The 15th annual Practicing Historical Geography conference was well attended, with more than 35 postgraduates and staff from 14 different UK and American universities. After a brief welcome from new HGRG chair Nicola Thomas, the day was kicked off by Luciana Martins (Birkbeck, University of London). Speaking to the title of 'Documentary film and photography in the making of historical geographies', Luciana used a combination of still photographs and film clips to carefully interrogate the fascinating story of Alexander Hamilton Rice's expedition to the Brazilian Amazon in 1924-5.

In the postgraduate voices session, current PhD-student Lowri Jones (Royal Holloway, University of London) talked about her experience of archival research. Lowri held her audience captive with her account of some of the pitfalls and successes of her time researching the 'hidden histories' of exploration in the Royal Geographical Society archives. She also kindly answered questions on the practicalities and theoretical debates behind the 'Hidden Histories of Exploration' exhibition she organised in collaboration with Felix Driver and the RGS, supported by the AHRC (<http://hiddenhistories.rgs.org/>).

Before and after lunch, the delegates split into groups in order to attend two excellent workshops on using archival sources. The first was run by Ruth Craggs (St. Mary's University College, Twickenham) and considered the possibilities and problems of 'Capturing atmosphere and juicy gossip'. The second on 'Sounding the archive' was led by Alasdair Pinkerton (Royal Holloway, University of London) and investigated music, radio and noise as sources for historical research.

Later, the group reconvened to listen to HGRG 2009 dissertation prize winner Robert MacKinnon (Aberystwyth University, now at University of Birmingham) discuss his undergraduate thesis, 'The Great Western Railway's rural England: ways of 'being in' and 'moving through' the English landscape in Great Western Railway publicity materials, 1918-1939'.

HGRG COMMITTEE CONTACT DETAILS

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Practicing Historical Geography conference. cont...

Judged by this year's adjudicators to be an incisive and innovative piece of work, Robert's project investigated both the representational and performative dimensions of the construction of rural landscapes in inter-war England.

The final paper of the day was from Keith Lilley (Queen's University, Belfast), who offered a thought-provoking keynote on the title of 'Mapping medieval geographies: putting the 'historical' back into historical geography'. Keith outlined the recent temporal narrowing of the sub-discipline, arguing that medieval topics have increasingly been abandoned in favour of more modern historical geographies. He made an impassioned call for geographers to take medieval geographies more seriously, an idea which prompted lively discussions both immediately after his paper and much later in the pub!

Many thanks to all the speakers and participants for making it such an informative and interesting day, and to Heidi Scott for co-organising the event. Keep an eye on the HGRG website and newsletter for more information about the next Practicing Historical Geographies conference, which will take place in November 2010.

By Briony McDonagh, HGRG Conference Coordinator.

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I am still developing a programme of research, but I am intending to use the prize to spend time in archives that, for research with a geographical focus on Britain, it is usually hard to justify visiting. I'm also hoping it will be an opportunity to spend time mapping the more ordinary geographers of black working folk in Victorian Britain. I could, for example, travel to archives in Australia in order to interrogate material that contains details about the arrivals of black migrants (forced and 'free') from Britain in the 1840s-1860s, a period that is particularly difficult to interrogate 'at home'. I am also venturing into the early twentieth century and am particularly interested in the cultures of black life in Britain between the Wars. Following an examination of the art collection of the students from the Slade School of fine Art at UCL, I'm increasing keen to investigate whether something akin to a Harlem Renaissance might have occurred in London or other cities in the UK (a period that a recent Dutch exhibition described as 'black is hot between the wars').

This research may be linked to a visit to the Schomburg Centre for Research in Black Culture in New York. I am also considering heading to South Africa to investigate the place of Southern Africa in late nineteenth and early twentieth century Pan-African politics. A number of men and women involved in the African Association (founded in London in 1897) were South African or spent time in South Africa. How these men and women interacted with the emerging apartheid system and how this influenced the political decisions they made back in Britain is something I would like to investigate further. And finally, I'd like to curate an exhibition that would link these diverse histories through the urban landscapes of the cities that are home to these archives, perhaps to be presented as an annotated online map.

