



HISTORICAL
GEOGRAPHY
RESEARCH
GROUP

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May 24th, 2017

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HGRG Newsletter, Winter 2016-17



Historical Geography Research Group

NEWSLETTER

- WINTER 2016/17 -

Letter from the Chair

Dear HGRG members,

Welcome to the winter edition of the newsletter and the start of what promises to be a busy year for HGRG. The summer will bring the usual full programme of HGRG sponsored sessions at the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG)'s annual conference. Along with the 'New and Emerging' sessions dedicated to postgraduate research in historical geography, there are planned sessions on periods from the classical world to the present and topics as diverse as the production of early modern geographical knowledge, anti-colonialism and spaces of resistance, and heritage in the twenty-first-century postcolonial city. I'm also delighted to announce that in November we shall be heading to Manchester for the 23rd Practising Historical Geography conference (more details on this to follow later in the year). In addition, 2017 will see the launch of our Teaching Historical Geography website and online resources. As Stephanie Wyse details below, she and Nicola Thomas will soon be contacting members to add their own ideas, experiences and reflections. Anyone keen to contribute is encouraged to get in touch with Stephanie directly (s.wyse@rgs.org): having entertained her and her video camera in Hull this week, I can promise recording material for one of the planned short films proved to be hugely fun and only moderately nerve-racking!

I should also like to take the opportunity to remind members of two fast approaching deadlines. Firstly postgraduate members—and their supervisors—may like to note that the deadline for applications to our postgraduate support scheme is 1st April (<http://hgrg.org.uk/grants-and-prizes/>). The scheme supports research trips (broadly defined) and conference attendance by PG members of the group up to a maximum of £100. This is an important part of what we as a research group do, so, if you eligible, please do make an application. The second deadline is that for our new Conference Organisation Funding Scheme which also closes on 1st April.

This scheme supports the organisation of significant conferences which aim to advance the field of historical geography as well as the standing and careers of postgraduates and early-career scholars. We anticipate making one such award of no more than £1,500 every two years. Applications forms are available from the HGRG website and should be submitted to me (B.McDonagh@hull.ac.uk) by the deadline.

With news and reminders out of the way, readers can now move on to another busy issue of the HGRG newsletter, once again skilfully edited by our newsletter secretary Jake Hodder. We open with Elizabeth Baigent's reflections on how she became a historical geographer, followed by another of our reports from the archives, this time from Oliver Dunnnett on his recent trip to work on the Arthur C Clarke Collection housed at the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum in Virginia, USA. This issue also includes not one, but two, reports on November's Practising Historical Geography workshop at the University of Aberystwyth. My thanks go to Oliver and to Jo Norcup, Laura Crawford and Iara Maranda for putting together their reports, as well as to Elizabeth for her time in writing her wonderfully thoughtful piece. Finally, I must also thank Robin Butlin for kindly writing a short piece in memory of June Sheppard, a founding member of the HGRG who sadly passed away late last year. I was greatly saddened to hear the news of June's death: I have always held her work in high regard, making regular use of her publications on the East Riding of Yorkshire in both my teaching and research. It is to be regretted I never met her, though as my supervisor's supervisor (a 'supervisory grandparent'?) her influence is undoubtedly to be felt in my own ongoing research on the British rural landscape.

With very best wishes for 2017,

Briony McDonagh, HGRG Chair

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HGRG Newsletter, Winter 2016-17

How I became a historical geographer

Elizabeth Baigent



Elizabeth Baigent is the University Reader in the History of Geography at the University of Oxford, and Senior Tutor and Academic Director of Wycliffe Hall's international programme. She was educated at Oxford and Münster, has held research fellowships at Oxford and Stockholm, and a visiting professorship at Johns Hopkins University. From 1993 to 2003 Elizabeth was Research Director of the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography. She is fellow of the *Society of Antiquaries*, the *Royal Historical Society*, the *Royal Geographical Society*, and the *Higher Education Academy*.

Like many, perhaps most, people who become geographers, I owe my choice of career to an inspiring teacher. Norah Stevens (now Laurie) was young, UCL-trained, intelligent, and energetic, and blew a blast of fresh air through my genteel Bath school. Her field trips were memorable, particularly for those who travelled in her thunderously loud Mini which had a road clearance of about an inch, but primarily because we discovered what the landforms we had learned about in lessons really looked like. The most influential text I read at school was W.G. Hoskins's *Making of the English Landscape* (1955). This, I thought, was a geographer whose writing, method, and deep affection for the English landscape were inspiring. The discovery that this geographer was a historian did not prevent the text's encouraging me to pursue geographical study. Perhaps three elements of my geographical life can be traced to my school experience: geography outside its disciplinary bounds, formidable women, and a temperamental and intellectual preference for empirically informed work, often with links to landscape.

