

Historical Geography Research Group



Map of Iceland

Letter from the chair

Dear HGRG members,

Welcome to the Spring edition of the newsletter. I am able to report that the Practising Historical Geography Workshop held at Nottingham University had excellent attendance and I'd like to welcome new postgraduates who attended the day to the group. You will see the report of the day in the newsletter, however I'd like to extend my thanks to the School of Geography for their generous hosting of the event and Caroline Bressey, Susanne Seymour, Lucy Veale, David Matless and George Revill who all gave inspiring sessions. A special thanks to Briony McDonagh (Conference Officer) is due as she came back from her maternity leave to ensure the day went smoothly.

In the Autumn the committee with the RGS-IBG Research and Higher Education Division put in a grant to the Geography, Earth and Environment Subject Centre to support the forthcoming Teaching Historical Geography Workshop (19th and 20th May, 2011). We heard before Christmas that this was successful which means we will be able to give significant financial support for participants attending the days. Full details will shortly be sent by the HGRG e-mail list however you will find a 'save the date' flyer in the newsletter. Please update your details with Lloyd Jenkins (l.jenkins@bham.ac.uk) if you are not receiving emails.

Following my call for committee members I am pleased to announce that Innes Keighren (RHUL) has joined the committee as dissertation prize coordinator and Lowri Jones (Nottingham) as e-list coordinator. HGRG has donated a copy of all our in-print copies of the research series to the RGS-IBG, however we still need to locate a copy of the out of print editions, volumes 14, 27 and 30. If you have a copy that you would be willing to donate or loan for scanning please let me know (Nicola.j.thomas@exeter.ac.uk). Also, if you are a past committee member and have a folder of HGRG papers, or if you have any HGRG ephemera please could you also get in contact as we are wanting to locate the groups archives.

I'd like to end with a correction: in an email I made a mistake in the advertised date of the ICHG 2012. The correct date is 6–10/8/2012 (conference), 11–13/8/2012 (post conference excursion). My apologies for any confusion caused.

All best wishes,
Nicola Thomas

Chair HGRG

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COPY FOR NEXT ISSUE

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25th May 2011

Please send to:

[Harriet Hawkins on](mailto:Harriet.Hawkins@aber.ac.uk)

hah7@aber.ac.uk



HGRG General Information

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Historical Geography at Large: JHG's New Feature

The *Journal of Historical Geography* has a new feature devoted to work which reaches beyond the traditional confines of the academy. 'Historical Geography at Large' will publish a series of essays and commentaries devoted to public historical geography across a wide range of subjects and sites. More detail is provided in an editorial announcing the new feature published in JHG vol. 26, issue 3 (2010). The first two contributions are exhibition reviews: Ludmilla Jordanova on the Paul Sandby exhibition at the Royal Academy and National Gallery of Scotland (issue 3, 2010), and Stephen Daniels on the recent Magnificent Maps exhibit at the British Library (issue 4, 2010). Future contributions will include essays on web resources and online exhibits.

We would welcome contributions from HGRG members on the public face of historical geography in a variety of settings, including exhibitions and museums, film and theatre, digital media, online resources, community history, advocacy and public policy.

Felix Driver
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Teaching Historical Geographies: Practice and Pedagogy

19th and 20th May 2011

RGS-IBG, London

This workshop will provide a long overdue opportunity for historical geographers to critically engage with the historical geography curricula. The purpose of the workshop is to review the teaching of historical geography in the curriculum and initiate a network to support and mentor colleagues' teaching practice. In planning this workshop the HGRG committee felt there were examples of excellent active learning approaches and innovative teaching methods in our work, however there are not currently the opportunities to showcase and exchange ideas. This workshop will provide a mechanism for colleagues to collaborate, share and transfer practice.

Themes the workshop will address will include:

- Reflecting on the position of Historical Geography in our institutions
- Active learning and the use made of archival sources in the classroom
- Designing a 21st Century Historical Geography curriculum
- Assessment and Historical Geography
- Employability and Historical Geography
- Embedding Historical Geography in the curriculum
- Supporting Historical Geography dissertations

All historical geographers, at any stage of their career, are invited to join the workshop. We are keen to ensure we have a range of experience in the room, to allow people a chance to discuss their own teaching, share stories of success and failure, and use this opportunity to shore up the teaching of historical geography.

You are invited to contact Nicola Thomas (Nicola.j.thomas@exeter.ac.uk) if you would like to participate in the day, either by attending or by talking about an element of your teaching practice. The RGS-IBG will be handling registration and arrangements. Details will be announced on the HGRG e-list.

Following generous sponsorship by the Geography, Earth and Environmental Science Subject Centre accommodation and travel bursaries will be available for attendants who are not able to draw on departmental funding.

