



**HISTORICAL  
GEOGRAPHY  
RESEARCH  
GROUP**

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**Historical Geography Research Group**

# NEWSLETTER

**- AUTUMN 2018 -**

## Letter from the Chair

Dear HGRG members,

Welcome to the Autumn 2018 issue of the newsletter. I hope this finds members well and surviving the increasingly short days of winter in good spirits. Looking back to the summer, it was fantastic to see so many members of the Group at the two big conferences of the summer: the International Conference of Historical Geographers in Warsaw, Poland and the RGS-IBG Annual Conference in Cardiff, Wales. There are reports on the ICHG event later in the newsletter, kindly provided by Hannah Martin and Morgan Seag, both of whom benefitted from HGRG bursaries.

As is usual, the Group's AGM was held at the RGS-IBG Annual Conference. This saw several changes to the committee membership. After many years in a number of different committee roles, Innes Keighren stood down as Honorary Secretary and moved to the position of Ordinary Member. After three years ably overseeing the organisation of the annual Practising Historical Geography workshop, I'm delighted to say Cheryl McGeachan has taken on the role of Secretary with Jo Norcup moving from Ordinary Member to Conference Officer to fill Cheryl's role. Fae Dussart completed her three-year term as Communications Officer to be replaced by Ruth Slatter. Ruth has responsibilities for the mailing list, twitter handle and Teaching Historical Geographies website: do get in touch with her (on [HGRG\\_RGS@gmail.com](mailto:HGRG_RGS@gmail.com)) with any news items or announcements you wish to have circulated. Ben Newman stepped down as postgraduate representative after two years in the role to be replaced by Edward Armston-Sheret, who joins our existing postgraduate representatives, Laura Crawford and Peter Martin. I'm also delighted to welcome Dean Bond to the committee as Ordinary Member. I'm pleased to express my gratitude here to those leaving the committee for their invaluable service over a number of years and to offer a warm welcome to those joining it.

As for other HGRG business, this year's HGRG dissertation prize winner was Harry Gibbs of the University of Oxford for a dissertation on 'Connected concrete, vital communications and the radical openness of civil defence:

Reimagining the Cold War bunker'. The judges also awarded second place to Isabel Dewhurst of the University of Cambridge, for her dissertation on 'Jennie Churchill: Rethinking the public/private divide and the origins of the "Special Relationship" through the lens of the female body'. The Prize was awarded at the recent Practising Historical Geography event, where I'm delighted to say Harry was able to join us to give a great talk on his project. Both dissertations were excellent, and the judges noted that they much enjoyed reading all the prize entries. My thanks as Chair go to James Kneale as Dissertation Prize Coordinator and to Hannah Awcock, who kindly offered to act as the external judge on the panel.

Chair's announcements over, members will find much to read in this latest edition of the newsletter. Linda Newson adds the latest entry in the 'How I became a historical geographer' feature, while Sneha Krishnan reports 'From the archive'. Our 'Shelfie' report comes from Mette Bruinsma and we also have an obituary of David Lowenthal kindly provided by Hugh Clout. These are followed by the usual reports and notices. Those keen to be involved in future HGRG activities should note both the call for papers for next year's RGS-IBG annual conference and the advert for the upcoming writing retreat, the latter taking place at Gladstone's Library in North Wales in January 2019.

In the meantime, I wish all our readers the very best for the winter break. See you in 2019!

Kind regards,

Dr Briony McDonagh, HGRG Chair

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# How I became a historical geographer

## Linda Newson



**Linda Newson** is Director of the Institute of Latin American Studies, University of London, and Emeritus Professor of Geography, King's College London. She is author of seven monographs and numerous articles on the historical geography of Latin America, many translated into Spanish and reproduced locally. In 1993 she was awarded the Back Award of the Royal Geographical Society. She has also received the C. O. Sauer Award for Distinguished Scholarship from the Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers in the USA (1992) as well as the Preston E. James Eminent Latin Americanist Career in 2017. She was elected a Fellow of the British Academy in 2000 and received an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours list for services to Latin American studies in 2015.

I was a rather precocious historical geographer by accident. When I was about fifteen, I found a copy of H.C. Darby's, *The Historical Geography of England Before 1800* in the school library. How this book came to be in the library of an inner London girls grammar school has always puzzled me. However, it grabbed my attention because it combined my early childhood interests in history and geography. History had been inspired by a primary school teacher, Mr. Perkins, who incidentally also taught another academic historical geographer, David Green; geography by my curiosity about faraway places aroused by my father's work as head of the bird section at London Zoo and his overriding interest in tropical birds. None of my family or relatives had been to university and at that time only about five percent of students did, so at this stage I never imagined that I would go to university or that I would become an historical geographer.