Geography outside its disciplinary bounds

My early experience with Hoskins's writings exemplifies my conviction that geography need not be done in geography departments or by geographers. My professional life has been split fairly equally among geography departments, history departments, and research institutions outside the departmental mould. My undergraduate and doctoral degrees were from Oxford's School of Geography (1977–80 and 1980–4), but I took a year out to work at the Institut für vergleichende Städtegeschichte (Institute for Comparative Urban History) in Münster (1983–4). A succession of postdoctoral fellowships saw me work inside geography departments (a Leverhulme fellowship at the University of Stockholm (1984–5) and a Fulbright at Johns Hopkins University (1990–91)) and outside them (a Junior Research Fellowship (1985–90) and a British Academy Research Fellowship (1991–4) held at Oxford colleges). My most formative

post, that of Research Director of the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, the largest humanities research project ever in the UK, brought a Research Lectureship in Oxford's history faculty. The dictionary's editor, the political historian Colin Matthew, wanted a second in command who had a different historical perspective from his and valued my geographical training. I spent ten happy years at the ODNB surrounded by an international team of scholars of the highest calibre. Among other tasks I oversaw the rewriting of the geographical sections of the dictionary—revising articles which had accumulated over the hundred odd years since the dictionary was first published, and adding new ones. Some of my biographical subjects had worked in geography departments, but there were also travellers, explorers, surveyors, cartographers, writers, civil servants, imperial servants, missionaries, diplomatists, naval and army officers, teachers and writers for children, officers of learned societies, and others besides, all doing geography, widely interpreted. After the ODNB was published in 2004 I moved to a Readership in the Oxford geography department where I remain. My career and my ODNB experience exemplify the fact that much geography happens outside geography departments, and that this can deepen and broaden our discipline and our understanding of it.

Formidable women

If my schoolmistress led me to choose geography, my decision to apply to Oxford was inspired by another formidable woman—my mother who read history at Oxford. Of the colleges to which I have been attached, the two most formative were women's colleges: St Hugh's and St Anne's. Much of my academic work—whether early work on household types in nineteenth-century Sweden, later work on improving the coverage of women in the ODNB, or my recent volume on Octavia Hill, a founder of the National Trust—has been influenced by a wish to write women into the historical record. As an individual I have been treated with great



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courtesy by my male colleagues (though I experienced sustained antagonism from one when the demands of small children put an end to long hours in the office); but those male colleagues have unquestionably shaped the culture and system within which I have worked. Being vastly outnumbered by men, and often being the only woman in high level meetings have been simple facts of my professional life. I wish I were confident that matters were improving.

The material world and empirical study

My early enthusiasms for being in the field and understanding landscapes remain. I was lucky to have as my doctoral supervisor Jack Langton, though it was not perhaps until I coedited a *Festschrift* for him (*English Geographies*, 2009) that I realised how much I had been affected by his insistence on the highest standard of empirical work, informed but never

overwhelmed by theory, and always aiming to shed light on the material world. This perspective was consolidated by my stays in Germany and Sweden with their empirical geographical traditions, and work at the ODNB where empirical details had to be comprehensive and correct. I now lead regular field trips, for example, for scholars from the International Commission on the History of Geography's London meeting (2015), and I included an excursion in the conference I organised with the National Trust on Octavia Hill (2013) so we could see the landscapes she worked in. My interest in the material world includes an interest in maps as representations of the world and as material objects, and I continue to work on the history of cartography following an initial collaboration with Roger Kain.

I have been lucky enough to have a non-standard but thoroughly enjoyable geographical career and, with a contractual retirement date of 70, I still have plenty to go! □

From the archive

Researching the Arthur C Clarke Collection at the Smithsonian Institution

by Oliver Dunnett,
Queens University Belfast

2017 marks the centenary of the birth of Arthur C Clarke, the British writer and 'futurolgist', who was perhaps best known for his collaboration with Stanley Kubrick on the seminal science fiction film 2001: *A Space Odyssey* (1968), following which he became recognised as one of the 'big three' science fiction writers of the twentieth century (alongside Americans Robert Heinlein and Isaac Asimov). Clarke was also well-known as a CBS commentator on the Apollo 11 Moon landings in 1969, and for the Yorkshire Television series *Arthur C Clarke's Mysterious World*, broadcast in 1980.

After his death in 2008, Clarke's personal papers were passed from his home in Sri Lanka (where he had lived since 1956) to the Smithsonian Institution, a process that involved a delegation of archivists travelling to Colombo in order to survey, select, list, package and ship the collection to the US. A number of legal and logistical difficulties were reportedly overcome in order to achieve this acquisition, and enable the various 'treasures' of the collection to be made available to researchers, some of which are highlighted on the Smithsonian's web pages and

online finding aid.

The Clarke Collection was opened to researchers in early-2016 at the archives division of the Smithsonian's Udvar-Hazy Center, Chantilly, Virginia, which is adjacent to Washington Dulles International Airport. The collection is housed alongside mostly technical space-related and aviation archives, and accessed by appointment. A curious aspect of this archive is that it is accessed through the Center's Air and Space Museum, whose enormous exhibition space is home to a startling collection of historic aeroplanes and space vehicles. This includes the Space Shuttle Discovery and the controversially-displayed Enola Gay B-29 Superfortress, which dropped the atom bomb on Hiroshima in 1945, and past which one has to walk *en route* to the archive. Indeed, the Enola Gay and other military hardware remind the researcher of the politics of display and archiving at the Smithsonian, whose status as an open-access educational institution perhaps makes it even more acutely subject to cultural and political sensitivities when handling historical information and artefacts.