LONDON GROUP OF HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHERS SEMINAR SERIES:

AN ANNIVERSARY NOTE

BY FELIX DRIVER



The London Group of Historical Geographers was established thirty years ago, in September 1981, by historical geographers in the University Colleges and Polytechnics of the London region. The product of an initiative by Richard Dennis and David Green, the Group initially convened occasional seminars at the Institute of Historical Research in the University of London (as reported in *Area*, vol. 14, 1982, p. 156). Since 1989, when Felix Driver and Gillian Rose assumed responsibility for the series, the Group has organised fortnightly seminars across three terms of the academic year. This was enabled by the active support of a significant number of University Departments and research organizations, including Royal Holloway, Queen Mary, Kings and UCL, all of the University of London, plus the Open University, Sussex University, the HGRG, and the Institute of Historical Research itself. The series is now one of the world's best-known and most active regular seminars devoted to historical geography. The current convenors are David Lambert and Miles Ogborn.

Now in its twenty-first year as a regular fortnightly series at the Institute of Historical Research, the historical geography seminar provides an opportunity for geographers, historians and others to discuss and debate current research on a wide variety of subjects. Each term's programme is usually organized around a general theme: over the years since 1989, these have ranged from 'national identity', 'making war and 'trade' to 'dream spaces', 'beyond the visual' and 'natural histories'. One term's series was published by the HGRG, with support from the British Academy, under the title *Nature and Science: Essays in the History of Geographical Knowledge* (HGRG publication no. 28). On another memorable occasion, the Group arranged a screening of Patrick Keiller's film *London*, followed by a discussion with the Director (S. Daniels, 'Paris envy', *History Workshop Journal* 40, 1995). In recent years, the programme has included seminar series convened by guest convenors. The theme for Spring 2011 is 'Home, hospitality and the city'.

Speakers at the seminars have included a large number of historical geographers from the UK and overseas, as well as numerous current or recent postgraduates presenting the fruits of their doctoral research. The seminar is consistently one of the best attended and the most lively of the regular seminars held at the Institute of Historical Research. Amongst the best-known speakers from beyond Geography since 1989 are Catherine Hall, Peter Hulme, Patrick Joyce, Bruno Latour, Lynda Nead, Patrick O'Brien, Benita Parry, Chris Pinney, Griselda Pollock, Roy Porter, Jane Rendell, Raphael Samuel, Simon Schaffer, Jim Secord, Nancy Stepan, Dorothy Thompson, and Colin Ward.

The complete list of seminars since 1989, including seminar themes, speakers' names and titles, is now available online at <http://www.gg.rhul.ac.uk/lghg/>

Felix Driver, Royal Holloway
f.driver@rhul.ac.uk

London Group of Historical Geographers
Seminar Programme, Spring Term 2011, convened by Ruth Craggs
Home, Hospitality and the City

1st February 2011: **Sara Fregonese** (Royal Holloway)

Destroying cosmopolis: Tales from Beirut's Ma'rakat al Fanadiq (Battle of the Hotels), 1975-6

Note room change for this seminar: Room G35, Ground floor, South block, Senate House

15th February 2011: **Nigel Clark** (Open University)

'Wet Feet in the Living Room': Hospitality in the Time of Heavy Weather

1st March 2011: **Michael Keith** (COMPAS, Oxford University)

Hospitality, 'integration of migrants' and the Rights to the City

15th March 2011: **Mireille Rosello** (University of Amsterdam)

Gypsy Hospitality: Tony Gatlif's Gadjo Dilo

29th March 2011: **Shompa Lahiri** (Queen Mary)

Travel and domesticity: Olive Christian Malvery in Imperial London

10th May 2011: **Judith Still** (University of Nottingham)

The Iroquois in the City and the Enlightenment Imaginary

There will be two more seminars after Easter, dates and speakers to be confirmed. These seminars are held on **Tuesdays at 5pm** in the Wolfson Room of the Institute of Historical Research in Senate House, University of London. For further details, contact the convenors, David Lambert, Royal Holloway (01784 443640) or Miles Ogborn, Queen Mary (020 7882 5407). We are grateful to Queen Mary, Royal Holloway, Kings, UCL, the Open University, Sussex University, the HGRG and the IHR for supporting this series.