When this became a possibility, I did not hesitate to find out where Darby taught. He was then at University College London, so this became my first choice. When I arrived, I found a large number of other historical geographers who Darby had attracted to the department and who also taught me: Alan Baker, Hugh Prince, Bill Mead, and David Robinson. It was David Robinson who first introduced me to the historical geography of Latin America.

When I graduated, I knew that I wanted to do PhD research. By that time, I had become interested in historical biogeography and was considering working on the ecological status of the maquis in Corsica. I never thought I would be able to work on Latin America but external events conspired to change this. In the 1960s the British government was concerned that it knew little about Latin America, made more urgent by the Cuban missile crisis of 1962. As a result, in 1965 it founded five centres of Latin American studies and offered Parry PhD studentships for the study of the region. With the availability of this funding I was asked whether I would like to work on Latin America.

Even though I knew no Spanish and no idea of a topic, I had no hesitation in saying yes. I started working on the role of humans in the formation of savannas in Venezuela, but the sources proved insufficient and my inadequate Spanish persuaded me to shift my study to English-speaking Trinidad where I could still work on the Spanish colonial period that had fascinated me from my undergraduate course with David Robinson.

International travel was expensive at that time. I first travelled to Trinidad on a ship carrying immigrants to Australia via the Panama Canal that took nine days non-stop out of Southampton. In many respects my PhD on Trinidad filled a gap in the historical geography of the Caribbean that had been mapped by a number of Carl Sauer's PhD students from Berkeley, including my PhD supervisor, David Harris, who had studied the environmental history of the Outer Leeward Islands. I thus became more interested in the work of the 'Berkeley School' and through a chance connection was able to meet Carl Sauer at his home shortly before he died. We spent a morning talking about Trinidad with him recalling with clarity his experience in the field and exhorting me to look into the island's field systems. By then I was aware that I was by inclination, and perhaps also reflecting my training in British historical geography, more of an archival researcher than a field worker. Nevertheless, in 1989 I was delighted to be asked to teach a semester at Berkeley where I enjoyed the company and conversations with Jim Parsons, a fellow historical geographer of Latin America.

In 1971, I was fortunate to be appointed to a lectureship in human geography at King's College London with no PhD or publications, only an undergraduate degree. The first courses I taught were on statistics and biogeography, followed by Third World development; only later did I get to teach the historical geography of Latin America. Nevertheless, through forty years at King's, my heads of department never pressed me to



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conform to current paradigms or focus on publications for research assessment exercises. Despite always being on the fringes of the discipline I was therefore able pursue my research freely for which I cannot express enough gratitude.

My research has been driven by research questions, so I have not developed the exceptional in-depth knowledge of some other colleagues who have specialised in one country. My first five books centred in the broad field of the demographic and cultural consequences of Spanish colonial rule, where I explored the significance of different factors: the structure of native societies (Honduras and Nicaragua), highland-lowland contrasts in the impact of Old World diseases (Ecuador) and the role of immunity in moderating change in the Philippines. While researching the latter I twice held a fellowship at the Newberry Library Chicago and was able to meet up again with Paul Wheatley with whom I had enjoyed conversations as a postgraduate at UCL and who by then was at the Committee on Social Thought at the University of Chicago.

In 1998 my research took a new direction as a consequence of examining a PhD thesis of a history student at Cambridge, Susie Minchin. This was based on exceptional account books kept by Portuguese slave traders to Peru in the early seventeenth century. With my geographical eye, I noticed there were considerable differences in the foods that were being provided for slaves on different stretches

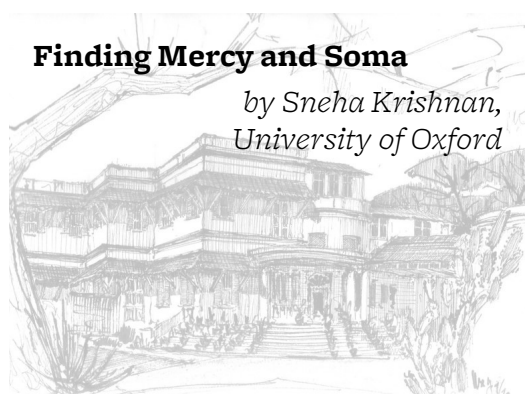
of the journey from Senegambia to Lima and suggested we might investigate this further. These account books have proved unusually rich constituting the basis of my last two books, one with Susie, and my current project on the textile trade in which the slave traders were also involved.