The Clarke Collection, amounting to over 95 cubic feet in volume, comprises the majority of Clarke's correspondence, original manuscripts (collected under his self-acclaiming 'Clarkives' appellation) and other miscellaneous items. A visit in August 2016 allowed me to consult this collection, but with only enough time to review part of the voluminous correspondence files.



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From the archive



The Boeing Aviation Hanger at Udvar-Hazy Center, Chantilly, Virginia

Image credit: <https://airandspace.si.edu/udvar-hazy-center>

Here, a litany of correspondents as diverse as J B S Haldane, Carrie Fisher, Buckminster Fuller, Walter Cronkite, the Dalai Lama, Neil Armstrong and Tony Benn are represented, with a small selection of letters classed under ‘special correspondence’, with the rest arranged by (and often inconveniently buried in) chronological order. Indeed, one of the difficulties in researching this collection was the distracting aura surrounding letters of outstanding cultural significance, but of no practical relation to the research at hand, a particular hindrance exacerbated by the archive’s somewhat restricted opening hours of 10-4 (Tuesdays to Fridays only).

Nevertheless, the collection offers an unprecedented opportunity to help understand Clarke’s life in Sri Lanka / Ceylon, which is the subject of the wider project that this research supports. Here, correspondence has shown how Clarke’s conceptualisation of Sri Lanka / Ceylon

matured from an initial focus on underwater exploration, including the discovery of sunken treasure, ‘a ton of silver (Mogul rupees)’ (Letter to J B S Haldane, 24/5/63), towards an understanding of Sri Lanka as a potential high-tech ‘information centre for the Third World’ (Letter to Walter Cronkite, 2/8/81).

This progression in Clarke’s local geographical imagination is often obscured in writings about his more expansive visions of the future of humankind, the progress of technology and the promise of space exploration that were consistent elements of his life’s work. No doubt the Clarke Collection will spark further engagements with this egocentric, sometimes vexing, but often humorous, and undoubtedly remarkable, character. □

Source: Arthur C. Clarke Collection of Sri Lanka, Acc. 2015-0010, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution



Clarke at the opening of the Arthur C Clarke Centre for Modern Technologies, Moratuwa University, Sri Lanka, 1984, with his own hand-written annotation on the photo.

Image credit: Arthur C. Clarke Collection of Sri Lanka, Acc. 2015-0010, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution



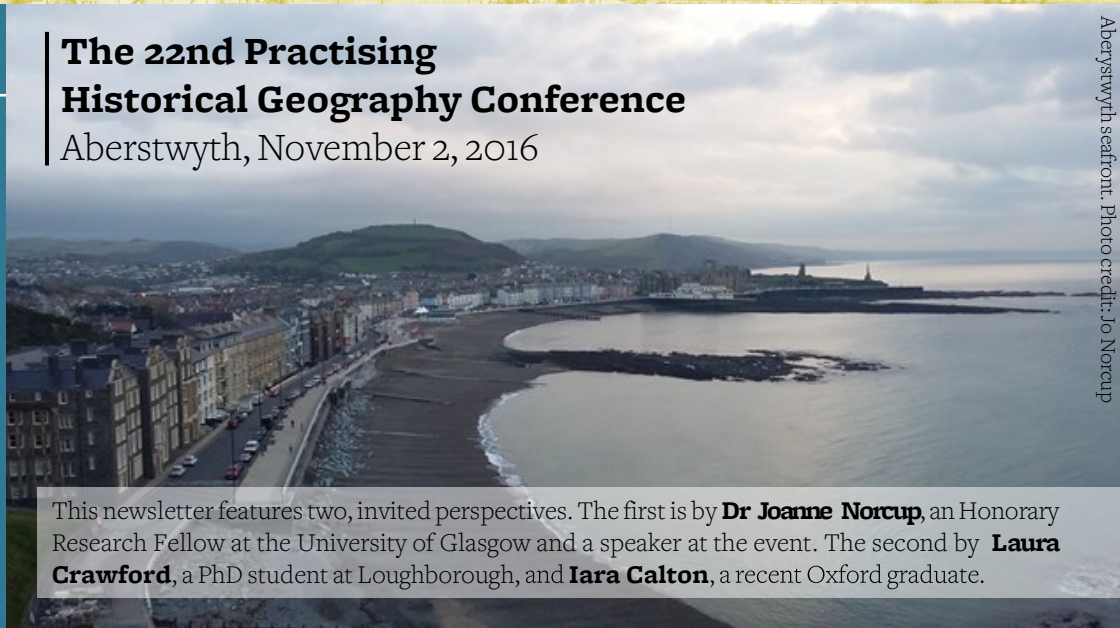
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Conference Reports

The 22nd Practising Historical Geography Conference

Aberystwyth, November 2, 2016



Aberystwyth seafont. Photo credit: Jo Norcup

This newsletter features two, invited perspectives. The first is by **Dr Joanne Norcup**, an Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Glasgow and a speaker at the event. The second by **Laura Crawford**, a PhD student at Loughborough, and **Iara Calton**, a recent Oxford graduate.

