

# Historical Geography Research Group



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## COPY FOR NEXT ISSUE

Date for new copy:

20th September 2011

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## Letter from the chair

**Dear HGRG members,**

Traditionally the summer period is quiet for HGRG, however this year we held the 'Teaching Historical Geography' workshop in May at the RGS-IBG in London. 27 participants gathered to consider the place of historical geography in the higher education curriculum, funded by a grant from the Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences Subject Centre. Many thanks to the RGS-IBG for supporting the event, participants who attended during one of the busiest times of the academic year, and also to those who supported the event but were not able to be there in person. A full report will be published in the autumn newsletter, however the long-term outcomes of this workshop will include the development of an online bank of teaching resources.

Progress is being made with the HGRG archive project. Innes Keighren (RHUL, HGRG committee member) and I have started an initial catalogue process to identify the range of papers and give a rough guide to content. Thanks to the efforts of previous committee members we have the records of the group going back to the late 1960's (in the days of ALRG) and the formal establishment of HGRG in 1972. The archive is very rich, indeed, it was timely to discover the agenda for the 'Teaching Historical Geography' symposium held in January 1988 convened by Denis Cosgrove, including contributions by Felix Diver and Mike Heffernan who also attended the workshop in May 2011.

Next year will be the 40th anniversary of HGRG. Such an anniversary should be marked and ideas for how to do this are welcomed. Please email me ([Nicola.j.thomas@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:Nicola.j.thomas@exeter.ac.uk)) your thoughts and we will discuss this at the AGM.

The AGM will be held during the RGS-IBG Annual Conference (31 August - 2 September 2011). Any member is able to attend the AGM, even if you are not attending the conference. This year a number of positions have come to the period for election. The positions that are available are Secretary, Research Series Editor, Newsletter Editor and Postgraduate Members. Please let me know if you are interested in joining the committee. Further notice will be sent out via email.

All best wishes,

Nicola Thomas



## 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](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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# MARITIME ROUNDTABLE: THE GEOGRAPHIES OF SHIPS

8 MARCH 2011

CONFERENCE REPORT BY: INNES M. KEIGHREN,  
ROYAL HOLLOWAY, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

In recent years something of a maritime turn has been apparent in historiographical engagements with empire, science, and travel (among much else). This attention has found a spatial expression in what has been called, with tongue ever-so-slightly in cheek, salty geographies. A special issue of the *Journal of Historical Geography* in 2006, attending to the “Historical Geographies of the Sea”, served, in part, to codify geography’s emerging engagement with oceanic spaces. Since then, a series of workshops and conference sessions have brought new perspectives to geography’s study of the sea and the ship in both historical and contemporary contexts. The most recent such event—a roundtable organised jointly by William Hasty (University of Glasgow) and Anyaa Anim-Addo and Kimberly Peters (Royal Holloway, University of London)—brought together geographers, historians, and archaeologists to examine various and interlocking social and spatial conceptualisations of the ship.

The roundtable opened with a detailed and engaging account of the 1946 Indian Royal Navy mutiny from Andrew Davies (University of Liverpool). Andrew described how, through a variety of social and organisational practices aboard ship, the Indian Royal Navy conspired to shape the identities of sailors—most particularly to make them civil subjects of British India. Andrew explained how these often repressive ship-board practices (which he described as a literal and figurative deterritorialisation) led ultimately to the Bombay Mutiny. Practices of resistance were apparent too in the paper given by Anyaa Anim-Addo (Royal Holloway) on the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company’s activities in the post-emancipation Caribbean. Anyaa described the various ways in which the rhythms of island life were disrupted and altered by the rigidly-observed Company timetable, but also how such impositions were actively resisted (particularly in Jamaica, where concern for the sanctity of the Sabbath, led to the Company being refused permission dock or depart on a Sunday). Anyaa went on to illustrate the significance of the Company in the circulation of news (and rumour) from the Caribbean to Britain and to explain how the labour revolt at Saint Croix in 1878 was reported on in the British Press (and subsequently repressed at a distance) as a consequence of the facilitating influence of the Company’s network.

Whilst mobility appears central to the conceptualisation of the ship, Kimberley Peter’s (Royal Holloway) paper on the practices of surveillance and regulation which surrounded British government attempts to control pirate radio stations between the

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# MARITIME ROUNDTABLE: THE GEOGRAPHIES OF SHIPS

## 8 MARCH 2011

CONFERENCE REPORT BY INNES M. KEIGHREN, ROYAL HOLLOWAY,  
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Cont...

Kimberley showed how, despite being anchored and apparently immovable, pirate radio ships were the hubs of highly-mobile networks which were described both by the travel of radio waves and by the ship-to-shore journeys of the small supply boats on which the larger vessels depended. Kimberley offered a fascinating and amusing account of the various ways in which Britain's coastal waters were conceived of legislatively and legally and how these claims to institutional authority were challenged and circumvented by the activities of pirate radio stations. It was to vessels of an altogether more sophisticated character that Bronwen Edwards (Leeds Metropolitan University) turned in her discussion of retail spaces on Cunard Line liners operating between Southampton and New York from the 1930s to the 1960s. Bronwen offered a detailed and evocative account of the efforts made by British menswear retailers—such as Austin Reed and Simpson's—to position themselves as outposts of Regent Street and Piccadilly on the high seas. Browned showed how, with specific aesthetic principles in mind, designers of onboard shops attempted to recreate the ambiance and facilities of London's West End, thus serving to collapsing the epistemic distance between the ocean and the metropolitan shopping street.

Richard Blakemore (University of Cambridge) focused in his paper on London's vocational seafarers in the early modern period, and on the ways in which they encountered, experienced, and understood the ocean. Richard showed how—depending upon the vagaries of social status, navigational training, and religious conviction—the ocean was understood variously as a space of danger, of natural spectacle, of curiosity and speculation, and of scientific investigation and instrumental regulation. Much like Andrew Davies's earlier paper on the Indian Royal Navy, Richard was concerned to examine the ways in which seafarers' (largely masculine) identity was formed and performed through various practiced at sea and on land. It was to practices of navigation, chart making, and observation at sea that Anne-Flore Laloë (University of Exeter) turned in her paper on the activities of the Hydrographic Office during the nineteenth century. Anne-Flore described various ways in which, through an attention to the marine chart, it is possible to unravel the work of the ship as both a site of scientific rigour and a venue for often confused and subjective speculation.

In attending to the emergence of containerisation in the 1960s, Craig Martin (Royal Holloway) addressed the ship's important infrastructural role but also examined the changes to maritime practice, and the rhythms of dockside work, which followed the introduction of the standardised cargo container. Craig showed how the development of containerisation profoundly altered the spatial and temporal dynamics of the ship—changing the nature of seafaring and dock work as labour practices in various important ways. In offering his concluding comments as the roundtable's discussant, Felix Driver (Royal Holloway) reinforced the central themes which connected the papers (and served to mark out geography's approach to studies of the ship and the sea). Mobility and the shaping of identity was apparent variously in the attention paid to the organisational practices of the Indian Royal Navy; to the construction of masculine retail spaces aboard ocean liners; and to the shaping of the early-modern seafarer. The rhythms of the ocean, and of shipboard life, emerged as equally significant—whether measured in terms of the diurnal regulatory of tides, the global circulation of cargo, or rigid timetabling of the steam packet. In various ways the roundtable signalled to the significance of the sea and the ship as sites of geographical construction and contestation and, in so doing, highlighted the rich potential which the maritime turn in geography offers.