Being an historical geographer of Latin America in the UK can be quite a solitary existence. Unlike North America, Latin American studies in the UK still remains a small field. Yet, it was the fascination with the subject and the few chances I had for academic discussions with colleagues outside the UK that has maintained my commitment, including through substantial periods of administration as Head of Humanities and twice Head of the Geography department at King's. I am passionate about archives and for several years was delighted to serve on the international panel of the Endangered Archives Programme funded by Arcadia at the British Library. It is a wonderful programme that has done much to preserve the cultural heritage of regions, where it is threatened by neglect, conflict, environmental disasters or theft.

I left King's in 2011 and was intending to spend more time on research, but I was asked to take over as Director of the Institute of Latin American Studies in 2012; I remain there today where I can continue to promote my combined interests in historical geography and Latin America. □



## From the archive



### Finding Mercy and Soma

by Sneha Krishnan,  
University of Oxford

As a scholar working on gender and sexuality in Southern India and committed to writing about the everyday, my colleagues have tired of hearing about the paucity of archival materials I have to work with. As I learned early on in my work, 'good girls'—the respectable middle-class women whose lives interest me most—don't leave traces. Studying the 'ordinary life'—the

thing that is all around and indeed suffocatingly presses onto us as a disciplining force—I found, was difficult because its ordinariness was premised on being unremarkable. Indeed, one octogenarian I interviewed in 2015 began our chat by assuring me she had nothing of any interest to say or share: no one ought to be interested in her life, and indeed her name had never appeared in a newspaper or publication of any kind. She wasn't just being modest. Indeed, this was a matter of pride to her. The 'good girls' I write about did not end up in court cases. They didn't end up in lock hospitals or mental institutions: or if they did, they are extremely hard to find in the records of these institutions. Most leave almost no letters or diaries. Indeed, reconstructing her grandmother's life in a family memoir, Mythili Sivaraman writes of the odd places she had to look: scribbles in school exercise books meant for children for instance, where Subbulakshmi, the book's



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protagonist, wrote down the things that mattered to her. In short, not finding the people I'm writing about is a normal aspect of historical research for me. In addition to the fact that good girls rarely leave materials about themselves, official historical materials rarely care about the kinds of things about which I write: the hostel friendships between young women in the early 20th century, their everyday social worlds as college students.

So, being able to piece together the story of Mercy and Soma—two young women who shared a hostel room at Women's Christian College (WCC) in the early 1920s—has been something of a pleasant surprise. I first encountered them in a piece that Soma Samarasinha—by then, working in Kandy in Sri Lanka as a schoolteacher—wrote for an Alumni-edited edition of the annual WCC college magazine. In her piece Soma recalls ending up sharing with Mercy for the endearing reason that the two young women had too many books and no one else wanted to room with them. Soma also recalls that she was first afraid that Mercy might be a bit too erudite for her. After all, she was the daughter of VS Azariah—the first Indian Bishop in the Anglican Episcopate—or indeed try to convert her. They however became close friends. In a subsequent piece, Soma recalls spending Christmas with Mercy's family, an experience that allowed her to grow closer to Azariahs, who would subsequently play a big role in Soma's life. In her early twenties, after she had finished at WCC, Soma converted to Christianity and was briefly estranged from her own family. Several sources note this: letters by the Principal of the College to Christian donors in Britain most prominently. What they do not note is that Soma's

conversion came soon after Mercy's untimely death at a young age. Religious conversion as a mode of intimacy between young women continues to play a role in female friendships in Southern India. During 2012 and 2013, while I lived in a hostel in Chennai, I learned of a few instances in which young women had converted to their friend's religion when separation was upon them: for instance, right before graduation from College, or the marriage of one of the two women. Some of the women at the hostel where I lived called these relationships 'passionate friendships'. They were not sexual in their intimacy but still marked a site of desire that was uncontained in frameworks of platonic acquaintance. Soma's conversion is an important touchstone in her friendship with Mercy and would seemingly reconfigure her own sense of family. We learn from reports in the WCC magazine that Soma moved back to the College as a teacher after her conversion and subsequently married a Sri Lankan Christian man she met in Madras. WCC's Principal gave her away and in attendance as her family were the Azariahs.