PHILLIP LEVERHULME PRIZE:

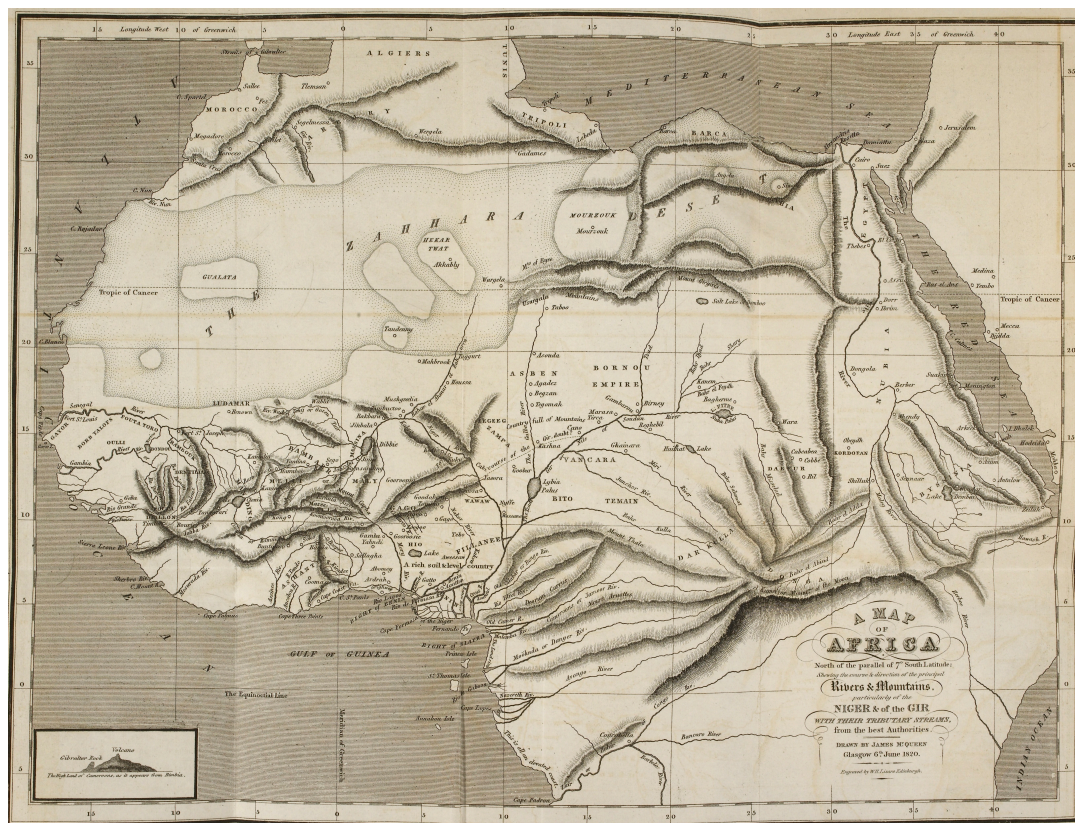
CAROLINE BRESSAY

HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHIES OF BLACK BRITONS

Lecturer in Human Geography,
School of Geography, University
College London.

ABOVE:

Urban landscapes as public history:
Hanbury Street, off Brick Lane,
London. A flyposter made from
images created by the photographer
Joy Gregory. For details and other
images in the series 'Sites of Africa'
see www.joygregory.co.uk/projects/



With the funds provided by the Philip Leverhulme Prize, I plan to take a period of research leave from autumn 2010 to Easter 2012. I will use the first half to finish my next monograph, *The Armchair Explorer*. Extending my previous work on Caribbean slavery and imperial networks, the book is situated at the intersection of histories of slavery, abolition and empire, and histories (and historical geographies) of science and knowledge. It is focused on the early nineteenth-century Scottish geographer and pro-slavery publicist, James MacQueen, who solved the ‘Niger problem’ despite never once visiting the African continent. Instead, he drew on the testimony of enslaved Africans he had managed in the West Indies. Through MacQueen, the book examines the entanglements of Atlantic slavery, geographical knowledge and imperialism from which the Victorian ‘civilising mission’ – and its most famous explorer-missionary, David Livingstone – would emerge. I will then begin a new research project into the forms of time consciousness and historicity associated with responses to Atlantic slavery in the past and present. Comparative in character, the project will involve language training and international collaboration, and will advance understanding of African diasporic philosophies, cultures and aesthetics.

PHILLIP LEVERHULME PRIZE:

DAVID LAMBERT

Reader in Historical Geography
Royal Holloway, University of
London

ABOVE;
James MacQueen’s 1820 map of West
Africa, showing the Atlantic
termination of the River Niger –
published 10 years before the Landers
expedition



I plan to use the Leverhulme funds to move on to a new project that will address different audiences, and will utilise different theoretical and methodological approaches, to my previous work. Whereas my first monograph on Delhi appealed to urban planning and colonial governmentality literatures, and my current book project refers to debates in new imperial history and sexuality studies, my future research will explore South Asian Studies perspectives on anti-colonial nationalism and urban politics. It will see me return to some of my earlier work on Congress politics in Delhi but will supplement this with more detailed contextual work on communalism, communism and British espionage in the city. This will involve language training and extensive archival and oral history research in London and Delhi. The resulting data will be analysed through the lenses of subaltern and memory studies, but historical GIS will also be used to map the intersecting micropolitics of different anti-colonial social movements in the city. The combination of these individual and collective methodologies will allow a consideration of the broader theoretical question of whether anti-colonial movements constituted thoroughgoing counter-governmentalities, or whether this interpretation simply re-folds resistance within “derivative discourses” of Enlightenment political rationality and subject formation.