# Practicing Historical Geography conference

University of Nottingham

3rd November 2010

Report by Briony McDonagh (University of Nottingham)

The 16th annual Practicing Historical Geography conference was held in the School of Geography, University of Nottingham in early November last year. More than 50 delegates from 11 UK universities as far apart as Edinburgh and Exeter made the trip to Nottingham. After a brief welcome from members of the HGRG committee, the first keynote of the day was delivered by Prof. David Matless, who talked on the topic of 'Accents of Landscape: The Horsey Mail, 1938'. The group watched 'The Horsey Mail', a documentary film shot by the GPO Film Unit during the Norfolk floods of spring 1938 which recorded the Post Office's herculean efforts to deliver the mail to a small community cut off by the floodwaters. David used the film as a way of examining both the meaning of the term landscape and questions of authority and accent, pointing to potential tensions between local voices and attachments to landscape on the one hand and a survey view (represented by the film's main narrator) on the other.

In the postgraduate voices session, Dr. Lucy Veale (University of Nottingham) talked about her recent experiences as a PhD student, skilfully handling questions from the audience about how to successfully research and write a doctoral thesis. She also offered the audience a sneak preview of her new project on representations of climate change in East Midlands museums, showcasing some of the items – including weather diaries, recording instruments and natural history collections – she is currently working on.

Before and after lunch, the delegates split into groups in order to attend two excellent workshops run by Dr. Susanne Seymour (University of Nottingham) and Dr. George Revill (Open University). Susanne talked about the archival, practical and ethical issues surrounding her work researching enslaved Africans and plantation landscapes, while George discussed some of the difficulties historical geographers encounter when practicing theory in their work. Both the sessions were highly participatory, with delegates working in small groups to discuss how they might apply new ideas, approaches and sources to their own postgraduate research.

The final keynote of the day was given by Dr. Caroline Bressey (University College London) who talked to the title of 'Finding a new path through the archives'. Caroline introduced delegates to her work on the 'Black Londoners, 1800-1900' project, recounting how she had identified subjects in a range of sources including photographic albums kept by institutions like prisons, hospitals and children's homes. She also talked through her plans for research funded by the Philip Leverhulme Prize, which she won in 2009. In doing so, Caroline highlighted some of the methodological problems she has faced as a historical geographer, interrogating the relationship between researcher and historical subjects as well as drawing attention to the difficulties posed by gaps in the archive.

Many thanks to all the speakers and participants for making the 2010 Practicing Historical Geographies workshop another informative and interesting day. Keep an eye on the HGRG website and newsletter for more information about the next Practicing Historical Geographies one-day conference, which will take place in November 2011.

### HGRG Undergraduate Dissertation Prize

The strength and vibrancy of undergraduate teaching and research in historical geography has again been demonstrated by the submissions received for the 2010 HGRG Undergraduate Dissertation Prize (awarded in association with Cambridge University Press). From among an impressive and high-calibre field, the judges awarded the prize jointly to Kallum Dhillon (University College London) and Rory Hill (University of Exeter). Kallum's dissertation—"Help or hindrance? The effects of philanthropic social housing near St Pancras/King's Cross on the Victorian working classes"—was judged to be contextually thorough, methodologically sophisticated, and original in its conclusions. Rory's dissertation—"Circuits of capital: placing the end of francophone Methodism in Jersey, 1900–1950"—was found to be empirically and theoretically rich, thematically novel, and superbly executed. Kallum and Rory will each receive £150-worth of books published by Cambridge University Press.

Although Cambridge University Press's long and generous association with the HGRG's Undergraduate Dissertation Prize comes to an end this year, its role will be assumed by Ashgate—publishers of the new "Studies in Historical Geography" series. The HGRG committee would like to extend its sincere appreciation to CUP for its longstanding support of the prize and to offer thanks to Ashgate for its enthusiastic commitment. Special thanks are also due to Professor Miles Ogborn, who acted as this year's external prize adjudicator, and to Dr Diarmid Finnegan, who steps down as prize coordinator after several years of wonderfully-efficient organization.

In association with Ashgate, the HGRG is pleased, therefore, to offer a prize to the best undergraduate dissertation in any area of historical geography which is based upon original research and which demonstrates conceptual and/or methodological sophistication. The successful prize winner will receive £200 of Ashgate-published books, and will be invited to submit an article based upon their dissertation for publication in the *Journal of Historical Geography* (subject to the standard refereeing procedures of that periodical). The winner will also be invited to present their work at the annual HGRG Practising Historical Geography Conference in November.

## Announcements from the RGS-IBG

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### RGS-IBG Collections

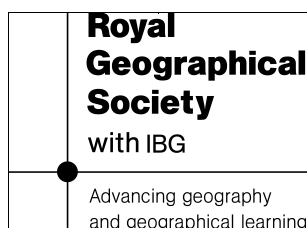
The Society's Collections provide an unparalleled resource of around 2 million items covering over 500 years of geographical discovery and research. We welcome groups of students and their tutors to the Society for building tours, introductions to the Collections and other geographical activities (e.g. sessions run on geography careers), and are happy to tailor sessions to course-related themes or assessments. Contact [RHED@rgs.org](mailto:RHED@rgs.org) for more details about bringing your students for a visit.



### RGS-IBG Grants

The RGS-IBG Grants Programme supports over 90 geographical research projects each year, with £180,000 awarded in 2010 to projects from across the discipline. Applications are welcomed from researchers undertaking field or desk-based research. Application deadlines for our senior research, early career research and student grants are in November, January and February - for full details please visit our website, [www.rgs.org/grants](http://www.rgs.org/grants)





Arts & Humanities  
Research Council

### **AHRC-funded Collaborative PhD Studentship Geographical Projections: Lantern slides, science and popular geography, 1860-1960**

[Geography, Cornwall Campus](#) (near Falmouth), University of Exeter and the [Royal Geographical Society \(with IBG\)](#), London.

Following the award of an AHRC Collaborative PhD Studentship, the University of Exeter, in partnership with the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG), is seeking to appoint a suitably qualified applicant for a doctoral studentship for three years commencing on 1 October 2011.

Principal supervisor: [Dr James Ryan](#); 2nd supervisor: [Dr Simon Naylor](#). RGS-IBG supervisor: Dr Catherine Souch.

This collaborative doctoral project focuses on the RGS-IBG's unique collection of lantern slides and aims to locate them within their wider cultural and historical settings of science, commerce and entertainment. Analysing lantern slides alongside associated records, correspondence and contemporary publications (focusing on RGS-IBG archives but also using parallel UK collections), the studentship will explore how lantern slides were employed to convey particular forms of geographical information; how they circulated within geographical worlds; and how different audiences responded to them. It will also consider how technology and location affected audiences' attitudes, perceptions and expectations.

The successful applicant will work closely with RGS-IBG staff involved in the management of the collection and planning of dissemination strategies, including displays, presentations, publications and on-line material. In this way the student will play an important part in developing ways to open up this unique visual archive to wider audiences, including RGS-IBG members; archive and library users; the scholarly community; and the public at large.

The successful applicant will benefit from working within a lively and expanding research environment within Geography (Cornwall Campus, near Falmouth) at the [College of Life and Environmental Sciences](#), University of Exeter.

This project will be of interest to applicants with backgrounds in a range of disciplines and subject areas, including historical and cultural geography; history of technology; history and sociology of science; visual culture; and cultural history. Applicants should hold (or expect to achieve in 2011) a Master's degree and either a 1st Class or Upper 2nd Class Honours degree in a relevant discipline.

For eligible candidates the award covers Home/EU tuition fees for three years and provides a maintenance award of at least £13,590 per year for three years. The terms and conditions of the award will be those of the AHRC's postgraduate studentships. Applicants must therefore have a relevant connection with the United Kingdom, usually through residence. For further information, or informal discussion about the position, please contact: Dr James Ryan (email: [james.ryan@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:james.ryan@exeter.ac.uk); tel: +44 (0)1326 253761 or Dr Simon Naylor (email: [s.k.naylor@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:s.k.naylor@exeter.ac.uk); tel: +44 (0)1326 371864).