Announcements from the RGS-IBG

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 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



GEOGRAPHERS
Biobibliographical
Studies VOLUME 29

Edited by Hayden Lorimer
and Charles W. J. Withers



Geographers: Biobibliographical Studies Volume 29

Edited by Hayden Lorimer and Charles W.J. Withers

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Ron Johnston, Emeritus Professor, University of Bristol

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and Charles W.J. Withers

Alan Grant Ogilvie - Charles
W.J. Withers

Pierre George - Hugh Clout

Philippe Pinchemel - Hugh
Clout

Leslie Wilson Hepple - Ron
Johnston, Kelvyn Jones, Peter
Haggett and Klaus Dodds

Andrew Learmonth - Richard
W. Lawton and W.T. Rees
Pryce

Denis E. Cosgrove - Michael
J. Heffernan

Allan Pred - Michael J. Watts

Volume 29 of *Geographers: Biobibliographical Studies* has as its subject matter seven essays covering British and French regionalists, one of the world's leading cultural geographers, a quantitative geographer turned historical geographer and student of geopolitics, a pioneering medical geographer and a leading theoretician of geography's multiple engagements with the urban experience. In their different ways and with reference to Australia, Britain, France, Sweden and the United States of America, all were products of - and direct influences upon - the emergence, strength and thematic diversity of geography in the twentieth century. *Geographers 29* thus provides key insight

into the shaping of a discipline and of its practitioners in modern context.

Hayden Lorimer is Senior Lecturer in the School of Geographical and Earth Sciences at the University of Glasgow.

Charles W.J. Withers is Professor of Historical Geography at the University of Edinburgh.

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HGRG Sponsored sessions - 31 August - 2 September 2011

New and Emerging Research in Historical Geography

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 the 23rd of 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).

Geographies of Collections

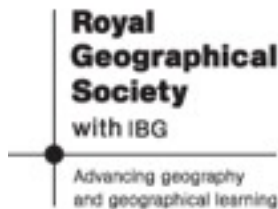
Those interested in participating in the session should contact Caroline Cornish (Caroline.Cornish.2009@live.rhul.ac.uk). The deadline for submission of abstracts is 11 February 2011. When submitting your paper please include the following information: 1) name 2) institutional affiliation 3) contact email, 4) title of proposed paper, 5) abstract (no more than 250 words) and 6) technical requirements (i.e., video, data projector, sound).

Collections of diverse types provide rich sources for geographical enquiry. The specific systems of organisation developed within them, along with their contexts of use, can variously form or inform the geographical imagination. The collection is also never static, whether it is aggregated as an archive, a library, a museum collection, a scientific dataset or a twenty-first century digital database. As a result, the knowledges and geographies developed within them are always ripe for re-imagination.

The theme of the 2011 RGS-IBG Conference - 'The Geographical Imagination', presents an opportunity to adopt what Rebecca Duclos has termed 'a cultural geography perspective' towards collections, and to reconsider their geographies at a time of intensified interest in this area. Popular events such as A History of the World in 100 Objects and the British Library Growing Knowledge exhibition show, from opposite sides of the spectrum, how interaction with myriad different collections is changing. This session therefore seeks to question how geographers working within this shifting landscape are engaging with the collection across a range of forms and materialities.

We would be pleased to receive submissions for papers from researchers engaged in a wide variety of 'collections' including fine art, natural history, cartographic, photographic, ethnographic, archaeological, and digital. We are particularly interested in papers which address the issues of place, space and imagination in the accumulation and deployment of collections, and in papers which have a historico-geographical focus. Topics might include:

- * Collections and imaginative geographies
- * The languages of collections
- * Materialities of collections
- * Spaces of collections
- * Collections and networks
- * Collected objects and knowledge production
- * The fluidity of collections
- * Collections and agency



HGRG Sponsored sessions -

31 August - 2 September 2011

‘New Imperial Geographies’?

The deadline for paper proposals is Monday 24 January 2011. Please send these to both David Lambert (d.lambert@rhul.ac.uk) and Steve Legg (Stephen.Legg@nottingham.ac.uk). When submitting proposals please include the following information: 1) name; 2) institutional affiliation; 3) contact e-mail; 4) title of proposed paper; 5) abstract (no more than 250 words); and 6) any technical requirements (e.g. video, data projector, sound).

These sessions will offer an opportunity to reflect on the diverse ways through which imperialism is being approached from within and without the geographical discipline. Over the past forty years geographers have approached the creation, functioning and dissolution of empires from a variety of perspectives, including the political economy of imperial free trade, colonial cartography, socio-cultural investigations of nationalism and anti-colonialism, and the material and psychological impact of ‘peripheral’ imperialism on ‘metropolitan’ countries. At the same time, contemporary imperial studies have been invigorated by a spatial turn that has seen concepts of scale, webs and networks augment older concerns about ‘core and periphery’ and prompt exploratory methodologies of comparison and connection between imperial sites. Many of these developments have been influenced by postcolonial studies, as routed through the ‘new imperial history’. While post-colonial geography has been the subject of various recent textbooks and edited collections, imperial geographies remain less well debated. These sessions will aim to fill this lacuna by encouraging debate about the strengths and weaknesses of imperial geographical scholarship. They will draw attention to the following:

- Methodology: empirical work that entails quantitative analysis, detailed micro-geographies, comparative and connective work, as well as qualitative analysis of representations, senses, bodies and places;
- Postcolonialism: how imperial studies have learnt from debates about othering, subalternism, representation, privilege, resistance, textualism, race and space while not being constrained by these critical checks;
- Metaphors and models of space: how research within and beyond geography has been structured and influenced by ideas regarding networks, webs, scales, places environments and more-than-human worlds;
- The public sphere: the role and use of exhibitions, archives and museums as an aspect of imperialism and a means of reflecting upon it.