PHILLIP LEVERHULME PRIZE:

STEPHEN LEGG

Lecturer in Cultural and Historical Geography, School of Geography, University of Nottingham.

ABOVE:

Female Political Activists.
(Photograph copyright of Narain Prasad, Delhi)

RGS-IBG 2010

London

1st -3rd

September

HGRG Sponsored Sessions**New and Emerging Research in Historical Geography**

Convened by Lois Jones (University of St Andrews) and Isla Forsyth (University of Glasgow)

If you are interested in submitting a paper, please contact Lois Jones (lj8@st-andrews.ac.uk).

The deadline for submission of abstracts is 22nd February

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.

When submitting your paper please include the following information: 1) name 2) institutional affiliation 3) contact email, 4) title of proposed paper, 5) abstract (no more than 250 words) and 6) technical requirements (i.e., video, data projector, sound).

Terra incognita? Making space for medieval geographies

Keith Lilley (Queen's University Belfast); Veronica Della Dora (University of Bristol); Stuart Elden (University of Durham)

Paper proposals and abstracts should be sent to : Dr Keith Lilley (k.lilley@qub.ac.uk) by January 31 2010.

The deadline for submission of abstracts is 19th February 2010

When submitting your paper please include the following information: 1) name 2) institutional affiliation 3) contact email, 4) title of proposed paper, 5) abstract (no more than 250 words) and 6) technical requirements (i.e., video, data projector, sound).

Historical geographers appear to be increasingly occupied with the modern or post-Enlightenment world, with 'medieval geographies' becoming, for many in the field, a terra incognita. Yet over the past century, the Latin, Byzantine and Arabic worlds of the Middle Ages (c.500-1500CE) have been a key focus for geographical study. Whether in charting geography's medieval history and historiography, or in reconstructing spatial histories of medieval landscapes, territories and societies, geographers have thus recognized the importance of geographies before the modern age. However, during the past three decades, these geographies 'in' and 'of' the Middle Ages have noticeably shifted further to the margins of Anglophone historical geography, at a time when, paradoxically, the geographical and spatial are growing concerns among medievalists, for example in art and literary history, and in architecture and archaeology. In the context of these shifting disciplinary terrains, this session seeks to make space for medieval geographies by providing a forum for recent and ongoing studies that encompass both geographies in and of the Middle Ages.

RGS-IBG 2010
London
 1st -3rd September

HGRG Sponsored Sessions

What are surfaces?

Isla Forsyth (Glasgow University),
 James Robinson (Aberystwyth
 University), Hayden Lorimer (Glasgow
 University),
 Peter Merriman (Aberystwyth
 University)

If you are interested in submitting a
 paper, please contact Isla
 Forsyth, isla.forsyth@ges.gla.ac.uk

The deadline for submission of
 abstracts is 19th February 2010

When submitting your paper please
 include the following information: 1)
 name 2) institutional affiliation 3)
 contact email, 4) title of proposed
 paper, 5) abstract (no more than 250
 words) and 6) technical requirements
 (i.e., video, data projector, sound).

Geographers have held a long-standing concern with describing and understanding the Earth's surface and the social and environmental interactions which it enables or constrains, some employing creative methods to produce myriad explanations of surface pattern, processes and peopling (Harrison et al. 2004). However, critical reflections on different understandings of 'the surface' have been relatively neglected in contemporary geographical study, with emphasis being placed on geographical concepts such as 'place' or 'landscape'. Commonly, and metaphysically, we come to know the world, and figure our place in it, as surface-dwellers, moving over ground, across bodies of water or occasionally taking to the air to see patterns of life and habitats from on-high (Cosgrove 2001; Ingold 2008). Meanwhile, much of the commonplace, metaphoric language of the surface is deeply pejorative: beauty is said to be skin-deep or someone is warned they are skating on thin-ice. If surfaces are objects of attraction, they are also subject to our suspicion and distrust. This session asks what a serious consideration of the superficial might allow, hinging on the question 'What are surfaces?' We welcome proposals for papers which have a theoretical and/or empirical focus which critically address different social, cultural, historical and physical engagements with surfaces: human and nonhuman; topographical, topological and technological; imagined, visualized and inhabited; material and metaphoric; reproduced, modelled and designed.

Papers may wish to address the questions/issues raised below

Questions:

- What kind of ontological status are 'the surface' or 'surfaces' afforded?
- What are the relations (theoretical and lived) between 'surface', 'space' and 'place'?
- How do surfaces form versions of exteriority/interiority for 'the self' and 'the world'?