### **How to apply**

In order to apply you will need to complete an online web form where you must submit some personal details and upload the following documents (preferred format for uploaded files is .pdf and preferred filename should start with your last name):

· CV



- Covering letter (outlining your academic interests, prior research experience and reasons for wishing to undertake this project)
- An example of scholarly work up to 4,000 words in length (such as a coursework essay or part of a dissertation; please note that this should be uploaded in the 'research proposal' section of the online web form)
- Transcript (this should be an interim transcript if you are still studying)
- 2 references (if your referees prefer, they can email the reference direct to: [cles-studentships@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:cles-studentships@exeter.ac.uk))

If you have any general enquiries about the application process please email [cles-studentships@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:cles-studentships@exeter.ac.uk) or phone +44 (0)1392 725150 / 723706 / 723310.

The closing date for applications is midnight Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2011. Interviews will be conducted on the 27th June 2011.

## **MA Heritage Studies: place, memory and history**

The Raphael Samuel History Centre will launch a new MA in Heritage Studies at the University of East London in September 2011. The MA course will take a wide and inclusive approach to heritage that embraces the street and the internet as well as the museum or exhibition gallery. The MA will have a strong focus on memory, oral history, local history and multi-media production - all rapidly expanding areas of heritage practice. The new MA has been designed in partnership with the Museum Cultures MA programme at Birkbeck College. Students on both MA programmes will be allowed to take relevant options at both institutions. The new MA will also offer a module on contemporary archives based at the London Metropolitan Archives, and offer opportunities for work experience placements with museums, archives and heritage companies in London. For more information on the MA (with downloadable leaflet and A4 poster) see <http://www.raphaelsamuel.org.uk/cw/MAheritagestudies.php> or if you would like to be sent some publicity material to give students please email Toby Butler at [t.butler@uel.ac.uk](mailto:t.butler@uel.ac.uk)

## GEOGRAPHY, TECHNOLOGY AND INSTRUMENTS OF EXPLORATION, c.1780–c.1960

### A PROGRAMME OF THREE RESEARCH WORKSHOPS

### CALL FOR PAPERS AND EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

‘Geography, Technology and Instruments of Exploration’ is an 18-month British Academy-funded research project (July 2011–December 2012) hosted by the Institute of Geography, University of Edinburgh and involving the Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers) in London as co-hosts.

The research project, to be undertaken via a programme of three workshops, is informed by the concern that, within geography and the history of geography, scholars have neglected the material and instrumental bases to exploration. Exploration scholarship has been attentive to the insights of the history of science, less to those from the history of technology. Researchers have studied the rhetoric of exploration and narratives of travel and exploration, yet such accounts also demonstrate the fallibility of instruments in the field. How has technology had an impact upon the nature, type and conduct of geographical exploration? What, indeed, should count as an ‘instrument’ of (geographical) exploration? Hand-held precision devices (about which much instructional literature exists but for which there are many narratives detailing in-the-field failure), or should instruments of exploration embrace the mundane such as clothing and equipment – or look to the larger-scale – the ship, the aircraft or the rocket?

The project centres around three research workshops: the first and third to be held in Edinburgh (at the Institute of Geography, University of Edinburgh), the second in the Royal Geographical Society in London. Meetings are timed for 7 December 2011 (Edinburgh); 16 May 2012 (London); 20 October 2012. The broad themes are:

**Workshop 1:** *‘What is an instrument of exploration?’*. Here, we propose attention to what counts as an ‘instrument of exploration’ and to consider connections between the history of technology, history of science, book history and the history of geography and geographical exploration.

**Workshop 2:** *‘Research resources for a history of instruments of exploration’*. Here, we propose a focus on the holdings of leading institutions (e.g., National Maritime Museum, Royal Geographical Society, Science Museum, National Museum of Scotland) with a ‘steer’ from curator-historians of technology.

**Workshop 3:** *‘Research possibilities and opportunities’*. Given the recent strategic directions of RCUK and associated bodies for fewer and larger grants and for collaborative funding, it is clear that working together is both vital and likely to bring greater reward. In addition to focused papers, we will identify opportunities for collaborative networks and sustaining this initiative.

Papers with respect to the first workshop are welcomed on any aspects of technology and the instruments of exploration in this broad period (papers with a focus outwith this chronological period will be considered), and we especially welcome participation from custodians of instruments, and museum curators and historians of technology. There will be a further call for papers for the later meetings.

We also invite expressions of interest from persons who, in the first instance, would not wish to offer a paper for one of the workshops but who would want to be kept informed of developments and outcomes.

A draft title and an abstract (300 words max.) should be sent, as an e.mail attachment, to Dr Fraser MacDonald ([Fraser.MacDonald@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Fraser.MacDonald@ed.ac.uk)) Institute of Geography, University of Edinburgh, Drummond Street, Edinburgh EH8 9XP by Friday 26 August 2011.

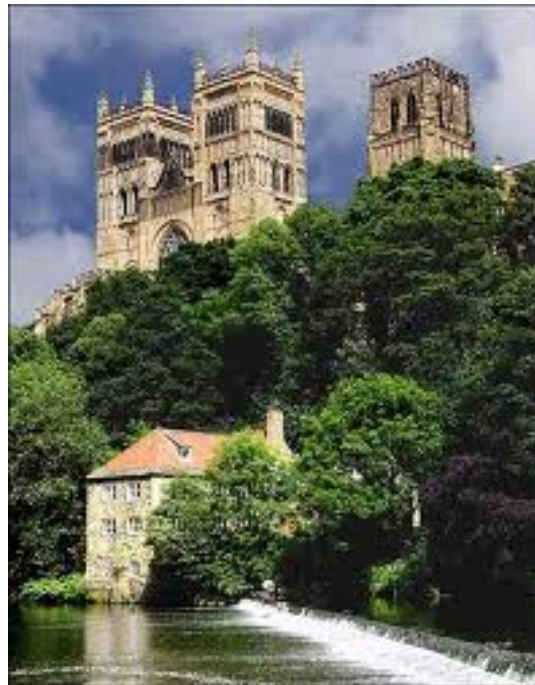
For further information on the Project, contact either Fraser MacDonald or Charles Withers ([C.W.J.Withers@ed.ac.uk](mailto:C.W.J.Withers@ed.ac.uk)).

Fraser MacDonald  
Charles W J Withers

May 2011

## Northern England and Lowland Scotland: Some Common Foundations, 800-1300

A two-day residential conference will be held at Collingwood College, Durham, on 9-11 January 2012, under the auspices of the Durham Institute of Medieval and Renaissance Studies, to explore common elements across the Anglo-Scottish border in the medieval development of landscape, agriculture, and social institutions, particularly before the Wars of Independence. The conference aims to create an opportunity for focused exchanges of knowledge between historians of Scotland and northern England concerning common or analogous features of settlement on either side of the border, a topic already opened up, notably by Geoffrey Barrow, but richly deserving further investigation. It is intended that conference discussions will feed into an edition of the collected papers.



There will be papers on Politics and Nationality (**Dauvit Broun**), Settlement Patterns (**Piers Dixon**), Language and Names (**Fiona Edmonds**), Lords and Tenants (**Peter Larson**), Churches and Parishes (**Richard Oram**), Multiple Estates (**Brian Roberts**), Law and Jurisdiction (**Keith Stringer**), Shielings and Common Pastures (**Angus Winchester**).

The cost of the conference including residence and full board will be £295, and for non-residents £125. A website with full details will be posted shortly, but for further details in the meantime please contact Richard Britnell ([r.h.britnell@durham.ac.uk](mailto:r.h.britnell@durham.ac.uk)).