We envisage panels dealing with the following themes and encourage the submission of abstracts that address:

- anticolonialism/nationalism
- biographical geographies
- decolonisation
- European, imperial and international legal geographies
- exploration, cartography and mapping
- institutions of governance
- knowledge and science
- landscapes
- metropolitan/domestic imperial formations
- moral and spiritual regulation
- museums and display
- nature/ecological imperialism
- representations



HGRG Sponsored sessions - 31 August - 2 September 2011

Geographical Publishing and Print Culture: Historical Geographies

**Those interested in participating
in the session should contact
Louise Henderson
(L.C.Henderson@hotmail.co.uk).**

**The deadline for submission of
abstracts is February 7, 2011.**

**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).**

Recent scholarship by historians and geographers of science has pointed to the importance of textual encounter in the production and circulation of various forms of knowledge. This work has highlighted the role of intermediaries such as publishers, editors, translators and other technicians of print in shaping both the form and content of scientific publications.

Research into the reception of such works also suggests that decisions taken in the publishing house often have an important influence on readers' responses. Until recently, surprisingly little attention has been paid to the influence of publishers and the publishing industry more widely in shaping different forms of knowledge.

This conference, with 'the geographical imagination' as its theme, presents an opportunity to consider the role of publishing and print culture in the production and dissemination of various geographical forms of knowledge. Whilst geographers of the book have set out an agenda for re-thinking the connections between space, text and knowledge, there remains ample scope to apply such thinking to geographical publishing and print culture in particular. This session provides a forum for scholars from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds to consider the relationship between print culture, geography and geographical imaginations in a range of historical and geographical contexts.

Potential contributors are invited to submit abstracts for papers which address any aspect of geographical publishing and print culture and its relation to geographical imaginations although priority will be given to those which consider one or more of the following themes:

- * From Manuscript to Print: Authorship, Authority and Intermediaries
- * 'Popular Geographies', Publishing and Print Culture
- * Periodical Literature and the Geographical Imagination
- * Historical Geographies of Reading and Reception

Resuscitating Necrogeography

**Jane Jacobs (University of
Edinburgh)**

**Lakhbir Jassal (University of
Edinburgh)**

**Please send abstracts
(approximately 250 words) of
proposed papers, including
institute affiliation, to Lakhbir
Jassal: L.Jassal@sms.ed.ac.uk.
Deadline for Submission: 1st
February 2011**

Understanding death has been a persistent albeit relatively minor concern of historical geography. This call seeks to resuscitate geographies of death and does so because, like Lily Kong (1999) before us, we believe that deathscapes are relevant to wider theoretical arguments active in the discipline. Existing geographies of death and dying follow very specific contours of scholarship and have resulted in silos of scholarship. Social geographies of mortality, for example, have little to say to cultural geographies of death rituals and deathscapes. More significantly, the theoretical concerns that animate our most progressive and challenging geographies of the living often by pass our thinking about the dead, who seem to remain entombed in a world of identity and meaning. What might, for example, a post-humanist perspective mean for studies of the dead? What geographies of affect are produced in the land of the dead? What are the uneven geographies of dying? How are dead souls governed? What environmental imperatives are re-shaping death?

We invite individuals researching and re-imagining necrogeographies of all kinds, but call specifically for papers interested in the following themes:

- * Innovation and invention in body disposal;
- * Governing the dead soul – governmentality and the dead;
- * Death and memory/forgetting;
- * Death and migration;
- * The body in the archive;
- * Grief, melancholy and mourning;
- * Affect and the dead;
- * Death and nature;
- * Living dead: ghosts, resurrections and other returns.



HGRG Sponsored sessions - 31 August - 2 September 2011

Me myself and the archive: reflecting on encounters and enchantments.

Please send proposed titles and abstracts (max 250 words), along with name, affiliation and contact details, to BOTH

Sarah Mills (slmills0@gmail.com) and

Leah Jones (293217@swansea.ac.uk) by 4th February 2011.

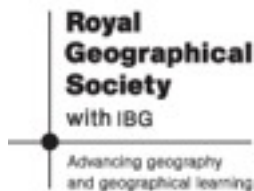
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The aim of this session is to enliven geographical imaginations by encouraging and stirring new ways of thinking about and encountering the archive. We are aware that there is not a single, unifying approach to the study of documentary evidence. For the most part, the nature of archival practice is highly individual and one entangled with a range of personal encounters, emotions and affects (Gagen et al. 2007). This session thus seeks to bring together the experiences of scholars working on and thinking through archival methods and innovation.