By Joanne Norcup

The annual Practising Historical Geography conference is a happy place on the HGRG calendar. It invites practitioners to set time aside during the first term of the academic year in which to spend a day listening, discussing and reflecting on the practise, performance and professional challenges of undertaking historical geography. If resources permit, it is an enriching experience and one strongly recommended. During my time as doctoral researcher, I was only able to attend one previous event (2008, University of Exeter), so I was thrilled to be invited to speak about my postgraduate reflections at the 22nd Practising Historical Geography Conference held at the University of Aberystwyth.

An evening meal at *Baravin* enabled the majority of attendees to introduce themselves and socialise under the watchful eyes of a large rendered head of Tom Jones before (a quick nightcap for some and) sleep.



A rendering of the head of Sir Tom Jones from *Baravin*

Photo credit Jo Norcup

A bright and brisk morning heralded the conference proper, which began with Welsh cakes and hot beverages. HGRG Chair Briony McDonough gave the welcome and introduced the day itself. In a slight change to the structure of previous Practising Historical Geography gatherings, the small numbers of attendees meant we would all be present for papers and workshop sessions scheduled for the morning, with the added bonus of a visit to the National Library of Wales and its archives after lunch.

Peter Merriman (Aberystwyth) began proceedings with a paper entitled '*Modern Women on Modern Machines: cultural constructions of women motorists in late Victorian and Edwardian Britain*'. Reflecting on archival materials he had touched on in his 2012 monograph *Mobilities, Spaces and Culture*, Merriman discussed the way letters pages and advertising illuminated broader and interconnected technological, cultural, and political discussions regarding the gendered and privileging nature of access to motoring technology and the mobility of gendered bodies as drawn out in the pages of the specialist motoring press of the late Victorian and Edwardian period.



The welcoming heraldic dragons of Aberystwyth

Photo credit Jo Norcup

Holding the conference in Aberystwyth meant for me and many other delegates travelling the day before. Armed with intellectually expanding and historically inclined reading matter* and a window seat to enable bird-watching along the Dovey Estuary, it was an enjoyable commute. Once settled in Aberystwyth, there was time to explore the historical market town and ramble around its glorious coastal situation with startling murmurations around the pier and views across Cardigan Bay.

* *Yours Magazine*



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Conference Reports



Morning presentations, left to right: Pete Merriman, Jo Norcup, Dairmaid Kelliher, Dominique Moran.

Photo credit Cheryl McGeachan and Jo Norcup

In *'Postgraduate Voices: reflecting on past postgraduate experiences'* I was able to ruminate on the relative merits of undertaking doctoral research as a mature part-time student. In particular, I discussed the benefits and challenges 'slow' research methodologies have in supporting the recovery of dispersed dissenting historical accounts of the recent past. Illustrating this through examples from a decade recovering the stories and archive attached to a Leftist critical geography journal published during the 1980s (*Contemporary Issues in Geography and Education*) more general discussions were had regarding where such research practice sits in relation to cultures of professional performance (finishing doctoral research within a three year funding timescale, maximum publishing output and high-profile networking) and how alternative ways of undertaking historical geographical research need asserting if diversity of voices, approaches, practices and personnel are to be sustained for the enrichment of work undertaken in historical geography and academia more generally.

Research into alternative accounts of 1980s political landscapes continued in the workshop after the coffee break. Dairmaid Kelliher's (Glasgow) session *'Filming Solidarity: Independent documentary and the 1984-5 miners' strike'* the workshop screened four different examples of video resources independently produced to garner solidarity and support for striking miners and their communities when screened in an array of different community spaces during the strikes in the mid 1980s. These films variously tapped into particular union histories of strike solidarity and responded to right-wing media misrepresentation of community activism at the time. In our groups we were asked to reflect on the content, framing and the way ideas of solidarity were engendered. In asking questions

of the footage, broader questions arouse regarding the demise of regional knowledges and the remoteness of the recent past, processes of archiving, how education of the recent past is culturally mediated and to what extent dissenting historical narratives find space in contemporary cultural and political discussions.

The keynote lecture was given by Dominique Moran (Birmingham). Entitled *'Carceral Pasts: Ubiquitous, Uncomfortable, Usable?'* The lecture began with Moran reflecting on her own research career and how the use of historical resources and historical research practices enabled and enriched her work into carceral geographies of the past and in the present. Acknowledging her recent publication with Karen Morin (*Historical Geography of Prisons: Unlocking useable carceral Pasts*) Moran used examples to discuss how historical carceral spaces have been reimagined and repurposed. Such transformation of carceral space from penal institution to heritage site, film location or housing redevelopment raised further questions about access to prisoner histories and popular understanding about the realities of contemporary carceral spaces in contemporary societies.