Themes:

- Theories about, and technologies for, the 'full' apprehension of surfaces at different scales/distances/heights
- Treating the Surface as 'Background' or 'Interface' or 'Ecology'
- Re-designing surfaces to augment experience or to enable new forms of worldly appreciation
- Sustainability and Surface Design
- Bio-Mimicry and the Making of Surface Materials
- The Militarization of Surfaces
- The Science and the Art of Surfaces
- Skins, Exteriors and Outsides
- Visual Cultures of Topographical Surfaces
- Affective Surfaces, among Bodies and Beings
- The Place of Colour, Form and Pattern
- (Re)Modelling Surfaces, Topological and Topographical
- Aesthetic, Pictorial and Photographic Treatments, new and old
- The Visualisation, Exposure and Concealment of Surfaces
- Surfaces and the Retention of Past Presence
- Accounts of Encounters on/with Surfaces
- Methodologies for Studies of the Surface
- The Surface, and what lies beneath

RGS-IBG 2010

London

1st -3rd

September

HGRG Sponsored Sessions

Geographies of Black Internationalism:

Proposed papers, in the form of an abstract (max. 250 words), should be submitted to Daniel Whittall at d.j.whittall@rhul.ac.uk by Friday 12 February 2010.

When submitting your paper please include the following information: 1) name 2) institutional affiliation 3) contact email, 4) title of proposed paper, 5) abstract (no more than 250 words) and 6) technical requirements (i.e., video, data projector, sound).

The study of black internationalism examines the critical historical engagement of black thinkers and actors with global politics, and the often international channels through which such engagements have taken place. Scholarship has explored how black internationalism has functioned through movements as diverse as pan-Africanism, Négritude, Communism, Surrealism, Liberalism and differing religious movements, to name only some examples (Patterson and Kelley, 2000). We can thus conceptualise multiple black internationalisms, articulated in diverse historical and geographical settings (West, Martin and Wilkins, 2009). Particular attention has been given both to the constructed nature of racial communities and identities within black internationalism, and also the gendered and class-stratified nature such constructions have taken (Edwards, 2003; Stephens: 2005). Such work has opened a space for debate over the meanings of both 'blackness' and 'internationalism' within global cultures and politics.

The study of black internationalism offers considerable opportunities for geographers working on the spatialities of anticolonialism, political activism, the (historical) geographies of social movements, and the relationship between space and politics. However, at present it remains the terrain primarily of historians and literary critics. Indeed, debates around political geography and nationalism have been accused of remaining 'woefully ignorant of ... African diasporic movements' (Tyner, 2004: 343). This session will explore the historical and political geographies of these movements in order to think more deeply about the relationship between space and the heterogeneous politics of black internationalism. Topics for discussion might include, but are not restricted to, the following:

- The 'imaginative geographies' of black internationalism;
- Black internationalism and the spaces of print or public culture;
- Place-based articulations of black internationalism;
- The relationship between black internationalism and other political or cultural movements;
- The gendering of black internationalist discourse and practice;
- Geographical conceptualisations and contestations of 'black' and/or 'internationalism';
- Black internationalism's historical geographies;
- Spatialities of black internationalism today;
- Methodological reflections on researching black internationalisms.

RGS-IBG 2010**London****1st -3rd****September**

HGRG Sponsored Sessions

Narrating Stories of Travel and Tourism:

Jacky Tivers, (Nottingham Trent University)
Tijana Rakic, (Edinburgh Napier University)

Suggestions for papers should be sent to the convenors Jacky Tivers (jacky.tivers@ntu.ac.uk) or Tijana Rakic (tijana224@gmail.com) by Friday 12 February 2010.

When submitting your paper please include the following information: 1) name 2) institutional affiliation 3) contact email, 4) title of proposed paper, 5) abstract (no more than 250 words) and 6) technical requirements (i.e., video, data projector, sound).

Travel and tourism 'stories' have been recorded in every culture, in every period of oral and written history, and across the breadth of the fact/fiction continuum. The scope of this session is necessarily and deliberately wide and papers are sought which address the subject through any relevant 'lens' and in relation to any specific context, historical or present-day. The chief focus of the session is on 'narrating' the stories of travel and tourism and the proposed papers could focus on methodological approaches, conceptual discussions and/or study findings.

Thematic areas might include, but are not necessarily limited to:

- Historical/contemporary fact/fiction travel narratives
 - The role of image making (drawing, painting, photography, video), souvenir collecting, and/or diary, postcards or digital correspondence writing while 'away from home' in recording and narrating travel experiences
 - Tourist/traveller identities in travel narratives
 - Narratives of place in travel writing and storytelling
-

RGS-IBG 2010
London
 1st -3rd September

HGRG Sponsored Sessions

'Places without a place': The geographies of ships

Convened by William Hasty
 (University of Glasgow) and Kimberley
 Peters
 (Royal Holloway University of
 London)

Discussant: Dr. David Lambert (Royal
 Holloway University of London)

Abstracts (250 words maximum)
 should be submitted to William Hasty
 (will.hasty@ges.gla.ac.uk) and
 Kimberley Peters
 (k.a.peters@rhul.ac.uk) by
 February 19th 2010.