While the archive has been discussed in terms of housing fragments and traces of past lives – with recent sessions at the RGS examining how lives, personalities and personas can be reconstructed from the archive (Forsyth et al, 2009) - this session seeks to discover the more-than-representational and the more-than-textual (Lorimer, 2005) that the archive has to offer geographers through, often random, material and ephemeral encounters. We seek to discover the traces of the past that are not embedded in the printed word but those felt through the catalogued or non-catalogued ephemeral objects and artefacts of the archive. For example, current work on ‘embodied historical geographies’ has drawn on various objects and ephemera, as well as other ‘fragments’ from the archive, to help re-animate the past (Griffin and Evans, 2008; Lorimer and Whatmore, 2009). This session asks what other material helps us to ‘imagine’ the past? What is drawn out of the archive – the feelings, emotions, the delightful or unsettling encounters – from the non-textual fragments of the past we encounter? What traces do these objects leave, how should we think about them? In this context, recent work on enchantment and haunting in the discipline more broadly (Bennett, 2001; DeSilvey, 2006; Edensor, 2005; McEwan, 2008) has much to offer and excite the historical geographer. In light of this work, examining how practitioners and creators of certain archive material can evoke a sense of ‘absent-presence’ (photographers, film-makers, diarists, collectors, typists) and asking how geographers should consider those who made or have been implicated in the material they encounter is an important element of this session. Furthermore, what ethical responsibilities emerge from these types of encounters? What are the politics of the archive in light of new ethical and methodological innovation? Indeed, there are an important series of ethical considerations and responsibilities involved in archival research that are often overlooked (Moore, 2010).

We would particularly like to encourage papers on the following themes:

- * Reflections on the archive experience and how this has shaped and fuelled personal geographical imaginations
- * The more-than-textual and more-than-representational archive
- * How has the more-than-representational archive folded back into the write up of research
- * Embodied historical geographies
- * Absent-presence traces in the archive
- * The role of the researcher and positionality
- * Creators, producers and guardians of material
- * Ethical responsibilities of historical research
- * Geographical imaginations and futures of archives



HGRG Sponsored sessions - 31 August - 2 September 2011

Art, Science and Geographical Imaginations

Mrill Ingram, University of
Arizona; Libby Straughan,
Harriet Hawkins, Aberystwyth
University.

Please send abstracts/
expressions of interest to Mrill
Ingram on
mrilli@email.arizona.edu, by
Friday 11th February

When submitting proposals
please include the following
information: 1) name; 2)
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(e.g. video, data projector,
sound).

The tragedy of modern institutional compartmentalization has been its dissolution of the epistemological linkages between the arts (and broader humanities) and the natural sciences. Yet, however disparate their imaginaries, science and art have shared histories that inaugurate many key geographical modes of enquiry. Geographical knowledges and practices today retain a lively sense of the connectedness of the arts and sciences, characterized by negotiation, mutual learning and symbiosis, and explorations of relational difference. In the context of thinking about the geographical imagination, this session poses broad questions about the discipline's historic and ongoing relationships with art and science, their consequences for our ways of knowing and imagining the world, and for our understandings of the discipline and practice of geography.

We invite contributions that address the place of artistic and scientific endeavors in the historical production of geographical knowledge and that explore their place in contemporary imaginaries of geography as a discipline. Topics might include but are not confined to:

1) *Art/Science and the Making of a Modern-Day Geography*: The co-mingling of art and science -- in the form of, for example, collaborations onboard ships in the Age of Exploration; the empirical and imaginary filling in of the blank spaces of 'terra incognita', celestial and subterranean worlds; and the 19th century rendering of nature and landscape in Von Humboldt's cosmographies -- has been key to the emergence of a modern day geography. Indeed, the geographical project is often figured as one of synthesis. This may be worked through an imaginary of a disciplinary site where artistic and scientific endeavors engage around questions of bodies and environments, nature and society; or, it may be realized as part of a disciplinary genealogy that revolves, both pre and post Enlightenment, around the continuous working over of aesthetic and rational concerns.

How did this co-mingling of art/science emerge within particular political, economic and cultural contexts?

What imaginaries and practices animated and sustained such a geography?

How were relations between the empirical, the speculative and the imaginary articulated?

And, how, where and with what import did such a geography become institutionalized?

2) Today, in the spaces of the lab, the studio, and in the field we find collaborations between artists and sciences that articulate new ways of geographical knowing, but which also interrogate the history of geographical ways of knowing. For instance, geographers bring science and art together in the production of a range of outputs that have contributed to our world views, from visualizations, maps, GIS, data modeling and the graphics of field sketching and spatial science, to paintings and other art works.

How, where, and with what desires and anxieties have such collaborations emerged?