My work—much of which consists in reading hundreds of pages of material published by women's colleges and hostels for the odd snippet of everyday life—is rarely so exciting as when I find stories like that of Mercy and Soma. But piecing together this story has been a study in the vast variety of materials in which young women surface as speaking subjects: on the one hand, institutional publications like College magazines, but also missionaries' gossip to each other, colonial records of births, deaths and marriage, and controversies about religious conversion and its impact on families.



# Shelfie

## Shelfie: or, the tale of the shelfless geographer

by Mette Bruinsma

Earlier editions of this newsletter have presented some very well-organised shelves. The spatial reality of my shelf, however, is somewhat different. It consists of books that I own, books I have borrowed, journal articles I have printed for research purposes, journal articles I have printed for teaching purposes, and the inevitable category labelled 'miscellaneous documents'. The latter pile tends to be the one I regularly think of as 'there will definitely be a rainy Friday afternoon in the near future when I will organise all my stuff on this pile and after that will keep it organized.' In this Shelfie, I will

discuss three of the sources I have used in the past few months to shape my PhD research project: one classic Golden oldie, an 'exotic one', and finally one that is very closely related to my research.

### Will the real geographer please stand up?

Disciplinary histories of geography often emphasise the work of established academic geographers and tend to focus on 'grand scholarly' spaces, such as academic conferences or debates in scholarly journals.



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## Shelfie



However, these professional academic geographers are vastly outnumbered by undergraduate students who complete geography degree studies. The undergraduate dissertation therefore demonstrates the geographical interests of many cohorts of students, as well as the educational context in which they were formed. My research works with the collection of undergraduate dissertations held at the University of Glasgow's School of Geographical and Earth Sciences. This archive, currently hidden in a dusty cupboard (would historical geographers on average sneeze more than other geographers?) comprises all geography undergraduate dissertations from the early 1950's through to the dissertations of the undergraduate cohort of 2017. Using these archive sources, I will approach the history of geography from an alternative angle. Avoiding the 'grandness' of established geography and its scholarly spaces, I will instead explore the worlds of 'small' geographers in their small spaces. Consideration of these dissertations as particular, material documents can be both intriguing and unrevealing. For example, how aware were geography students of the discipline of which they were a constituent part? Is it possible to observe over time the development of a growing awareness of one's role as a geographer-in-the-making within the geographical community? Will this archive of dissertations just affirm existing histories of geography, akin to a group of minor voices acting as a background choir to the much better-known soloists, or will it add something different or something new to the narrative(s) of the history of geography?

### The usual suspect

In the first year of my PhD, the 'natural' starting point to my project was to read the canonical historiographies of geography, for instance, David Livingstone's *The Geographical Tradition* (1992). In this well-known work, Livingstone presents a chronological account of the development of geographical thinking from antiquity to the twentieth century. His narrative emphasises the broad context in which geographical thought was developed and argues that the scope of every historiography influences the voices and contributions that are prioritised.

Livingstone's book covers more than 2000 years of history, during which only a relatively small period of time saw geography institutionalised in research centres and universities. Because of this, Livingstone includes a colourful collection of voices and sources—contributions from voyagers, navigators and scientists etc. Both humanities and natural sciences are presented prominently on the geographical stage.

Other usual suspects, for instance Ron Johnston and James Sidaway's *Geography & Geographers* (2015), are also useful starting points. This combination of books allow the budding historian of geography to explore different historiographical methodologies and concepts and to grasp the historical context of geography in terms of its academic development. However, I argue there are many other publications worth studying besides contemporary 'canonical' works in the historiography of geography. These sources offer alternative or complementary viewpoints



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on geography's history—both in terms of voices that are prioritised and in terms of methods to present, or represent, the past.

## The foreign one

Non-Anglophone geographers rarely feature prominently in 'standard' historiographies of geography. Of course, language can be a barrier and a partial explanation of this absence. The question remains over whether the history of Anglophone geography is indeed a history different to that of the discipline in a continental or global viewpoint or whether there is a shared history of which only one side is told.

Ben de Pater's *De ontdekking van de geografie: sociale geografie als wetenschap* [*The discovery of geography: human geography as a science*] (2014) offers an account of the continental history of geography, transcending national borders. de Pater makes connections between Anglophone, German and Dutch developments within university study of geography. By publishing his work solely in Dutch, the role of the Netherlands is perhaps less visible than when de Pater presented the 'outsider's voice' to the international community in English. Although my research emphasises the history of geography in the Anglophone world—or even more specifically, the UK/Scotland/Glasgow context—it is definitely useful to get a grasp of the 'wider world' as well. In fact, including historiographies from these different

perspectives helped me to understand the Anglophone geographical tradition even more. A comparative study of different academic and cultural traditions not only makes it possible to see what is present in the dissertations, but—and of equal importance—what is not present.