When submitting your paper please
 include the following information: 1)
 name 2) institutional affiliation 3)
 contact email, 4) title of proposed
 paper, 5) abstract (no more than 250
 words) and 6) technical requirements
 (i.e., video, data projector, sound).

"...the ship is a piece of floating space, a placeless place, that lives by its own devices, that is self-enclosed and, at the same time, delivered over to the boundless expanse of the ocean, and that goes from port to port, from watch to watch, from brothel to brothel, all the way to the colonies in search of the most precious treasures that lie in wait in their gardens, you see why for our civilisation, from the sixteenth century up to our time, the ship has been at the same time not only the greatest instrument of economic development...but the greatest reservoir of imagination." (Foucault 1998)

Despite being the "most ancient and most modern of spaces" (Casarino 2002), the ship has received surprisingly little attention from geographers. The work of some historians and social theorists, particularly Denning (1992), Gilroy (1993) and Rediker (2004; 2007), and the recent 'maritime shift' in historical, social and cultural geography has highlighted the potential for 'geographies of the ship'. Lambert, Martins and Ogborn (2006) insist that "Other ships are other spaces. Pirate ships, slave vessels, canoes, rafts, ocean liners, tramp steamers, destroyers and submarines are all open to the investigation of the making of social and cultural differences." In addition, the 'new mobilities paradigm' (Sheller and Urry 2006), which has traditionally paid most attention to the plane, train and automobile, has lately begun to examine the possibilities which may be unearthed through geographies of the ship (see Cresswell 2006, Stanley 2008).

This session aims to explore the geographies of ships, providing a platform for critical engagement with ongoing debates and a forum for presenting new perspectives on matters empirical, theoretical and methodological, taking a historical or contemporary focus. These papers could address, but need not be limited to, some of the following topics:

- The ship as a place which disrupts notions of place
- The ship as an 'other' space
- Ships and the global world
- The social and cultural geographies of life onboard ships
- The mobility of ships
- Practices of power; domination, resistance and ships

PAUL SANDBY and the Geographies of Eighteenth-century British Art

18–19 March 2010



Paul Sandby, *Hockwood Park, Hampshire, 1763-64* (detail)
(Yale Center for British Art, Paul Mellon Fund)

This conference addresses issues arising from the exhibition *Paul Sandby: Picturing Britain*, organised by the Nottingham Castle Museum and Art Gallery (25 July–18 October 2009; National Gallery of Scotland, Edinburgh, 7 November 2009–7 February 2010; Royal Academy of Arts, London, 13 March–13 June 2010). It is the first exhibition to bring together drawings, paintings and prints by this important, if neglected, artist. It spans his long career, initially as a military draughtsman and then as a professional artist, from the Act of Union following the failure of the 1745 Jacobite Rebellion to the wars with France at the century's end. His art is arguably unrivalled among that of his contemporaries in its portrayal of a range of subjects – rural and urban, modern and historical – in a country experiencing rapid social change and commercial development.

Full conference fee for both days, including coffee, lunch, tea and receptions: £40. Student and Senior concessions £20. To register for the conference please check availability with Ella Fleming at the Paul Mellon Centre:
Email: events@paul-mellon-centre.ac.uk Tel: 020 7580 0311 Fax: 020 7636 6730

Conference Programme

Thursday 18 March 2010 (6.30 pm)

Royal Academy of Arts,

Private view of the exhibition, *Paul Sandby, Picturing Britain*, led by John Bonehill (Curator of the Exhibition), followed by a wine reception.

Friday 19 March 2010

Paul Mellon Centre

Registration 9.15 am

Morning session introduced and chaired by Kim Sloan (Department of Prints & Drawings, British Museum)

Keynote address by Bruce Robertson (University of California, Santa Barbara) *Paul Sandby: Father of English Watercolour?*; Tim Wilcox (Independent Scholar), *Burying the Hatchet: Paul Sandby at Luton Park*; Finola O'Kane (University College Dublin), *A Genuine Idea of the Face of the Kingdom?*; Jonathan Fisher and Paul Sandby's portrait of Ireland within the frame of Great Britain; John Barrell (University of York), *A Common in Wales: Edward Pugh, the Pastoral, and Progress*

Afternoon session introduced and chaired by Shearer West (Director of Research, Arts and Humanities Research Council); Gillian Forrester (Prints & Drawings, Yale Center for British Art), *'No Joke Like a True Joke?'* *'Twelve London Cries done from the Life'*; Nick Grindle (University College London), *Living in London and Windsor: The Sandby brothers' residences, c.1752–1809*; Carolyn Anderson (University of Edinburgh), *'The art of depicting with a soldier's eye': The Military Mapping of Eighteenth-Century Scotland*; Stephen Daniels (University of Nottingham), *'Great Balls of Fire': Representing the Remarkable Meteor of 18th August 1783*; Panel and audience discussion chaired by Sam Smiles (Emeritus, University of Plymouth)

6.15 pm Wine reception

THE WARBURG INSTITUTE
University of London
Woburn Square, London WC1H 0AB

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, followed by refreshment, are held on selected Thursdays at The Warburg Institute at 5.00 pm. Admission is free. All are welcome. Enquiries: +44 (0) 20 8346 5112 (Dr Delano Smith).