How has a history of geography been posited and re-negotiated?

What particular elements of the geographical imagination, and which concepts/techniques/figurations, are the focus of attention and why?

What modes of articulation are being used, and with what import?

3) *Imagining Geographies/Disciplinary Imaginaries*

Despite a history that combines art/science in a myriad of conceptual, methodological and presentational ways, there is nevertheless a marked compartmentalization of the discipline of geography. In consequence, a contemporary 'drawing together' of disparate areas of humanities, social and physical sciences combines elements that have considerable baggage accompanying them, such that they are identified variously as 'factual,' 'measurable' and 'practical', as well as 'creative,' 'innovative,' and 'speculative'.

How is this baggage negotiated as both a challenge and an opportunity in contemporary geographical accounts?

How does such work open up questions around the meaning and status of 'data,' the methods and practices of research and the status and value of outputs, both within and beyond the academy.

What expressive resources can be put to use in such efforts?

What are the implications of this contemporary co-mingling of art/science in the context of the rise of STEM and the threat to Arts and Humanities?



HGRG Sponsored sessions - 31 August - 2 September 2011

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

Please send titles and abstract (250 words) to Owain Jones: ojones@glos.ac.uk AND Oliver Moss o.moss@northumbria.ac.uk by the end of January. We will issue second and final CFPs at appropriate times. Form of session: 20 min papers, with the possibility of other forms of presentation.

“Compared with the amount of attention devoted to the solid forms of the landscape, the virtual absence of weather from philosophical debates about the nature and constitution of the environment is extraordinary” (Ingold 2008).

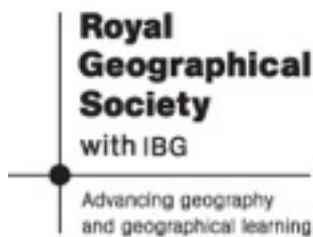
In cultural geography and beyond recent work on landscape has variously stressed embodiment, the senses, performativity, memory, practice, lively materiality, and so on. Many of these approaches are post-phenomenological in terms of their transcendence of traditional culturalist and conventional phenomenological frameworks and their foregrounding of relational (distributed) agency often operating in affective registers which are suffusing through and between bodies, materials, spaces. Some geographers have begun to address weathers, e.g. Brace and Geoghegan (2010) ‘Human geographies of climate change....’; McCormack (2008) ‘Engineering affective atmospheres....’; AAG (2011) session on ‘Weather, Geographical Contexts and Spatial Behaviour’, as have other disciplines, e.g. Jankovic & Barboza (2009) ‘Weather, Local Knowledge and Everyday Life....’. But, as Ingold suggests, little attention has been paid to weather/atmospherics in relation to the amounts of them around, their ubiquitous impacts on everyday practices, and their striking affective qualities.

Weathers and atmospherics are key means by which we are in-the-landscape. The landscape, as received through sight, sound, smell, haptic experience/practice is both mediated by, and exists in relation to, the combining registers of various weathers/atmospherics (temperature, humidity, precipitation, visibility, pressure, altitude, wind). A range of technologies (e.g. clothing, equipment) and specific practices (ways of moving, sensing, navigating) are drawn into larger practices of landscape - be they work related or recreational - in response to weather/atmospheric conditions. It is through weathers/atmospherics that one is firmly placed within the landscape as an affective living space rather than being on the edge of it as a visual presentation, and it is through and within them (literally) that practices of landscape occur. Some responses to the affecting agencies of weather can be found in past/present art/literary renditions of landscape. Artists such as Van Gogh, Constable, Turner, Cezanne and Monet were fascinated by weather and its changing moods, and sought to locate their practice in the affecting landscape in ways which absorbed and reflected it - seeking to convey the very atmosphere located between artist and motif. Dickens spoke of the “Genius of the Weather” sitting on the step of a fog-bound house, and drew striking psychogeographies of thickly atmospheric London streets. Montesquieu considered the “Empire of Climate” and how he thought it shaped culture and economy through bodies.

This session seeks papers which explore past and present weathers-atmospherics-places-landscapes in a range of ways which might include studying the experiences of others, auto-ethnographic accounts, accounts which draw upon past and present art literary practice and scientific/academic study. We welcome papers which are trying to operate in performative, affective, non/more/anti-representational modes; those seeking to engage physical-cultural processes; and also any others, including art works and/or performative pieces, which are exploring past/present experiences and practices of weather/landscape in any interesting way!!

The relationship between past/present/future practices/experiences/imaginings of weathers-landscapes and the vexed issue of climate change might also be a fruitful avenue to explore:

“Even the rain is different now; erratic, violent .. It’s rain that feels wounded”. (Sarah Hill *The Carhullan Army*)



HGRG Sponsored sessions

31 August - 2 September 2011

Geographies of Translation

All abstracts should be submitted electronically to both organisers (dean.bond@utoronto.ca; L.Fischer@sms.ed.ac.uk) by 11 February 2011.