There was a lot to ruminate on over lunch, and ideas percolated during the afternoon as we were given access to some of the holdings of the National Library of Wales and a tour of the library itself. Located at the edge of the University campus with views looking over Cardigan Bay and Aberystwyth, there was much joy to be had in rummaging through artefacts and visiting exhibition spaces within the library.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable and thoughtful time. Many thanks to Cheryl McGeachan, Briony McDonagh, Hannah Neate, Liz Gagen, Pete Merriman, and to all who contributed presentations and questions. □

By Laura Crawford
and Iara Calton

The long journey was made worthwhile by the opportunity to explore the town and discover its rich history, from the ruins of the Iron Age castle to the iconic Victorian

seafront. Those who timed their arrival well were lucky enough to witness the startling murmur as the sun set over Aberystwyth Pier.

The conference networking started the evening before with a lovely meal near the seafont in Aberystwyth. Everyone became acquainted and

Conference Reports

competed for the furthest distance travelled to reach the conference. The Glasgow University team won hands down!

On the sunny morning of 2nd November after trekking up the hill to reach campus, the conference was underway. In her opening remarks, Briony McDonagh posed some thought-provoking questions for consideration. Namely, whether historical-geography can truly be critical and whether we should strive to, or it is indeed possible, to do more historical-geographical work in the field. We were left to ponder these questions throughout the day, and were onto the first speaker.

Peter Merriman's keynote lecture explored embodied practices in the context of motoring and included revealing conceptions of gender in Victorian Britain. His research engaged with a range of source material including driving magazines, and it was interesting to see how driving was deemed firmly in the male domain and the emergence of female drivers caused mixed opinion about the use of the road as a space. We considered the challenges women made to established norms regarding female bodily capacity, and heard how car manufacturers exploited this by advertising cars that were more suitable for ladies body comportment.

Jo Norcup reflected on her postgraduate experience working on a PhD part-time, how her project developed and how the discovery of new source material changed the direction of her enquiry. This was a hugely valuable lesson for any PhD student, demonstrating both the benefits and challenges of working with archival material.

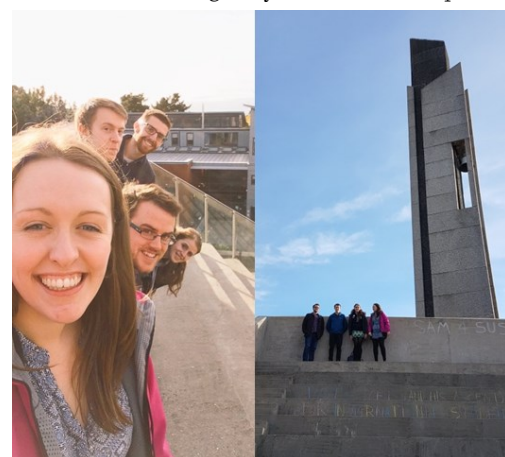
Normally, the undergraduate dissertation prize winner would present their work at this point but unfortunately, the winner had not yet been announced. The programme therefore moved onto an important feature – the coffee break – which provided an opportunity to continue networking and for some of us to sample our very first Welsh Cakes!



What a delight to see the inclusion of a workshop by a current PhD student, Diarmaid Kelliher, in his final year of his PhD. Diarmaid explored the

mining strike in 1983/4 and in the workshop we looked at several film clips including- *Not just tea and Sandwiches* and *All out*, showing solidarity for the strikes from a range of sub-sections of society. In groups we discussed the value of film as a resource to inform historical-geographical work. Discussions surrounded the polemical nature of film and the way the edit can affect what messages are conveyed. We ultimately concluded that film can be an incredibly useful and revealing source and were left to consider how we could incorporate film in our own research areas.

Lunch was a chance to enjoy a bit of winter sun and the views over Aberystwyth. This was so nice, that an obligatory selfie was required!



After lunch, Dominique Moran introduced us to her work on carceral geography. Dominique explained how her background was not strictly as a historical-geographer but her recent work and research interests had attracted her to this approach, and she made a case for the value of a historical view informing contemporary research. We tackled the notion of incarceration and queried whether it was possible to have post-prisons, utilising these spaces for different purposes. Dominique showcased a range of snapshots of how prisons have been repurposed including transient uses such as film sets. We also explored the notion of dark tourism where carceral pasts are reconfigured into heritage sites deemed to have historical importance, examples including Alcatraz and Robben Island. The examples deployed reinforced the value of utilising a historical approach, challenging us to consider how the contemporary function of these spaces were influenced by dark histories, and that the modern day is inextricably bound-up with meanings created and produced through time.

Visiting the National Library of Wales was a brilliant addition to the conference programme. It was great to be surrounded by a group of like-minded individuals, excited at the prospect of exploring archives and libraries. Staff at the National Library of Wales kindly gave us an introduction to their catalogue and produced



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some original archival materials for us to look at. We then went on a tour of the building, exploring the different reading rooms and some photo exhibitions on WWI and the Aberfan coal-mining disaster in 1966.