NINETEENTH SERIES: 2009–2010

2009

November 5 **Professor Richard Talbert** (Department of History, University of North Carolina). The Artemidorus Papyrus and Its (ancient ?) Map of ... Where ... ?

December 3 **Dr Carla Lois** (Universidad de Buenos Aires; Universidad Nacional de La Plata). Toponymic Landscapes: Ways of Seeing Patagonia in Early Argentinean Maps.

2010

January 21 **Alexander Johnson** (Department of History, University of Exeter). Board of Trade and Its Cartographic Agenda in British North America, 1748–1782.

MEETING SPONSORED BY THE HAKLUYT SOCIETY

February 25 **Captain Michael Barritt, RN** (Vice-President, Hakluyt Society). ‘Practical Men of Science’: Operational Surveys in the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars, and the Emergence of the RN Hydrographic Specialisation.

March 18 **Dr Alexander Kent** (School of Geography, University of Southampton). Landscape or Blandscape? Exploring Cartographic Style in European Topographic Maps of the 20th Century.

April 15 **Dr Adam Mosley** (Department of History and Classics, University of Swansea). Cosmography and Cartography in the Renaissance: Their Relationship Revisited.

April 29 **Dr Chet Van Duzer** (Independent Scholar). Settling Disputes through Cartography in Fourteenth-Century Palma de Mallorca: The Map of the Siquia Aqueduct.

May 27 **Dr Sandra Sáenz-López Pérez** (Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación, Madrid). European Encounters with ‘the Other’ in Sixteenth-Century Cartography.

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

ORDNANCE: WAR, ARCHITECTURE AND SPACE

An interdisciplinary conference organized by the Cork Centre for Architectural Education (CCAЕ) and School of the Human Environment, University College Cork.
16-18 September 2010

CALL FOR PAPERS

This international interdisciplinary conference seeks to explore the often hidden relationship between militarism and the design and construction of architecture and space in the modern period.

Historically, military imperatives have been embedded in the way society is organized and, from the Renaissance onwards, the needs of offence and defence played an increasingly influential role not only in the physical shaping of the city and landscape, but also on the means by which they were represented. Recent events, notably the "War on Terror" have reinforced these impulses within the city, extending and deepening systems and architectures of surveillance.

Accordingly, we seek proposals for analytical and interpretive papers from architects, historians, geographers, urbanists, designers, sociologists, and others who share an interest in the ways in which space, architecture, knowledge and technology have been deployed, especially in the following ways:

- 1) the patterns, forms and processes that underpin the articulation of militarized spaces and architectures across a series of historical and geographical scales and domains.
- 2) continuities, where cultures and acts of war have been reconfigured and re-circulated into domestic or civilian spaces and products.
- 3) the legacies and residues of these architectures, the ways in which militaristic modes of space have been refuted, re-appropriated, and reclaimed for social and cultural purposes.

TIMETABLE

Deadline for submission of abstracts (350 words) 1 February 2010

Notification of Acceptance 1 March 2010

Conference Venue: University College Cork, Republic of Ireland.

Date: 16th to 18th September 2010

Organisers: Gary A. Boyd and Denis Linehan

Contact: g.boyd@ucc.ie

Gary A. Boyd

Cork Centre for Architectural Education

<http://www.ucc.ie/en/architecture/Staff/AcademicStaff/DrGaryABoyd/>



Correspondence Travel, Writing, & Literatures of Exploration, c. 1750-c. 1850

7–10 April 2010

An international conference hosted by
The University of Edinburgh and National Library of Scotland

The conference

The University of Edinburgh (Institute of Geography and Centre for the History of the Book), in collaboration with the National Library of Scotland, is pleased to announce “Correspondence: travel, writing, and literatures of exploration, c. 1750–c.1850”—a four-day, interdisciplinary conference concerned with travel, travel writing, and the associated literatures of exploration.

In bringing together scholarly perspectives from geography, book history, literary studies, and the history of science, the conference seeks to interrogate the relationship between travel, exploration, and publishing in order better to understand how knowledge acquired ‘in the field’ became, through a series of material and epistemic translations, knowledge on the page.