## HGRG Sponsored sessions - 31 August - 2 September 2011

### **New and Emerging Research in Historical Geography and New and Emerging Research in Historical Geography. Incorporating Geographies of Translation: Historical, Textual, Visual**

Convenor(s): Isla Forsyth  
(University of Glasgow), Lois  
Jones (University of St  
Andrews), Dean Bond  
(University of Toronto), Luise  
Fischer (University of  
Edinburgh)

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

Kim Ross, (University of Glasgow) *The Locational History of Lunatic Asylums in mid-nineteenth century Scotland, as viewed through Reports from the Scottish Lunacy Commissioners, 1857 – 1872*

Charlotte Jones (University College of London) *The Turkish Bath as an Institution of Moral and Hygienic Reform*

Kathryn Wilkins (Durham University) *Elite networks of the Victorian Aristocracy: The London Season in the Nineteenth Century*

Lyrice Taylor (University of Maryland) *Winifred Knights and Interwar Artists at the British School at Rome 1920-1925*

Richard Lowdon (University of Glasgow) *To Travel by Older Ways: A biographical study of droving and drove roads in Scotland*

#### **New and Emerging Research in Historical Geography (2) incorporating Geographies of Translation: Historical, Textual, Visual**

Chair: Dean Bond (University of Toronto)

Leonhardt van Efferink (Royal Holloway, University of London) *The role of Great Britain's imperialist past in Afghanistan in newspaper discourses on the current presence of British troops in Afghanistan*

Lyrice Taylor (University of Maryland) *Winifred Knights and Interwar Artists at the British School at Rome, 1920-1925*

Dean Bond (University of Toronto) and Luise Fischer (University of Edinburgh) *Translating Büsching's Neue Erdbeschreibung*

Chelsea Avirett (University of Wisconsin – Madison) *(Re)Placing England in the Metrical Version of Mandeville's Travels*



## HGRG Sponsored sessions - 31 August - 2 September 2011

### **Geographical Publishing and Print Culture: Historical Geographies**

[\(L.C.Henderson@hotmail.co.uk\)](mailto:L.C.Henderson@hotmail.co.uk).

#### **Session 1:**

Innes M. Keighren (Royal Holloway, University of London) *Corporate authority and individual integrity: the struggle for credibility in nineteenth-century geographical publishing.*

David McClay (National Library of Scotland) *Murray, money and the market place: how John Murray came to dominate 19th century geographical publishing*

Justin Livingstone (University of Edinburgh) *The Missionary's Manuscript: David Livingstone and the Publication of 'Missionary Travels'*

James G.R. Cronin (University College Cork, Ireland) *"Masters of those Seas": Strategy and space in George Anson's A Voyage Round the World in the Years 1740 ... 1744*

#### **Session 2:**

Carlos Héctor Caracciolo, Viviana Castelli and Romano Camassi (Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia, Bologna, Italy) *Popular press, natural disasters and the shaping of geographical imagination in early modern Italy.*

Julie McDougall (University of Edinburgh) *The publishing history and development of school atlases and British geography, c.1880-c.1930*

Louise C. Henderson (Royal Holloway, University of London) *From Our Ocean Highways to the Geographical Magazine: (Un) Popularising Geography in the 1870s?*

Felix Driver (University of London) *Visual culture and the geographical imagination: Michael Huxley and the Geographical Magazine, 1935-1959*



## HGRG Sponsored sessions -

31 August - 2 September 2011

### 'New Imperial Geographies'?

David Lambert

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Steve Legg

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#### New Imperial Geographies? I: Peoples and Encounters

Robin A. Butlin (University of Leeds), *A short imperial 'career': V. L. Cameron (1844-1894) and his 'geographical work' in and beyond Africa*

Annaliese J. Bateman (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) *"Excited Hopes & Weary Silence": Narratives, Networks and Inuit Maps in Arctic Exploration, 1849*

Lowri Jones (University of Nottingham) *Ongoing encounters: intermediaries, exploration and empire*

David Lambert (Royal Holloway, University of London) *Geography's pre-Victorian empire: James MacQueen and the origins of Britain's empire in Africa*

#### New Imperial Geographies? II: Places, Regions and Spaces

Paolo Giaccaria (University of Turin) *Cosmopolitanism and imperialism from a Mediterranean standpoint.*

David Gilbert (Royal Holloway, University of London) *Engineering Empire: Iron bridges and the symbolic registers and material circuits of imperialism.*

Kirsten A. Greer (Queen's University, Canada) *Avian Imperial Archives and the Circuitry of Empire*

Uma Kothari (University of Manchester) *Contesting Colonial Imaginaries: politics of exile in the Indian Ocean*

Tariq Jazeel (University of Sheffield) *Between Area and Discipline: theory culture, politics and the 'new imperial' geographies of Geography?*

#### New Imperial Geographies? III: Anti-Colonialism to De-Colonisation

Caroline Bressey (University College, London) *Historical geographies of early anti-imperialism in Britain*

Gerry Kearns (Virginia Tech) *Conceptions of people, past and place in Irish anticolonial nationalism*

Stephen Legg (University of Nottingham) *Communist anti-colonialism: localities of internationalism in interwar Delhi*

David Featherstone (University of Glasgow) *Anti-Colonialism, Anti-Fascism and the Silencing of Connection*

Ruth Craggs (St Mary's University College) *Geographies of decolonisation*

## **HGRG Sponsored sessions - 31 August - 2 September 2011**

### ***Me myself and the archive: reflecting on encounters and enchancements.***

**Leah Jones (Swansea  
University) Sarah Mills  
(University of Leicester)**

#### **Session 1**

Isla Forsyth (University of Glasgow), Cheryl McGeachan (University of Glasgow) and William Hasty (University of Glasgow)  
*"Footnotes -- little dogs yapping at the heels of the text" (William James, undated)*

David Gilbert (Royal Holloway, University of London) *The model and the walkway: animating the history of Hungerford Bridge through material fragments*

Julian Brigstocke (Newcastle University) *Stories Without Words: Narrating the Urban Avant-Gardes of fin-de-siècle Montmartre*

Caroline Bressey (University College London, University of London) *Loving Ghosts: Emotional encounters in the archive*

Daniel Allen (University of Nottingham), David Matless (University of Nottingham), Carl Phillips (University of Nottingham), Charles Watkins (University of Nottingham) *In pursuit of Duncombe-Jewell*

#### **Session 2**

Paul Cleave (University of Exeter) *The archive: Researching tourism encounters and enchancements*

Christine Bichsel (University of Fribourg, Switzerland) *Lost objects. In the realm of the Soviet archive*

Ellie Miles (Royal Holloway, University of London) *Looking through the glass: exploring the strange shadows and museum mysteries of object installation*

Leila Dawney (University of Exeter) *Bodies as Archives*

Adeola Enigbokan (City University of New York) *From Archive to Database: the emerging aesthetics of dumpster diving*

#### **Session 3:**

Julie E.E. Young (York University, Toronto, Canada)  
*Partial histories and political reverberations: Encountering the recent past of a border city of 'refuge and refusal'*

Anne-Marie Kramer (University of Nottingham) *Telling stories of and from the archive: Family history, desire and identity*

Jacqueline Tivers (Nottingham Trent University) *Following archival traces in the field: travels in southern Ireland*

Merle Patchett (University of Alberta) *Me, my dad and the archive: remotely sensing the 1972 Greenland (Cape Farewell) Expedition*

Sinith Sittirak (Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand) *Me, My life and the Archives of A Thai Grassroots Landright Activist' (1935-2004)*





## HGRG Sponsored sessions - 31 August - 2 September 2011

### Art, Science and Geographical Imaginations

Mrill Ingram, University of  
Arizona;

Libby Straughan, Harriet  
Hawkins, Aberystwyth  
University.