The best part of the day was seeing the variety of activities being undertaken by both academics and current PhD students: everything from education, to explorers in Greenland, and to farming in Canada. The breadth of topics was really inspiring demonstrating the variety of contributions to knowledge historical-geographers are making. Similarly, it was great to network as a group of students at different stages in their programmes with attendees ranging from Masters students in the process of applying for PhDs to those preparing to submit their theses. The opportunity to share our experiences (both the highs and the lows) and advice was invaluable.

As a new PhD student I couldn't have asked for a better introduction to the world of historical-geography. Thanks to Aberystwyth University for hosting and to Cheryl and Briony and all those at HGRG and the RGS-IBG who helped make the day a success. □



End of day group photo
Photo credit: Liz Gagen

Obituary

June Sheppard (1928-2016)

Older members of the HGRG in particular will be saddened by the news of the death on November 11th 2016 of Dr June Sheppard, a dedicated founder member of the HGRG, the first woman member of its committee, and its Honorary Treasurer from 1967 to 1970.

June's work for the HGRG as it became was of great value at a time when the setting up of an operable financial basis was crucial for the development of a nascent research group, as was her skill in dealing with members and with the financial *modus operandi* of its parent body the Institute of British Geographers. Her reports to the HGRG, some of them handwritten, make very informative reading, and are in the HGRG archive.

June had a rich and fulfilled academic career, which will be fully documented and evaluated elsewhere in the geographical literature. A graduate and M. A. research postgraduate of the University of Hull, and with a PhD from the University of London, she spent most of her active working professional life from 1953 to 1991 in the Geography department at Queen Mary College in the University of London, having been appointed as Reader in Geography in 1972.

June was a first class

researcher, her early work in historical geography being on land drainage in the Hull Valley of East Yorkshire, and the medieval meres of Holderness, followed by extensive work on the historical geography of rural settlement and economy in Yorkshire, exemplified perhaps by her classic paper of 1966 on Wheldrake in the Vale of York (*Geografisker Annaler*, 48 Series B 1966, 59-77). June also published on Herefordshire, and on modern rural population changes in New South Wales, Australia, where she had spent time on research leave. Active in research in retirement in Sussex, she published papers on rural and urban populations in nineteenth-century Sussex in national and local academic journals. Her work has stood the test of time, with recognition in current and forthcoming research publications.

June was an outstanding teacher and research supervisor, and a cheerful and supportive departmental colleague. A prescient, pioneering and highly informative book on the history of Geography at Queen Mary College, written by June, was published in 1994 with the title *A Century of Geography*. A prize in her name is awarded for the best performance by a second year (level 5) human geography student at QMUL.



Robin Butlin,
University of Leeds

SEMINAR PROGRAMMES

London Group of Historical Geographers

Seminar Programme, Spring 2017

The Pacific

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| January 10 | Katie Parker (Pittsburgh)
Charting Anson through time: the use of maps in books on the Anson circumnavigation (1740–44) from the eighteenth to the twentieth centuries. |
| January 24 | Stephanie Mawson (Cambridge)
Geographies of resistance in the seventeenth-century Philippines. |
| February 7 | Anthony Pickles (Cambridge)
The fluttering tide: the adoption of gambling across the Pacific. |
| February 21* | Philipp Schorch (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München)
From Polynesia to Transpacific Americas and back: the ongoing (re)making of a region. [Note: different venue] |
| March 7 | Haidy Geismar (University College London)
Rambaram and the politics of perspective: unpacking digital and analogue epistemologies in museum collections. |

Seminars, unless otherwise indicated, are held on **Tuesdays at 5.15pm in Wolfson Room I (NB01), Institute of Historical Research**, North Block, Senate House, University of London. For further details, or to have your name added to our e-mail list, please contact one of the convenors. For supporting this seminar series, we are grateful to King's, Queen Mary, Royal Holloway, Birkbeck, LSE, Open University, UCL, University of Sussex, and the IHR.

Convenors: Ruth Craggs (King's), Felix Driver (Royal Holloway), Innes M. Keighren (Royal Holloway), and Miles Ogborn (Queen Mary).

*This seminar will be held in Wolfson Room II (NB02).