## The specific one

Of pivotal importance to my own research project is the institutional history of the department in which I am working and also the space where the archive is situated. Celebrating the centenary of Geography at the University of Glasgow, in 2009 the *Scottish Geographical Journal* issued a special edition to celebrate its centenary and reflect on its history. This collection of articles helped me to recognise the 'factual' milestones (such as important years, appointments of lecturers etc.) and also the formal and informal cultures of this particular academic community. Of course, working in the same department as I am working on, I am surrounded by living primary sources, and I find that this really is a luxury as a researcher. However, this special issue of the *Scottish Geographical Journal* offered me some useful starting points in this first phase of the PhD to get a grip on the archival material.

Working with the undergraduate dissertation archive, I intend to keep the focus on the primary sources, but at the same time relate my findings to the local academic tradition, the historical development of geography in the

Anglophone world and, in an even broader sense, consider precisely how we see a certain discipline as one discipline. That is to say, what are we actually talking about when we are talking about geography? In the next two years, I hope to work towards a bottom-up perspective on the history of geography as an academic discipline, paying attention to the 'small' knowledge productions of a large group of undergraduate geographers. □

**Example archive material from Peter Crabb (1958) 'The Parishes of Tarbolton and Stair'. Unpublished undergraduate dissertation.**

Image credit: Mette Bruinsma



THREE ELEMENTS TYPICAL OF THE COUNTRYSIDE:  
A FIELD OF ROTATION GRASS, A HAWTHORN HEDGE,  
AND A HERD OF AYRSHIRE CATTLE.  
ON PARKMILL FARM.

**Mette Bruinsma** is a second year PhD student at the University of Glasgow. Mette is supervised by Prof Hayden Lorimer and Prof Chris Philo.

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# Obituary

# Obituary

## David Lowenthal (1923-2018)

by Hugh Clout

David Lowenthal, who died on 15 September at the age of 95, was an intellectual giant. He worked with brilliance and originality across many fields of scholarly enquiry extending far beyond geography and history. At the convergence of the humanities and social sciences, his writings appeal to a wide audience within and outside academia, on both sides of the Atlantic and beyond. Much of his work on history, memory and heritage informs challenges of conservation, preservation and stewardship of the world's fragile cultural and natural resources. Arguably, his was a brand of 'applicable historical geography' that he employed to advise heritage agencies in many countries. He never shied away from controversial topics, thereby making his impact in the public realm as great as that among academics.

In a lecture delivered at Syracuse University four decades ago, David declared: 'Awareness of the past is essential to the maintenance of purpose in life. Without it we would lack all sense of continuity, all apprehension of causality, all knowledge of our own identity ... Yet the past is not a fixed or immutable series of events; our interpretations of it are in constant flux'. From this essential starting point he helped to fashion the new discipline of heritage studies, arguing that 'heritage should not be confused with history, since history seeks to identify the truth and heritage fabricates prejudiced pride in the past, in order to attest our own identity and affirm our worth'. These issues were explored in his outstanding book *The Past is a Foreign Country* (1985). Numerous essays in learned and popular journals expanded his ideas.

David was born in New York City on 26 April 1923, the son of influential lawyer Max Lowenthal and his wife Eleanor. David's attention to detailed evidence and his fondness for discussion and debate surely reflected the professional background of his family. He studied at the progressive Lincoln School in New York that emphasized philosophy, practical work and field study. He greatly



David Lowenthal

enjoyed the philosophy and spent two summers in the American South-West studying Navajo culture; he was less happy with the practical work. In 1940, he enrolled at Harvard University and took a wide range of courses largely informed by personal reading. He graduated with a degree in history in 1943.

Military service then followed, taking him to Normandy three months after the D-Day landings. Being very short-sighted, David was not a sharp shooter but his knowledge of French and German equipped him for intelligence work. He once confided that it was a case of 'one terrified young man quizzing another terrified young man' time and time again. As the American forces moved into north-eastern France, David endured exceptionally harsh wet weather in Lorraine and contracted trench foot. He was invalided to a hospital in Somerset and upon recovery was sent back to Europe to undertake reconnaissance work: first to determine which castles and hotels had sufficient facilities to accommodate quantities of American occupation troops, and then to undertake a survey of critical buildings, landscapes and infrastructure that might be of use during any future conflict. In this work, David was designated 'a geographer' (a term that was new to him) and worked with Hollywood photographers to record countless strategic environments. He was injured when falling from a jeep and returned to the USA. His war service was 'hugely important' in his life, introducing him to Europe and to the importance of landscape.