#### Session 1: Knowledges

Carina Fearnley (Aberystwyth University); Nelly Ben-Hayoun (Royal College of Art) *the other volcano*

Peter Knight (Keele university); Mimi Burke (Northwestern University, United States) *Inspirational Landscapes: Intercalating Art, Science and Geography*

Mark Hinline (University of California, San Diego, United States) *Re-Placement in Natural History: A Visual Experiment in Reinvesting Natural Entities and Natural Kinds with their Geographical Significance*

Chrysoula (Elia) Ntaousani (The London Consortium) *On Geographical Imagination, Scientific Knowledge and Art Practice : Navigating the Sea and the Sky*

John P. Jones III (University of Arizona) Keith Woodward (University of Wisconsin-Madison, United States, *Artists and Scientists in 3D*

#### Session 2: Critical Methodologies

Jon Anderson (Cardiff University) *Mapping person-place relations: a synthesis of science, social science and art endeavour.*

Ralph Hoyte; Marc Yeats; Philip Phelps (University West Of England) *Geo-Located Scapes and their Implications for the Arts and Geography'*

Tina Richardson (University of Leeds) *Learning Space: Psychogeography as an Educational and Creative Tool*

Andriko Lozowy (University of Alberta, Canada) *Youth, Photography & Speculative Geographies of Fort McMurray, Alberta, Canada.*

#### Session 3: Spaces and Sites

Harriet Hawkins (Aberystwyth University) *'Experimental Gentleman': art-science on board ship*

Sara Bowler (University College Falmouth) *Field Station: a vehicle for experimental art and geography,*

Mrill Ingram (University of Arizona, United States) *When the studio is the laboratory is the field-site: art-science collaborations at Lake Clifton, Western Australia.*

#### Session 4: Practice and Publics

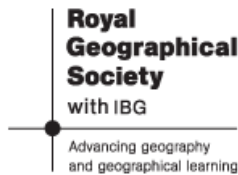
Nicola Triscott (Arts Catalyst) *Critical Art and Intervention in the Technologies of the Arctic*

Yvette V. Jones (Cultural Contact Point (CCP), Italy, for the Culture Programme of the European Union.) *1mile<sup>2</sup> - a case study*

Nick Edwards (University of Manchester) *Lost.*

Marcus Vergette (Sculptor/Film-maker/Musician) *Time and Tide Bell*

Irene Janze (VU University Amsterdam) *The Ice and the Real Estate on the Zuidas in Amsterdam*



## HGRG Sponsored sessions - 31 August - 2 September 2011

### *Meteorological Imaginations. Towards geographies of affective practices of weather, atmospherics and landscapes*

Owain Jones:  
[ojones@glos.ac.uk](mailto:ojones@glos.ac.uk) Oliver  
Moss  
[o.moss@northumbria.ac.uk](mailto:o.moss@northumbria.ac.uk)

#### Session 1:

David Demeritt (King's College London), Sébastien Nobert (King's College London)

*Uncertainty, Anxiety, and Forecasting*

Keith Woodward (University of Wisconsin-Madison), United States *Between Visions and Visualizations: The Excesses and Ek-stasis of Data in Hurricane Modeling*

Henry Buller (University of Exeter) *Our models were wrong: failures of science and failures of politics during the French Heatwave of 2003*

Peter Adey (Keele University) *Air and security: contemporary threat and affective governance*

Discussion led by Chair, Professor John E Thornes (University of Birmingham)  
John Thornes (University of Birmingham)

#### Session 2:

John Thornes (University of Birmingham) *Cultural Climatology: Exploring the links between the physical and cultural atmosphere of a Place,*

Nabil Ahmed (University College London) *Disappearing Islands*

Pavel Antonov (Open University) *Weather Fairy Stories: Creative diversity in the TV newsroom between socialism and neoliberalism*

Kimberley Peters (Royal Holloway, University of London) *'Being-in-the-seascape': exploring the affective and energetic geographies of weather systems for hydro-worlds, onboard the broadcasting ships of Radio Caroline*

Discussion led by Chair, Mark Moss (Northumbria University)  
Mark Moss (University of Northumbria)

#### Session 3;

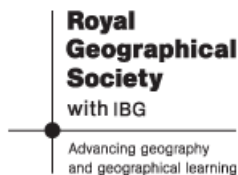
Elaine Stratford (University of Tasmania, Australia) *A map of a dream of the future*

Eliza de Vet (University of Wollongong, Australia) *Everyday experiences of weather 'in the now': methodological insights from an ethnography of Australian weather*

Dr Janette Kerr Kerr (University of the West of England) *Extremes and Instabilities: a dialogue between artist, place and making*

Mark Moss (University of Northumbria) *Performativities of Weather. Towards understandings of practices of weather and climate in places and landscapes through artistic and other engagements*

Final discussion led by Chair, Charles Williams, (University of Reading)  
Charles Williams (University of Reading)



## HGRG Sponsored sessions

31 August - 2 September 2011

### Resuscitating Necrogeography

Jane Jacobs (University of Edinburgh)

Lakhbir Jassal (University of Edinburgh)

#### Session 1: Necropolitics

Craig Young (Manchester Metropolitan University) Duncan Light (Liverpool Hope University) *Corpses, dead body politics and agency in human geography: following the corpse of Dr Petru Groza*

Noam Leshem (Birkbeck College (University of London) *Over our dead bodies: Necropolitics of space in Palestine*

Jessica Rapson (Goldsmiths, University of London) *Cursed Ground: Soil and the Holocaust in Ukraine*

Hamzah Muzaini (National University of Singapore, Singapore) *'Out of Sight, Out of Mind?' On Forgetting, Materiality and the Immanent Past*

Anne Ryan (Massey University, New Zealand) *The Governmentality of Death: A Foucauldian Perspective on the Right-to-Die*

#### Session 2: Necrophenomena

Lakhbir Jassal (University of Edinburgh) *Escaping History: Archives, Documents and the Poetics of Excavating the Dangerous Dead*

Su Guoji (University of Singapore, Singapore) *Making and Unmaking the Undertaker: (De)habitation of Routinized Practices*

James Thurgill (Royal Holloway, University of London) *Enchanted encounters with the dead*

Jun-Hua Lin (University of Sheffield) *Taipei 101: a haunted skyscraper? Ghostly modernity in Taipei City*

Avril Maddrell (University of the West of England) *Deathscapes: understanding the spatialities of death and mourning*

#### Session 3: Necrospatiality

Julie Rugg (University of York) *The cemetery in the countryside: continuity and modernity*

Gian M. Vidor (Max Planck Institute for Human Development, Germany) *Vegetation, Funerary Culture and Sentiments*

Mgr. Šárka Syslová (Masaryk University in Brno, Czech Republic) *Rest in peace. A relationship of the Czechs to the deceased and visibility of cemeteries*

Mirjam Klaassens (University of Groningen, The Netherlands)  
Peter Groote (University of Groningen, The Netherlands) *The preferred design of a natural burial ground in the North of the Netherlands*

Discussants

James Sidaway (University of Amsterdam, Netherlands)

Jane Jacobs (University of Edinburgh)



## HGRG Sponsored sessions - 31 August - 2 September 2011

### Geographies of Collections

Caroline Cornish (Royal  
Holloway, University of London)

Philip Hatfield (British Library)

#### Geographies of collections (1). Museums, mobilities, meanings

David Matless (University of Nottingham) James Fenner (University of Nottingham) *British Small Craft: the cultural geographies of a Science Museum display*

Robert Knifton (University of Liverpool) *Collecting Genres: Locating popular music collections in museums*