Over the years, the concept of 'translation' (Übersetzung; traduction) has acquired different meanings for scholars in different disciplines. This session explores the uniquely geographical aspects of translation. More particularly, it investigates what might be termed the 'historical geographies of translation' – the ways in which spaces and places informed the translation, production, circulation and reception of geography texts. The sessions thus aim to address fundamental questions such as: Which geography texts were translated in particular periods, and which were not? What were the spaces and places within which they were translated? What made a geographical work worthy of translation? How did local geographies and cross-border geographies interact to create and transform translations of geography texts?

We welcome papers that investigate the nature and significance of the translation of geography texts across a broad historical spectrum, from the Middle Ages to the twentieth century. Papers might address topics such as the following:

- * The production, circulation, consumption and reception of translated works across times and spaces
- * Illegal prints of translated texts and their circulation
- * Changes in the frequency of translations of geographical texts within and between times and spaces
- * Translation and the 'geographical tradition'
- * Effects of the decline of Latin and the rise of vernacular scholarship

Since the investigation of 'historical geographies of translation' raises questions that inevitably traverse disciplinary boundaries, we also welcome submissions from historians of science and cultural historians with an interest in geographical themes.

WORK IN PROGRESS

“THE PATH OF MOST RESISTANCE”

Sarah De Nardi, David Atkinson
Department of Geography, Hull



The anti-Nazi, anti-Fascist partisan struggles of 1943-45 became iconic for the post-war construction of the Italian Republic. As Italians negotiated their fascist pasts and the world came to terms with Nazi atrocities, the resistance positioned Italians as fighting this oppression and offered a new start. Consequently, the resistance became central to Italy's post-war identity and was celebrated through all kinds of 'official' media, histories, memorials and formal education. It also resonated through informal memory - especially for the Italian left, and in the North where the bulk of the Partisan activities occurred.

Yet the geographies of resistance lives remain little-studied. While scholars frequently talk of the partisans' recourse to mountains or forests, they seldom consider the nature of these places; while historians documented the sites of resistance actions and refuges, they rarely considered how the fighters experienced these landscapes. Our geographical understandings of the production and nature of these fleeting worlds are lacking.

This project uses interviews with surviving partisans to explore the intimate, sensual, embodied business of being and dwelling in their landscapes of invisibility and refuge where they hid, sheltered, watched and waited. How did they understand and engage with these landscapes? Which places inspired fear, attachment, remorse or hope? We will explore how the practice of resistance -and its modes of using, engaging and re-shaping landscapes- reconstituted both the partisans and these resistance landscapes.

The case studies will be drawn from the Veneto, North-East Italy: a key partisan region that is central to traditional Resistance histories. We will examine both the formal historical and more popular, folk memories of the resistance, but also explore the resistance geographies through in-depth interviews to produce a fuller picture of Resistance lives and landscapes before the last veterans slip away.

Finally, we will consider the afterlives of these sites. Remembering the resistance and visiting its iconic sites remains on school curricula and is important for many residents of the region. But how are these places used to remember? We will also interview teachers and local historical advisors about how these sites function in memory work, and how to translate the roles of these landscapes into wider resistance histories.



Thesis abstracts

Be Prepared: The Cultural Politics of the Scout Movement in Britain'

Dr Sarah Mills

***Institute of
Geography & Earth
Sciences,
Aberystwyth
University***

This research explores the histories and geographies of 'citizenship training' through the case study of the Scout Movement in Britain. The thesis focuses on the cultural politics of scouting over the last century and is based on extensive and original archival research. It considers the ways in which the Scout Movement constructed and maintained a model of citizenship for young people to emulate and how this 'ideal scouting citizen' has been negotiated and 'stretched' over time through various aspects of social and cultural difference. Youth movements, as popular informal learning environments that emerged in late nineteenth and early twentieth century Britain, can provide a 'lens' through which to examine broader ideas on citizenship and nationhood in civil society. Through their philosophies and practices, youth movements project and embody a particular vision of what they want (future) British youth to be. I explore some of the tensions and opportunities that have emerged when diverse individuals and social groups – including communist youth, female youth and religious minorities – have participated in scouting and directly challenged those (adult) visions and questions over 'who belongs'. I therefore use scouting as an illustration of the emergence and transformation of particular political-cultural formations associated with British youth – to ask how social difference has contested the notion of British citizenship, as well as the manner in which these issues have been played out in everyday spaces and performances relating to expected behaviours and allegiances. I argue that these examples can be seen as 'moments' in the emergence of a complex, tension-ridden movement. Indeed, rather than assume the organisation as a coherent container within which individuals play out identities, or as a hegemonic entity that produces resistance, I have unpacked the movement as a shifting ensemble of people, objects and knowledges that work to produce particular subjectivities around citizenship.