Announcements

ANNOUNCEMENTS

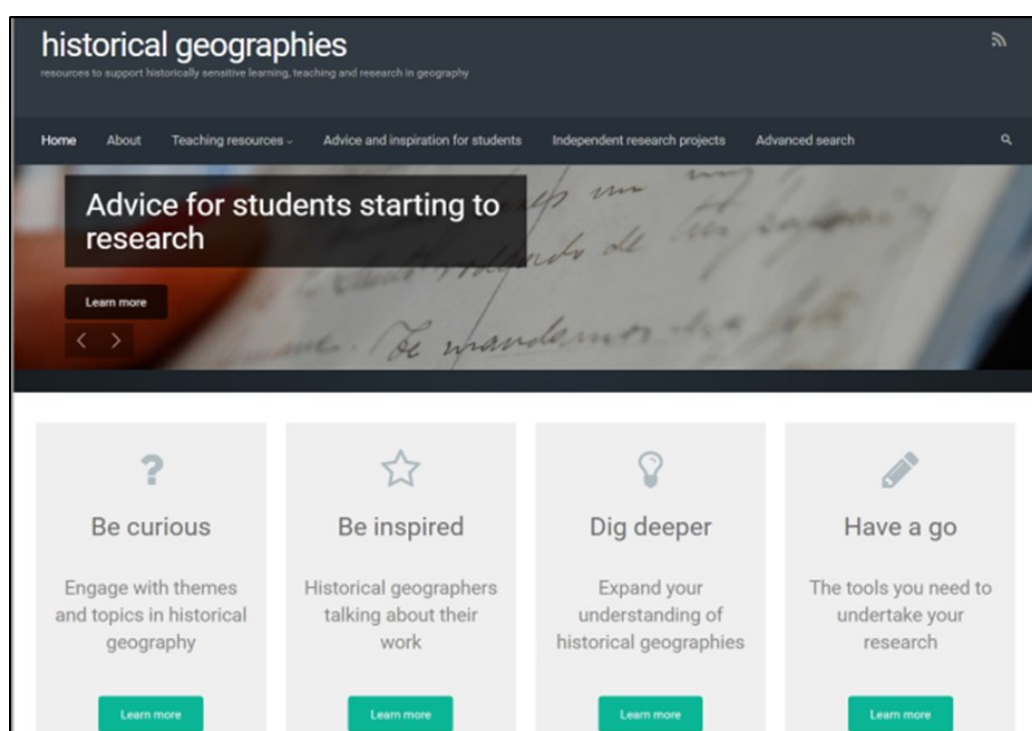
Historical geographies—teaching and learning website

As HGRG members may recall, the group was funded to develop a website and online resources to support historically sensitive teaching, learning and student research in geography. Nicola Thomas and Stephanie Wyse have made progress with the website and will soon be approaching HGRG members to contribute their experience and ideas to the site, through: interviews (video/audio), ideas for teaching activities, and/or short blog-style posts on a range of themes and topics that will support teaching, learning and student research.

Stephanie will be contacting some members in the coming weeks to invite you to take part, through an interview, contributing a teaching idea, and/or writing a short blog post (e.g. 200-400 words). We would be pleased to receive ideas and contributions if you have them to hand – please contact Stephanie (s.wyse@rgs.org) to get involved.

Some of the topics that might be covered in videos, teaching activities or blog posts include (this is by no means an exhaustive list!):

- Starting to research
- Using big data sets
- Oral histories and interviews
- Working with archives and archivists
- Textual analysis – narratives and discourses
- Using photographs
- Textual analysis
- Working with museums and archives
- Types of texts
- Content analysis – turning qual into quant
- Biography
- Digital/digitised tools or sources
- Conversation starters for tutorials
- Connecting big ideas to empirical work
- Geospatial approaches
- Translations
- Participatory historical geography
- Developing writing skills (especially for analytical chapters)
- Analysing landscapes in the field
- Looking at historical populations (the census?)
- Combining qual and quant approaches
- Being a good HG dissertation supervisor (ways to encourage curiosity)
- Advantages of choosing an HG dissertation



Announcements

Recently Completed PhDs

Handle With Care: Historical Geographies and Difficult Cultural Legacies of Egg-Collecting

Edward Cole, University of Glasgow, 2016

This thesis offers an examination of egg-collecting, which was a very popular pastime in Britain from the Victorian era well into the twentieth century. Collectors, both young and old, would often spend whole days and sometimes longer trips in a wide variety of different habitats, from sea shores to moorlands, wetlands to craggy mountainsides, searching for birds' nests and the bounty to be found within them. Once collectors had found and taken eggs, they emptied out the contents; hence, they were really eggshell collectors. Some egg collectors claimed that egg-collecting was not just a hobby but a science, going by the name of oology, and seeking to establish oology as a recognised sub-discipline of ornithology, these collectors or oologists established formal institutions such as associations and societies, attended meetings where they exhibited unusual finds, and also contributed to specialist publications dedicated to oology. Egg-collecting was therefore many things at once: a culture of the British countryside, from where many eggs were taken; a culture of natural history, taking on the trappings of a science; and a culture of enthusiasm, providing a consuming passion for many collectors. By the early twentieth century, however, opposing voices were increasingly being raised, by conservation groups and other observers, about the impact that egg-collecting was having on bird populations and on the welfare of individual birds. By mid-century the tide had turned against the collectors, and egg-collecting in Britain was largely outlawed in 1954, with further restrictions imposed in 1981.

While many egg collections have been lost or destroyed, some have been donated to museums, including Glasgow Museums (GM), which holds in its collections over 30,000 eggs. As a Collaborative Doctoral Award involving the University of Glasgow and GM, the project outlined in this thesis aims to bring to light and to life these egg collections, the activities of the collectors who originally built them, and the wider world of British egg-collecting. By researching archival material held by Glasgow Museums, published specialist egg-collecting journals and other published sources, as well as the eggs as a material archive, this thesis seeks to recover some of the practices and preoccupations of egg collectors. It also recounts the practical activities carried out during the course of the project at GM, particularly those involving a collection of eggs newly donated to the museum during the course of this project, culminating in a new temporary display of birds' eggs at Glasgow Museums Resource Centre.