Geoff Swinney (National Museums Scotland) *Constructing views from 'North Britain': aspects of the geographies of the Edinburgh Museum of Science and Art in the years 1854-1939*

Caroline Cornish (Royal Holloway, University of London) *Mobility, materiality, and meaning: a totem pole at the Kew Timber Museum*

Paul Basu (University College London) *Materialising movement and cultural interaction in the Sierra Leonean object diaspora*

#### Geographies of Collections (2): Archival insights

Graham Saunders (Victoria and Albert Museum) *The Recording Britain collection: nostalgia, national identity and the 'spirit of place'*

Casper Andersen (Aarhus University, Denmark) *ICE under the sun: the imperial archive of the Institution of Civil Engineers*

Nicholas Martland (British Library) *Tea, chutney, nutmeg, sago, birds' nests and Bengal rum – eclectic tastes in British colonial records*

Lawrence Dritisas (University of Edinburgh) *An archive of Identity: publishing the history of exploration in Central Africa*

Joan Haig (University of Edinburgh); Eileen Hogan (University College Cork, Ireland); Geoffrey Quilley (University of Sussex); Jane Collins (Wimbledon College of Arts) *re:SEARCHING – playing in the archive*

#### Geographies of Collections (3): People, places, and possessions

Lionel Gauthier (University of Geneva, Switzerland) *Collecting the World at the End of the 19th Century*

Sara Albuquerque (Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew) *Once upon a time in British Guiana: a glance through the Im Thurn Botanical Collections*

Carolyn Tillman (-) *The Writings, Collections, and Exhibitions of William Bullock: Simulated Travel and Geography in British Perceptions of Mesoamerica*

Arlene Leis (University of York) *Plants and Porcelain: The Collection of Exotics at Spring Grove Villa*

Jessica Hallett (Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Portugal) *All his worldly possessions: Geography and space in the collections of the 5th Duke of Braganca*

Discussion

Felix Driver (Royal Holloway, University of London)



## WORK IN PROGRESS

### FROM FRENCH SENEGAL TO BRITISH NIGERIA: FORTIER'S VISIT

by Liora Bigon, Bezalel Academy of Arts  
and Design, Jerusalem

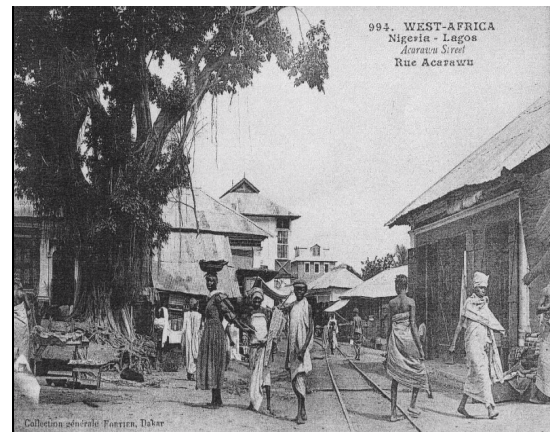


Figure 2. Fortier's postcard showing Acharawu Street, Lagos, 1908 (private collection).

#### Edmond Fortier and the Series of Lagos Photos

Of all colonial photograph producers and cliché-makers in both French and British West Africa, Edmond Fortier is the most famous. Born in 1862 in Vosges, France, he had already spent several years in Saint-Louis, Senegal, before his departure in 1900 to Dakar, the capital of the federation of French West Africa. His residence and shop were located in Dakar's very centre, on which he remarked "the shop is my cradle, Dakar is my grave." Fortier's extensive trips in French West Africa (Senegal, Guinea, Mali, Ivory Coast and Benin) yielded more than three thousand prints before 1910, and a similar number of reprints in the ensuing period. Fortier's postcards, which can be found in private and archival collections all over the world, and are sold through the internet, could be classified into a few main themes. Noticeable amongst them, for instance, are: ethnic and racial types; representations of women; scenes of social and working life; and views of places. Indeed, these postcards must be understood within the genre of colonial photography as products of certain historical, cultural and ideological conditions. As such, documentation of indigenous cultures tended to stress their 'bizarre' or 'barbaric' aspects, a process of 'othering' that assisted in defining the coloniser's 'civilised' 'self'/landscapes. [See, for instance, Figure 1]

There are more questions than answers regarding Fortier's visit to Lagos in 1908, apparently his sole visit to a British colonial sphere. What were the circumstances of his visit? Was he asked to accompany French officials? For how long did he stay on Lagos Island? Though Fortier's journey from Dakar to Lagos was most probably by ship rather than by train, it yielded a semi-official body of evidence (in the form of postcards) that delineates relations between a French and a British territory. Each territory was situated at the furthest point of what is defined as 'West Africa'. Their capital cities (Dakar/Lagos) served as the main ports and competed as the most important places in each colony.



Figure 1. Postcard titled 'Peulh (Fulani) Women, Oualo District, rich hair dresses and cloth'. (Courtesy of Archives nationales du Sénégal).

Many of Fortier's photographs were later coloured in order to render them more attractive for consumers. Most of the latter were French administrators. Some of them used to add to the card hand written comments in reference to the object seen, before sending it to their families and friends in the metropole.

The first main railway lines in West Africa were constructed during the establishment of the official colonial regimes there from the late nineteenth century – following the Berlin Conference (1884-5) and the imperial ‘scramble’ for Africa – until World War I. This was the time when national rivalry between the European countries was projected onto their colonial territories in Africa. This meant, however, that direct railway connections between two adjacent territories did not normally exist in West Africa, where each of these territories was governed by a rival colonial regime. Considering Fortier’s visit to Lagos and his travel within the Island, the passage referred to was thus rather of metaphoric or representational nature, and concerned a single railway: the Lagos steam tramway. Some notes on the Lagos tram are included in the following section. The result of Fortier’s visit in Lagos was a series of twenty-two postcards. The subject of this series is contemporary urban landscapes from the Island, each photograph being marked by the street, area or quarter in Lagos where it was taken. There are two facts of interest here. First, the exact location from which Fortier took his pictures corresponds with the location of stations of the contemporary Lagos tram (operated from 1902 to 1933). Second, the tramway is shown in the background and the foreground of many of these pictures.

Fortier’s visual testimony is also outstanding because photographs of the Lagos tram are relatively rare. Most of the photographs that were taken by British officials and employees in colonial Lagos depict their own residential spheres and gardens, with a preoccupation with the variety of flora. Photographs of the public sphere of the expatriate community, such as the Government House and gardens, the Marina area and the Racecourse area, were also extremely popular among these officials and employees. This background makes Fortier’s Lagos series even more distinctive, as he did not ignore the streetscapes that were viewed from those stations that were situated within the indigenous living areas of the Island [Figure 2] – e.g. Igboere Road, Acharawu Street, Docemo Street and Massey Street. Moreover, it seems that documentation of the African residential quarters of Lagos Island by the British expatriates by this time of the colonial occupation hardly exists. While Fortier had done most of the work in this regard in contemporary Lagos, local elements such as the indigenous urban quarters in the French colonial territories were also present in the corpus of his visual reportage. [Figure 3]

Yet, Fortier’s Lagosian series is less distinctive compared to his other photographs of railway stations within urban areas in French West Africa, such as that of the station in Abidjan, Ivory Coast [Figure 4]. In both cases, scenes from everyday urban life of the majority of the African residents were captured along the tramlines. These were non-staged scenes, in contrast to Fortier’s famous African ‘types’ – a colonialist genre per se. Indeed, a comparison between the semi-official evidence of Lugard’s photographs from the 1910s that depict intercity railway transport in British West Africa and those of Fortier taken in the French territories shows similar features. Frederick J.D. Lugard (1858-1945) served as the first high commissioner of the protectorate of Northern Nigeria (1900-1906) and the governor general of Northern and Southern Nigeria (1912-1919). In both cases, however, a recurring scene is that of the terra incognita of the ‘bush’ that was crossed by a tramline, or, preferably, of a train crossing a bridge on the savanna’s background. [Figure 5] In other words, the imperialist imagery in both cases was emphasised by the very presence of the railroad, symbolising the genius of Western engineering projects, the civilising mission and the mise en valeur of the African terrains. Yet, while sections of the Nigerian Railway were documented by Lugard, the Lagos Tram is virtually absent from his photographic collection.