Thesis abstracts

Enticing Ghosts to Life: Exploring the Historical and Cultural Geographies of R.D. Laing

Cheryl McGeachan

School of Geographical and Earth Sciences, University of Glasgow.

Scottish born psychiatrist, psychoanalyst and psychotherapist Ronald David Laing, was born in Glasgow in 1927 and died in 1989, aged only 61. Training in medicine at Glasgow University then moving to the discipline of psychiatry, and finally studying psychoanalysis at the famous Tavistock Clinic in London under the guidance of more recognisable analysts such as Charles Rycroft and Donald Winnicott, Laing became a globally renowned figure for his controversial and inspiring views on the subject of mental ill-health. Laing decided to step away from conventional psychiatry by condemning the use of electric shock treatment, lobotomies, and insulin treatment and instead focused on more experimental therapies such as meaningful communication and LSD treatment. Laing desired to investigate the intricate connections between mind and body interactions and through an existential phenomenological approach attempted to understand his patients within the context of their own local, social and familial worlds. Many critics condemned his vision as attempting to romanticise mental suffering but this did not halt Laing gaining a cult following and becoming one of Britain's most influential, yet forgotten, intellectual figures.

This thesis aims to introduce the life and work of Laing to a geographical audience by demonstrating both the geographies of Laing and Laing's geographies. An increasingly substantial number of geographers working within the sub-fields of psychoanalytic and psychotherapeutic geographies have endeavoured to cast a geographical eye over psychoanalytic concepts such as the 'unconscious' and key figures in the discipline such as Freud, Kristeva and Lacan, however, Laing remains a curious missing figure in this literature. Through archival research with the Laing collection held in the Special Collections at the University of Glasgow I explore Laing's early life and work through a geographical lens. In doing so the fragmentary nature of archival work is revealed and its methodological repercussions investigated within the current geographical literature concerned with life writing and biography. Through the construction of a geographical biography of Laing's early life, beginning with the reconstruction of his childhood city of Glasgow in the 1920s through to his creation of the 'asylum' of Kingsley Hall in 1965, I examine how certain spaces, sites and places became fundamental to the formation of Laing's broader philosophy on mental ill-health and his exploration of different therapeutic practices with seriously disturbed, often schizophrenic, individuals. This geographical dimension is explored in further detail in the concluding section of this thesis as I attempt to unpick the geographies arguably present in Laing's theoretical work.

Thesis abstracts

***Unruly Waters:
Nyasaland and
Malawi, the
regulation of
nature and nation
1920-1980
Landscape,
Antiquity and
Natural History:
The Work of
Hayman Rooke
(1723-1806)***

Marc Welsh,

IGES,

University of
Aberystwyth

Material and discursive struggles over and upon the waterways of Malawi are a feature of its colonial and post-colonial state history. The thesis explores the way in which circulating networks of expert knowledge brought into focus the problem of an 'un-natural' nature through the Shire Valley Project (SVP), produced as a response by colonial government to an agential nature. The SVP was conceived as a means of regulating and productivising the unruly hydrological system of southern Malawi (nee Nyasaland Protectorate). Through a political ecology of dynamic equilibrium seasonal waters flowing into Lake Malawi would be released to control the flow of the Shire River throughout the year; stabilising the behaviour of Lake Malawi, enabling the generation of hydro-electricity and draining and irrigating of the Lower Shire Valley.

The imposition of a new political imaginary upon the territory in 1953 (the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland) resulted in a fragmentation of the SVP. Implementation of the SVP within a scaled domestic/federal/imperial state structure produced sites of political contestation between nationalist and federalist actors. The study finds a fulcrum around which Nyasaland was levered out from enforced Federal domination, the Nkula Falls hydro-electric project - a key component of the SVP. In unravelling the entwined and contested geopolitical and ecological discourses relating to the Nkula Falls scheme I suggest it might illustrate an unfolding 'geopolitical ecology'.

Subsequently hydraulic projects form part of the nation-building discourse of the newly established Malawian state – a form of 'hydro-nationalism'. The transformation of Malawi's hydrosocial landscape is explored by following the trajectories of the SVP component projects. In their implementation as 'development' these projects were also to alter the form and function of the state and its institutions, deepening the extent to which the state was able to penetrate social relations.

Empirically driven the narrative is informed by a number of interlocking theoretical literatures wedded together in an attempt to bring into focus the hydrosocial construction of the state of Nyasaland/Malawi. Four constellations of theoretical knowledge – "the state", colonialism, power, and nature – are used to bring into focus a hydrosocial colonial state. I conclude by relating the historical narrative unpacked in this thesis to more contemporary events as Malawi enters a new phase of a 'hydraulic mission'; development through regulation and productivisation of water.



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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

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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



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