Plenary speakers include Elizabeth Bohls (University of Oregon); Joyce Chaplin (Harvard University); Tim Fulford (Nottingham Trent University); and Nigel Leask (University of Glasgow).

Conference fees

Standard: £120

Concessions: £60 (A limited number of postgraduate bursaries are available.)

Day fee: £45

Further details and registration

For details of the conference programme, the confirmed speakers, and how to register, go to www.geos.ed.ac.uk/geography/correspondence, or e-mail innes.keighren@ed.ac.uk



Arts & Humanities
Research Council



CFP: 'Salty' Geographies: Subaltern maritime networks, spaces and practices

Department of Geographical and Earth Sciences, University of Glasgow, Autumn 2010 (precise date to be confirmed)

Organised by David Featherstone & William Hasty (University of Glasgow)

****Two travel bursaries are available for HGRG postgraduate members presenting at this conference****

Invited speakers include:

Dr Dan Clayton, School of Geography and Geo-sciences, University of St Andrews

Dr Stephanie Jones, English, School of Humanities, University of Southampton

Dr David Lambert, Department of Geography, Royal Holloway, University of London

Professor Marcus Rediker, Professor and Chair of History, University of Pittsburgh

Professor Lakshmi Subramanian, Professor of History, Department of History Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi

Dr Carl Thompson, School of Arts and Humanities, Nottingham Trent University

Over the last decade or so, geographers have begun to critically engage with the maritime realms of the past and the present, signalling something of a shift from the territorial focus which had dominated the discipline for so long. The worlds of sailors and ships, slaves and merchants, dockworkers and ports, and even the sea itself have been explored through the lens of geography. This has led to the foregrounding of new debates and perspectives in relation to existing concerns within the discipline and has reworked understandings of processes such as imperialism and slavery. It has also offered new points of departure from which research can emerge. Geographers have, among other things, begun to engage with the politics of maritime networks (Lambert 2005), the spatial constitution of maritime networks (Ogborn 2008), explore forms of subaltern agency and identity constituted by maritime workers (Featherstone 2008), and interrogate the spatial imaginaries of the ocean (Steinberg 2001).

Much of this work has been positioned in relation to productive theoretical and empirical attempts to 'historicise the ocean' (Klein and MacKenthun 2004); a paradigm shift in historical studies which advances a major challenge to existing work in social and political history. This work has included pioneering work on various forms of Atlantic radicalism (Linebaugh and Rediker 2000; Rediker 2004, 2007, Scott 1986), an historical ethnography of the *HMS Bounty* mutineers (Denning 1992), an account of slave-ship sailors (Christopher 2006), and work on the presence of Africans in the Atlantic (Bolster 1997; Gilroy 1992). This work has led to an important revisioning of nation-centred histories of radical movements and forms of social practices and opened up new ways of engaging with subaltern identities, agency and practices.

While drawing on this body of work for inspiration, this symposium seeks to critically engage with the work that has been advanced in maritime geographies thus far and prompt new research agendas in the process. The programme of events spanning two days will include keynote talks, papers and workshops dealing with methodological and theoretical issues.

Key questions:

- How does a focus on maritime connections refigure terracentric conceptions of nation and empire?
- What are the sites/spaces of the ship?
- How does a focus on the littoral refigure notions of space and place?
- What are the dynamic spatial practices of maritime workers/ sailor's politics/ organising practices?
- What are the geographies of pirates and piracy?
- How does thinking in explicitly spatial terms reconfigure the terms of debate of existing work on maritime histories?
- How are maritime spaces constituted through transnational and multi-ethnic relations?
- What are the gendered spatial practices of maritime worlds?
- What human/ non-human configurations are constituted through maritime networks?
- What productive methodologies are engendered by an attention to maritime geographies?

International Medieval Congress 2010

Conference theme: 'Travel and Exploration'

Leeds, 12-15 July 2010

"Map mappings: a cross-disciplinary forum on medieval cartography"

A roundtable discussion sponsored by the Historical Geography Research Group of the RGS/IBG

This roundtable brings together specialists from cognate fields with the aim of exploring 'mapping' and medieval map-making within the context of both European and Arabic culture. Our focus is on fundamental questions, such as what was understood to be 'a map' within different medieval spatial and temporal contexts, and how were maps being conceived and consumed? To address these issues the roundtable participants include art and literary historians, historians of cartography, and historical geographers, each of whom will use their particular area of subject expertise to reflect upon approaching, analysing and interpreting medieval maps and the processes of their production.