From 1947 to 1949, David studied geography at the University of California, Berkeley under the guidance of Carl O. Sauer and John Leighly. For his MA thesis he examined the historical



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## Obituary

geography of the Guyanese lands, his lack of Spanish preventing him making enquiries in Hispanic America, where many of Sauer's students worked. Sauer introduced David to the work of polymath diplomat George Perkins Marsh (1801-82), who published his pioneering book *Man and Nature* in 1864. David moved to the University of Wisconsin, Madison to research the life and work of Marsh under the supervision of intellectual historian Merle Curti and with advice from geographers Richard Hartshorne and Andrew Hill Clark. In the summer of 1952, David presented his work at the 17th International Geographical Congress held in Washington DC and attended by two geographers from University College London: Henry Clifford Darby and William (Bill) Mead. From 1952 to 1956, David taught geography and history at Vassar College (then only women students) where he was surrounded by 'remarkable female faculty members', at a time when few women were employed to teach in major North American universities. *George Perkins Marsh: Versatile Vermonter* (1958) was prepared during his Vassar years.

David became a research associate at the American Geographical Society in 1956, combining this work with numerous teaching and research positions in geography, political science and landscape architecture. He also undertook research at the University of the West Indies that gave rise to many journal articles, an edited book *The West Indies Federation* (1961), and his monograph *West Indian Societies* (1972). At this time, David visited many Caribbean islands, an experience that stimulated his 'tremendous excitement for island societies' great and small.

During 1962-3, he was a research fellow at UCL where he and Hugh Prince drafted two particularly influential articles: 'The English landscape' (1964) that appeared in the special issue of the *Geographical Review* given to all those attending the 20th International Geographical Congress in London, and 'English landscape tastes' (1965). These texts followed on from David's important methodological essay, 'Geography, experience and imagination: towards a geographical epistemology' (1961), that heralded work in the field of environmental perception. During the remainder of the 1960s, David combined his activities at the AGS with research at the Institute of Race Relations (London) and with enquiries into attitudes toward nature and landscape. The latter project involved making photographic expeditions to many parts of the USA.

In 1972, the second established chair of geography fell vacant at UCL to which David

was duly appointed. Over the next thirteen years he taught courses on the West Indies, environmental perception, and conservation and heritage (the latter together with Hugh Prince). He also ran training sessions for graduate students and welcomed many distinguished North American scholars to UCL who discussed their research at memorable Thursday afternoon seminars. Many of these were followed by Saturday evening parties that David and his wife, Mary Alice, hosted in their rambling home at Harrow-on-the-Hill. At this time, David co-edited *Our Past before Us, why we save it* (1981) and *Landscape Meanings and Values* (1986), and was assembling his magnum opus *The Past is a Foreign Country* (1985).

After formal retirement from the geography department in the summer of 1985, David retained connections with anthropologists, art historians, archaeologists and planners at UCL, delivering seminars to their graduate students and faculty members. He was visiting professor at St. Mary's University College from 1995 to 2000. He and Mary Alice travelled to conferences and colloquia in many parts of the world, and visited islands ranging in size from Australia to Sark. With constant help from his wife, David co-edited *The Politics of the Past* (1990) that derived from the World Archaeological Congress in 1986, and compiled *The Heritage Crusade and the Spoils of History* (1996). Another 'retirement' project involved sustained research in the USA and Italy that yielded David's 600-page *George Perkins Marsh: Prophet of Conservation* (2000). This was followed by intensive work for *The Past is a Foreign Country - Revisited* (2015), that David described as 'a cabinet of curiosities' and for which he received the British Academy Medal, having been elected a fellow in 2001.