Figure 4. Fortier’s postcard showing the railway station in Abidjan, the 1910s. (Courtesy of Archives nationales du Sénégal).



Figure 5. Fortier’s postcard showing the Kayes-Niger rail line’s crossing over Badinko Bridge in present-day Mali, the 1910s. (Courtesy of Archives nationales du Sénégal).

## The Lagos Tram: Documentation and Historiographic Remarks

What is the importance of the outstanding documentation of the route of the Lagos steam tramway and of the everyday life on the Island in the light of the series of Fortier's twenty-two photos? As we shall see, documentation of this urban tramline is absent due to the personal taste of the British expatriates concerning their photographed subjects or objects. There is no doubt that Lugard himself ignored the tram simply because he overwhelmingly detested Lagos and preferred the more liberated and rural lifestyle of the Nigerian hinterland. The Lagos steam tramway has an incomplete and partial historiography, yet before discussing the latter we shall add a few words about the line itself and on its features in relation to other railways in colonial West Africa.

The Nigerian Railway (connecting Lagos with the hinterland of Ibadan by 1901, and as far as Sahelian Kano by 1912) constituted the *raison d'être* of the Lagos Tram. Yet, what was unusual about this tram in contrast to the history of railway transport in colonial West Africa, is that it served as a municipal line, running within the four-square-miles of Lagos Island. Its main purpose, beyond creating a link for merchandise between Lagos Island's wharves and the Nigerian Railway terminus on the mainland, was to convey passengers and travellers on the Island before the advent of wheeled road transport. In colonial West Africa in general, railway projects were not normally conceived as passenger lines, circulating within a relatively small area to serve its European and African residents. Their main purpose – in this part of the continent where white-settler colonies were never established due to climatic conditions – was rather the safe and speedy conveyance of raw materials to the ports for export. Only in the 1930s did road transport compete with that of the railway, and by this period roads in West Africa were mainly designated to feed the railway.

Another feature of the Lagos Tram was the fact that it was the only tram in West Africa, considering the French territories as well and the federal capital city of Dakar. It was thus somewhat exotic, or at least an innovation in the colonial urban landscape in West Africa – another reason why Fortier was probably attracted to take some of his photos from this very tram.

Having commenced his service in Lagos (Nigeria) as a municipal engineer in 1949, N.S. Miller published his short enquiry on the Lagos Tramway within a decade. This modest work, which was carried out in his spare time, constitutes a rare historical source, particularly as all the original files concerning this tram at the Nigerian Railway Corporation were destroyed in the summer of 1956. Guided by his "boyhood enthusiasm for things mechanical", some rumours about the line, surviving pieces of the track itself, and some archival records kept by British Crown Agents, Miller created a vivid historical portrait of the Lagos tram, operating between 1902 and 1933.

Miller's work is replete with technical and operating details about the locomotives and each engine, along with the rolling stock, the number of passengers and the distances between stations and tariffs. Most of the figures consist of tram-engine models, line drawings and visual reconstructions. The actual three-coach tram appears in one figure only: a contemporary photograph shows it coming from the mainland towards the Island over the old Carter bridge, the first bridge in Lagos. [Figure 6] This yet uncovered area in the history of colonial Nigeria needs further study, this time from the perspective of cultural history.

The special position of Lagos as a Crown Colony and a chief lieu de colonisation in British West Africa from the 1850s provides us with several directions of exploration that are impossible elsewhere in the region. Following the *pax Britannia* by the end of the nineteenth century, Lagos comprised a preferred place for the resettlement of several thousand emancipated slaves, mostly from Brazil, Cuba, Bahia and Sierra Leone. These people were mostly of a Yoruba origin and locally named 'Saros'; they were also named 'Amaros', 'Afro-Brazilians' and 'Agudas' – among the latter some more diversified origins were also included such as Haussas and Fons. They were involved in professional crafts, trade, business and in colonial administration and became a local elite group, economically and intellectually.

Amongst them there were prominent figures who used the tramcar, either for pleasure or for taking local children for joyrides and paying their fares. Many members of this repatriate bourgeois group were the first to possess Western objects, including cameras. As many of their descendants still live on Lagos Island and play a key role in regional politics, it is not impossible that complementary evidence regarding the Lagos Tram may be found in the form of stories, memoirs and family photographs. Needless to say, though the Saro and Amaro elite benefitted from the tram and could afford using the service, urban development projects during the colonial period were aimed at the benefit of the white minority almost exclusively. If indigenous groups also benefited from the tram, it was almost accidental and even contradicted the British Indirect Rule policy. According to this policy, 'development' – ie, the economic utilisation of local raw materials by the colonising country – was expected to occur virtually with the least interference in indigenous customs. Moreover, these elite groups were generally concentrated in the coastal urban enclaves, and never amounted to more than ten percent of Lagos' population. In 1901, for instance, upon the initiation of the Lagos-Ibadan railway line, the total resident population of Lagos Island was 41,847, including a few thousands of African repatriates and 233 Europeans.

Local newspapers, published in Lagos from the 1860s by the Saro elite, were used as a platform for discussion and critique of town planning, technical and innovative issues. Though poor in photographic evidence, a variety of such newspapers was existed and flourished in contemporary Lagos. These included *The Eagle* and *Lagos Critic*, *The Lagos Times* and *Gold Coast Colony Adviser*, *Lagos Weekly Record*, *Nigerian Pioneer*, etc. This source of information could be enlightening. To balance the colonial points of view, there is a need for further work drawing on primary and photographic evidence. This kind of evidence is probably still extant in the archives of British firms whose headquarters are in some cases still based in London, Leeds, Liverpool and Manchester.

The depiction of these two interwoven historical episodes – Fortier's 1908 visit in Lagos and the Lagos Tram itself – remain incomplete. This invites the initiation of a new research programme which will focus on the cultural dimensions of the history of railway projects in colonial West Africa, both British and French (as well as elsewhere in the colonial world), combining colonial photography and railway historiography. This research direction might be also valuable in view of the academic literature concerning the images of Fortier. Fortier's images are usually discussed in the context of the history of Dakar and colonial photography, orientalism and the influence of his African nudes on Picasso's primitivism. While the link between the interest of Picasso in 'primitive' arts and Fortier's work might seem obscure, about forty postcards of Fortier were found in Picasso's archives. Mostly showing West African women, bare-breasted, both alone and in groups, in various poses and gestures, one could draw a specific formalistic equivalence between these photographs and some of the 1900s paintings. But, in the words of the art critic Michael Kimmelman, this is old news, and Fortier should be regarded not as an ultimate missing link in Picasso's evolution, but as another revealing element in a seemingly endless chain of Picasso's imagery, visual borrowings and associations.