Participants:

- Ingrid Baumgärtner, Kassel University, Germany
- Paul Harvey, University of Durham, UK
- Marcia Kupfer, Ohio State University, USA
- Karen Pinto, Gettysburg College, USA
- Felicitas Schmieder, Hagen University, Germany
- Camille Serchuck, Southern Connecticut State University, USA

Session organizer: Keith Lilley, School of Geography, Archaeology & Palaeoecology, Queen's University Belfast, UK

Session moderator: Martina Stercken, Nationaler Forschungsschwerpunkt (NFS), University of Zürich, Switzerland

Thesis abstracts

Knowing the Ocean-Space: An Atlantic Case Study

Dr Anne-Flore Laloë

**Awarded December 2009
School of Geography
University of Exeter.**

This thesis examines geographical knowledge production of the Atlantic Ocean-space in terms of sociocultural, scientific, religious and technological factors from a European perspective between 1492 and the late-nineteenth century. Through this case study, I locate the ocean-space within geographical debates, focusing on the interrelationships between the historiography of science and the production of knowledge about the Atlantic Ocean. The making of knowledge about the Atlantic Ocean thus emerges as part of a wider cultural and scientific enterprise that reveals complex and tightly entwined discourses. First, I locate the ocean-space in general and the Atlantic Ocean in particular within epistemological discourses of geography and historical geography. I investigate the historical geographies of space from a sociocultural perspective, examining, in particular, how knowledge can be made at a distance. Second, through close examination of original cartographic and archival material, I analyze how knowledge about the ocean-space was first acquired and verified, and then represented and accepted culturally. I discuss the discovery of the limits of the Atlantic Ocean, focusing on the cognitive realization that the world did not fit a tripartite, biblical model. I then analyze archival and cartographic material to highlight Enlightenment methodologies applied to the study of the ocean-space. In particular, I consider non-existent islands, the invention of the chronometer and the mapping of magnetic fields within both scientific and cultural contexts. Finally, I focus on the discovery and exploration of the deep ocean-space, investigating how it became located within a wider scientific setting of global geology and biology. Specifically, I discuss the discovery of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge in relation to plate tectonics and the story of *Bathypius haeckelii*, which sought to explain the origins of life on Earth. Through analyzing cartographic and archival material, and how the Atlantic Ocean-space became known, this thesis critiques geographical ways of knowing space and geographies of science and ocean science.

Engineering Modernity: the provision of water for Tangier 1840-1956.

Dr Valerie Viehoff

**Awarded May 2009
Department of Geography
University College London.**

Combining post-colonial urban theory and urban political ecology the PhD analysed the historical and contemporary role of different ideas of urbanity, citizenship and modernity in the context of Tangier in Morocco. It shows that the development of the city's modern water supply system was closely linked to the "modern infrastructural ideal" (Graham and Marvin, 2001) and the emergence of a nascent public sphere. Yet, due to weak institutional settings and uneven colonial power relations, public interests were overruled by economic and political considerations. Meanwhile, due to the persistently uneven access to household water connections the poor have been *de facto* excluded from an essential element of *citadinité* and from the plethora of promises and dreams that have always been incorporated in the fetishised infrastructures of the modern city. The study of Tangier and its water supply system demonstrates that the "city of modernity" with its comprehensive urban infrastructure networks as it occurred in Europe and North America has to be appreciated as a unique and fragile compromise that result out of specific historic, economic, social and political conditions. The inherent contradictions between a capitalist economic logic and the promises of modernity to deliver a better and fairer (urban) society, which have only been thinly concealed by the "modern infrastructural ideal" in Western societies, are more obvious and pronounced in cities in the global South.

Thesis abstracts

British Exploratory Mountaineering in the Second Half of the Twentieth Century

Dr David Potter

**School of Geography,
University of Nottingham**

Ways in which mountains have been explored, understood and talked about in Britain have shifted through the twentieth century. A group of British mountaineers, all of whom climbed in the second half of the twentieth century, emerged from archive and interview research as key actors in this period. These people formed a distinct group who thought about and practiced a form of mountaineering that was at odds with the mountaineering hegemony in Britain earlier in the century. Through a consideration of this group, this thesis provides a critique of British exploratory mountaineering during this period. By treating exploratory mountaineering as a culture of exploration, it opens up a range of concepts to analysis, including masculinity, gender, ethics, bodily experiences, processes of dissemination of exploratory knowledge, cultures of publication and the place of commercialism. Exploratory mountaineers considered certain practices morally acceptable and others unacceptable, and were keenly attuned to the way that their bodies interacted with mountain landscapes, and the factors that augmented these interactions. These issues are investigated in depth, and the relationship between them and the dissemination of mountaineering feats in Britain through clubs and journals, magazines, films and books is unpicked. The relationships between these media and attitudes towards communication, both within the mountaineering community and between mountaineers and the non-mountaineering public, are examined. What emerges builds on existing notions of exploration and of mountains.



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: ljenkins@bham.ac.uk

HGRG are keen to provide a forum for disseminating abstracts of recently completed doctoral theses in historical geography. Abstracts of around 250 words should be sent to h.hawkins@exeter.ac.uk