For his contributions to geographical knowledge, he was awarded gold medals by the Royal Geographical Society, the American Geographical Society, and the Royal Scottish Geographical Society. In 2010 he received the Forbes Lecture Prize from the International Institute for Conservation. David continued to deliver keynote lectures and attended international conferences during the final decades of his life which were divided between homes in central London and in Berkeley. When he died peacefully in his sleep, further essays were in press and the proofs of his last book, *The Quest for the Unity of Knowledge*, were awaiting correction. David lived an exceptionally full life and made friends across the globe. His wisdom, critical eye, welcoming grin and unfailing good humour will be missed greatly. □



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## 17th International Conference of Historical Geographers, Warsaw

July 16 – July 20, 2018

by Hannah Martin

The 16-20th July 2018 saw hundreds of 'historical geographers' descend on the architecturally beautiful Old Library Building of the University of Warsaw, for the 17th International Conference of Historical Geographers (ICHG 2018). We gathered for five days of engaging presentations from those working under the broad umbrella of Historical Geography. With participants from 39 countries, 106 thematic sessions, 365 papers, 54 posters and 4 keynote speakers, it is fair to say that we were all in for a very busy and thought-provoking week.



**The Old Library Building,  
University of Warsaw**  
Image credit Hannah Martin

The creation of a conference smart-phone app ensured that all attendees had access to the regularly updated programme, as well as allowing for online voting in the poster presentation competition which was running for the duration of the conference.

Sunday evening saw the opening keynote lecture of ICHG 2018 by Professor Felix Driver (Royal Holloway), titled 'Biography and geography: from the margins to the centre'. This was held at the impressive Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences, located at the corner of the Rynek Starego Miasta in the historic Warsaw Old Town. The paper proved

to be a popular start to the conference and focussed on researching *The Geographical Review* through the lives of its editors, writers and photographers, thus providing an alternative application for biographical research in historical geography.

The first full day of the ICHG 2018 set the precedent for the week to come. There were twenty-six thematic sessions ranging from 'Historical Geographies of Protest and Dissent', 'Socio-economic history from XVII century to the present', and '20th Century Military Ontologies' to databases for historical places and 'Maps and Stories: What does the future look like for historical geographers?' This breadth of sessions on the opening day of the conference did much justice to represent the diverse nature of those working in the subfield that is historical geography. After the opening ceremony, Monday concluded with a thought-provoking keynote on trans-species carceral geography by Professor Karin Morin (Bucknell University). This paper focused on human and animal carcerality by drawing links between confinement and violence in both 'human' prisons and spaces of industrial farming and animal experimentation. The ideas Morin presented provided much discussion and made a great contribution to the conference where it was highlighted that issues associated with carceral geographies were not typical of the topics being presented.

The next four days of conference (with Wednesday set aside for mid-conference field trips) truly displayed the variety of work being represented at ICHG 2018. The Tuesday afternoon keynote was given by Professor Humphrey Southall (Portsmouth). Southall presented the impressive use of historical GIS in the *Vision of Britain* project. This project combines parish records, census statistics, travel writing and much more to create a database of places across Britain throughout time. This resource will prove to be immeasurably useful for many and is a superb example of digital methodological approaches to researching historical geography.

The third day of ICHG 2018 was allocated for mid-conference field trips. There were several field trips on offer ranging from a walking tour of Warsaw's Jewish History to a visit exploring the eastern boundary of Latin Europe. The diversity of these trips ensured that they were well attended and there was much positive feedback and discussion about these on the penultimate day of the conference.

Thursday was another outstanding day at

## Reports



**The Rynek Starego Miasta, Warsaw Old Town**

Image credit: Hannah Martin

ICHG 2018. Once again there were twenty-six sessions to choose from and, with hindsight, the keynote lecture, presented by Professor D. Cabral, 'Overwriting the land: Alphabetic literacy and socio-environmental change in early Brazil', was a clear hint to the selection of the host for ICHG 2021.

The announcement that ICHG 2021 will be held in Rio de Janeiro was met with much enthusiasm, but questions were also raised about inclusivity. Many hope that it will be possible to add local language keynotes and sessions to the 2021 conference and I am sure that this is something the organising committee will be working towards.

The local organising committee of the ICHG 2018 must be commended for creating an exceptionally varied, interesting and insightful conference that clearly demonstrates the nature of historical geography and displaying work at the cutting edge of this ever-expanding sub-field. Many of those whom attended commented on not only the practical organisation, but also the sense of community that was fostered throughout the event. Personally, as this was the first historical geography conference that I have attended, I was in awe at the all-encompassing nature of our discipline. What is more, the approachability and friendliness of those attending ICHG 2018 made this a conference I will never forget and I cannot wait to see you all in Rio in 2021! □

**Hannah Martin** is a PhD candidate at Northumbria University, Newcastle.



*by Morgan Seag*

Thanks to the support of the RGS-IBG Historical Geography Research Group, I was able to attend this year's exciting International Conference of Historical Geographers. As a second-year PhD student participating in my

first historical geography conference, this was an exceptional introduction to our vibrant international community.