Osprey Involvements: Historical Animal Geographies of Extinction and Return

Benjamin Garlick, University of Edinburgh, 2016

This thesis argues that humans and ospreys in Scotland are materially, bodily and ethically involved with one another. It follows that a separate human or osprey history of species conservation is inadequate. Focused primarily through the entwined experiences of birds and people on Speyside, I examine the unfolding of osprey-human relationships with particular attention to the agency and capacities of nonhuman animals as animals: with geographies and lives of their own. Drawing on the scholarship of Tim Ingold, Giles Deleuze and Donna Haraway, I consider the dwelling, the co-becoming, and the zones of attachment between human and osprey subjects. At the heart of this project has been an investigation of the relationship between the historical and geographical conditions within which osprey life has flourished on its return from extinction in Scotland, and the possibilities for osprey nature that emerge from such conditions. I offer a 'site ontology' of osprey involvements, each 'site' comprising a material, bodily and ethical event of agency, subjectivity and composition. Often running in parallel to each other, such sites emphasise differentiations of osprey life: their situation within the militarised biopolitics of bird protection and 'Operation Osprey'; negotiations of avian-human proximity and distances; their nesting geographies amidst the experimental attempts to restore a diminished community to its former range; and the nature of avian existence emerging in the wake of a return from extinction. Drawing on an array of archival material—occasionally supplemented with oral history, avian science and encounters in the field—the thesis proposes a lively historical geography of animal involvement.

Announcements

Heritage in the Age of Trump

Richard M. Hutchings

For obvious and not so obvious reasons, the election of Donald J. Trump as 45th President of the United States has made significant waves in North America's cultural heritage industry. Below is a list of articles, discussions and even a contest reflecting the mood in the weeks building up to Trump's inauguration on January 20, 2017.

[In a Historic Election, Where Do the Candidates Stand on Protecting America's Heritage?](#)

Greg Werkheiser, March 29, 2016

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/greg-werkheiser/in-a-historic-election-wh_b_9548564.html

[Manufacturing Heritage: History-Making at Trump National](#)

Paul Mullins, November 29, 2016

<https://paulmullins.wordpress.com/2015/11/29/manufacturing-heritage-history-making-at-trump-national/>

[Archaeology in Times of Trump](#)

Bob Muckle, November 22, 2016

<http://www.anthropology-news.org/index.php/2016/11/22/archaeology-in-times-of-trump/>

<http://www.academia.edu/30862257/>

[Archaeology_in_Times_of_Trump_Anthropology_News_Nov_16_](#)

[Heritage Activism before Trump Inauguration](#)

Holly Kathryn Norton, November 10, 2016

<http://www.anthropology-news.org/index.php/2016/11/22/heritage-activism-before-trump-inauguration/>

[How Trump's Wall Would Trample Hundreds of Archaeological Sites](#)

Kristina Killgrove, March 26, 2016

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/kristinakillgrove/2016/03/21/how-trumps-wall-would-trample-hundreds-of-archaeological-sites/#4ebc9dcd44d4>

[Archaeology in Trump's America: Borders, Immigration, and Revolutionary Remembering](#)

Patricia Markert, November 10, 2016

<http://mapabing.org/2016/11/10/archaeology-in-trumps-america-borders-immigration-and-revolutionary-remembering/>

[The CRM Industry in the Age of Trump](#)

American Cultural Resources Association (ACRA), November 28, 2016

Website: <http://acra-crm.org/event-2379572>

Video: <https://vimeo.com/193381138>

Transcript: http://www.acra-crm.org/resources/Pictures/WebinarTranscript_11_28_2016.pdf

[Presidential Election](#)

J. W. Joseph, President, Society for Historical Archaeology, November 11, 2016

<https://sha.org/blog/2016/11/presidential-election/>

[The "Heritage After Trump" Award](#)

Thomas F. King, November 11, 2016

<http://crmplus.blogspot.ca/2016/11/the-heritage-after-trump-award.html>

[ICHT "Heritage After Trump" Award Submission](#)

Richard Hutchings and Marina La Salle, ICHT, January 6, 2017

<https://criticalheritagetourism.com/2017/01/17/icht-heritage-after-trump-award-submission/>

http://www.academia.edu/30866000/ICHT_Heritage_After_Trump_Award_Submission

[Trump Exposes Hypocrisy of American Archaeology](#)

Richard Hutchings, ICHT, January 22, 2017*

<https://criticalheritagetourism.com/2017/01/23/trump-exposes-hypocrisy-of-american-archaeology/>

[Trump Makes Dystopian 1984 Bestselling Book](#)

Richard Hutchings, ICHT, January 25, 2017*

<https://criticalheritagetourism.com/2017/01/25/trump-makes-dystopian-1984-bestselling-book/>

*Note: published post-inauguration.

Richard Hutchings directs the Institute for Critical Heritage & Tourism, British Columbia, Canada. He is the author of *Maritime Heritage in Crisis: Indigenous Landscapes and Global Ecological Breakdown* (Routledge, 2017).