For a copy of the full text, including footnotes, please email either the author , or Harriet Hawkins on [hah7@aber.ac.uk](mailto:hah7@aber.ac.uk)

## Thesis abstracts

**“An anatomy of storm surge science at Liverpool Tidal Institute 1919-1959: Forecasting, practices of calculation and patronage”**

**Anna Elisabeth Carlsson-Hyslon**

**December 2010 at the University of Manchester**

When the effects of wind and air pressure combine with a high tide to give unusually high water levels this can lead to severe coastal flooding. This happened in England in early 1953 when 307 people died in the East Coast Flood. In Britain today such events, now called storm surges, are forecast daily using computer models from the National Oceanographic Centre in Liverpool, formerly the Liverpool Tidal Institute (TI). In 1919, when TI was established, such events were considered unpredictable. TI's researchers, Joseph Proudman (1888-1975), Arthur Doodson (1890-1968), Robert Henry Corkan (1906-1952) and Jack Rossiter (1919-1972), did much mathematical work to attempt to change this. In 1959 Rossiter published a set of statistical formulae to forecast storm surges on the East Coast and a national warning system was predicting such events using these formulae. At this point TI believed they had made surges at least as predictable as they could with their existing methods. This thesis provides a narrative of how this perceived rise in the predictability of surges happened, analysing how TI worked to achieve it between 1919 and 1959 by following two interwoven, contingent and contested threads: practices of calculation and patronage.

A key aspect of this thesis is the attention I pay to material practices of calculation: the methods, technologies and management practices TI's researchers used in their mathematical work on storm surge forecasting. This is the first study by historians of oceanography or meteorology that pays this detailed level of attention to such practices in the construction of forecasting formulae. As well as using published accounts, I analyse statistical research in the making, through notes, calculations, graphs and tables produced by TI's researchers. They used particular practices of calculation to construct storm surges as calculable and predictable scientific objects of a specific kind. First they defined storm surges as the residuals derived from subtracting tidal predictions from observations. They then decided to use multiple regression, correlating their residuals with pressure gradients, to make surges predictable. By considering TI's practices of calculation the thesis adds to the literature on mathematical research as embodied and material, showing how particular practices were used to make a specific phenomenon predictable.

I combine this attention to mathematical practice with analysis of why TI's researchers did this work. US historians have emphasised naval patronage of physical oceanography in this period but there is very little secondary literature for the British case. The thesis provides a British case study of patronage of physical oceanography, emphasising the influence on TI's work not only of naval patronage but also of local government, civil state and industrial patronage. Before TI's establishment Proudman argued that it should research storm surges to improve the Laplacian theory of tides. However, when the new Institute received patronage from the local shipping industry this changed and the work on forecasting surges was initially done as part of a project to improve the accuracy of tidal predictions, earning TI further patronage from the local shipping industry. After a flooding event in 1928 the reasons for the work and the patronage again shifted. Between then and 1959 TI did this work on commission from various patrons, including local government, civil state and military actors, which connected their patronage to national debates about state involvement in flood defence. To understand why TI's researchers worked on forecasting surges I analyse this complex mix of patrons and motivations. I argue that such complex patronage patterns could be fruitfully explored by other historians to further existing debates on the patronage of oceanography.



## Thesis abstracts

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### ***Elite networks of the London Season: perspectives from the New Mobilities literature***

***Kathryn Ann Wilkins University of Durham***

This research investigates and analyses the London Season in the nineteenth century through an engagement with ‘New Mobilities’ literature. By positioning the research within this literature and connected theories surrounding material and performative geographies, the research provides a historical perspective to this emerging area of geographical enquiry. Using a wide variety of sources, the mobility of this societal group is reassessed, highlighting the crucial role movement played in the practices of the Season. The concept of ‘networks’ is adopted to enable a detailed analysis of the connections forged during the London Season, revealing the powerful role held by women in the period. This desire to network is understood in detail through an engagement with performance literatures to illustrate the importance of dance to those participating. This detailed engagement with networking practices is continued through a material engagement with the Season; analysing the use of fashion to increase the chances of connection.

The spatial implications of the London Season are addressed through the construction of broad scale analyses using court directories, ball attendance records and rate books. This enabled the popularity of certain spaces to be ascertained, leading to discussions regarding the use of space as a tool by those participating in the Season to attract connections. This active engagement with space moves away from previous interpretations of the period, in which the West End is treated as a banal template. This research also adopts calls from within historical geography (Blunt, 2000a; McDowell, 2004) to utilise biographical material in understanding the past. Individual experiences of the Season are contrasted throughout the thesis, revealing that the period should not be understood as a single, indivisible ‘Season’, but instead as many ‘Seasons’ overlapping with one another, yet offering different experiences of the same phenomenon.

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## Thesis abstracts

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***The British  
Interplanetary  
Society and  
Cultures of Outer  
Space, 1930 - 1970***

***Oliver Dunnett  
University of  
Nottingham***

This thesis explores the institutional and cultural development of the British Interplanetary Society (BIS) and its influence in wider cultures of 'British outer space' in the mid-twentieth century. The Society was founded in 1933 in Liverpool by P E Cleator, and having attracted a small group of enthusiastic members before the outbreak of the Second World War, successfully re-grouped after the conflict and grew to become one of the most influential of all the space flight societies by the 1960s. The thesis starts by examining the ways in which the discipline of geography has recently started to re-engage with outer space as a field of enquiry, and suggests that geopolitical and cultural approaches to studying outer space would be a productive academic pursuit. The empirical chapters start by looking at the institutional cultures of the BIS, and explore the relationship between the Society and the production of interplanetary knowledge. The Society's global connections and internationalist stance are also brought into focus, with contrasting accounts identified before and after the war raising questions about the geopolitics of British outer space. The empirical chapters go on to study how the BIS became connected to the wider world of popular culture in Britain, examining imaginative and amateur representations and performances. This section includes analyses of certain science fiction texts, including the selected novels of Olaf Stapledon, Arthur C Clarke and C S Lewis, and also considers Frank Hampson's Dan Dare space adventure comics and the long-running television series *The Sky at Night*, whilst maintaining an empirical connection to the BIS throughout. The thesis closes with a discussion of what it means to bring together materials from both institutional and popular cultures, in the context of the emerging research area of the geographies of outer space.

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## Thesis abstracts

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**“Characterising  
the Post-industrial  
City : A Case-Study  
of Industrial Era  
Residential Areas  
in Newcastle-  
upon-Tyne”**

**Elli Winterburn,  
Newcastle  
University, SAPL**

**awarded  
September 2010**

This study proposes that urban post-industrial landscapes are defined by both the emergence of new post-industrial building types and uses, and the survival of 19th century residential areas that are typical in English cities. As such the post-industrial city is characterised by processes of change and continuity. The concern for and interest in the character of these residential areas is seen as indicative of current cultural values in the management of the (historic built) environment. This study suggests that in an increasingly complex post-industrial world the concern for character and sense of place are of paramount social and cultural importance, yet the notion of character is often in practice used in a prescriptive, limited capacity and this belies its inclusive and profound, but very complex, potential.

Combining historical research with the analysis of the current built environment, the aim of this research is, through a three-phased case-study of the Heaton Residential Neighbourhood, to analyse the history, development and the subsequent changes that over the last 100 or so years have had an impact on Heaton as an area. The case-study is undertaken in the context of a theoretical framework developed from a critical reading of existing character conceptualisations within environmental disciplines. This theoretical framework understands the city and its character as a transductive matrix that combines the technical, physical, psychical and affective realities. The case-study is also contextualised in relation to current environmental management policies and a number of established built environment research methods are evaluated based on how they relate to the theoretical framework and address change within the built environment. The concluding chapters develop the case-study research further through historical and typological analysis, assess the merits of the research methodology used and connect the case-study research with the theoretical framework.

This study concludes that the research approach adopted allows for the critical assessment of the perceived key characteristics of the surviving 19th century residential areas. It is suggested that combination of historical research and analysis of the current built environment can shed new light on the development of the character of all residential areas. Furthermore, in moving beyond the physical appearance as the key constituent of character, this study highlights the more abstract characteristics of 19th century residential areas within the post-industrial city, and introduces a new ontological understanding of what constitutes character.

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