The conference's sessions were diverse and thought-provoking, expanding my disciplinary horizons and revealing unexpected connections to dispersed regional histories. Many papers inspired new questions for my own dissertation. I left asking, how does new research on the Anthropocene change the way I think about my research on gender in Antarctic science? What might the history of Antarctic science look like if told with a biographical approach? Significantly, HGRG's funding also gave me the crucial learning experiences that come with co-convening and chairing a session for the first time. I am pleased to report that the Hidden History of Polar Exploration session concluded successfully.

ICHG 2018 also was a tremendous opportunity to make new connections both to fellow early career researchers and to senior academics whose work has inspired and informed my own. I learned a great deal through exciting conversations and shared meals. My colleagues' knowledge of Warsaw also led me to take advantage of the city itself in unexpected ways, particularly through a visit to the Jewish Historical Institute. There, a stunning display from the Underground Archive of the Warsaw Ghetto raised new questions not only about the city's painful history, but about the archive and the narration of history.

I would like to express my gratitude to the conference organizers for a fascinating programme; to many thoughtful participants for new ideas and healthy debate; and especially to the HGRG, whose funding enabled my participation. □

**Morgan Seag** is a PhD candidate at the University of Cambridge

# SEMINAR PROGRAMMES

## London Group of Historical Geographers

Seminar Programme, Autumn Term 2018

*Unsettling Land*

<b>2018</b>	
<b>October 16</b>	<b>David Matless</b> (University of Nottingham) Next the sea: Eccles and the Anthroposcentic
<b>October 30</b>	<b>Bergit Arends</b> (Tate) Photographing the landscapes of the Anthropocene: Nguyen The Tuc's Kohle unter Magdeborn, c. 1976
<b>November 13</b> †	<b>Briony McDonagh</b> (University of Hull) Unpeopling the land: enclosure, dispossession, and the making of property in early modern England [note: different venue]
<b>November 27</b>	<b>Michael Bravo</b> (University of Cambridge) Cosmographical machinations: the materiality of the Earth's shifting poles
<b>December 11</b>	<b>Tom Simpson</b> (University of Cambridge) Find the river: discovering the Tsangpo-Brahmaputra in the age of empire

Seminars, unless otherwise indicated, are held on **Tuesdays at 5.15pm** in Wolfson Room I (NBo1), 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. Series 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 room 243, South Block, Senate House.

## Announcements

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### HGRG Writing Retreat 2019

Sunday 13th - Tuesday 15th January, 2019

Gladstone's Library, Hawarden, Flintshire

After the overwhelming success of the inaugural HGRG writing retreat last year, the HGRG has organised a second. We will be returning to Gladstone's Library in Hawarden, the only residential library in the UK, to spend two days dedicated to writing.

This is a non-directed writing retreat. It has been organised to provide HGRG members across all stages of their academic careers the opportunity to work on their own writing projects in focused, genial conditions in a conference room with other HGRG members. An ample supply of hot beverages and cake/snacks will be provided. While the writing retreat itself will take place across the Monday and Tuesday, delegates will have the chance to explore the library and the grounds from arrival on Sunday afternoon and in breaks between writing sessions. There will also be the opportunity in the evenings to spend time with fellow HGRG delegates.

8 en-suite rooms have been reserved for the HGRG and are equipped with DAB radios (no TV!) and are quiet spaces in which to retreat to rest or continue working. They are available on a first come first served basis and the costs are as follows:

**4 x Ensuite Room Single @ £83.00 (B&B)**

**4 x Ensuite Room Double @ £115.00 (B&B)**

The HGRG will be subsidising the hire of conference room facilities and some food during the writing days.

Delegates will be responsible for the payment of their rooms and any additional food/beverages outwith those provided.

For further details, and to reserve your place, please contact Jo Norcup as soon as possible, but no later than December 20<sup>th</sup> 2018 at [joanne.norcup@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:joanne.norcup@glasgow.ac.uk)

Please be politely reminded that places will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Please, therefore, get in contact as soon as you know you want to come in order to secure your place.



For information about Gladstone's library, facilities, and how to get there, see: <https://www.gladstoneslibrary.org>

## Announcements



### Call for Session Sponsorship

RGS-IBG Annual International Conference,  
2019

Each year, the HGRG sponsors a variety of sessions at the Annual International Conference of the Royal Geographical Society (with Institute of British Geographers). We are pleased to extend an invitation to sponsor sessions at the 2019 RGS-IBG Annual International Conference.

In keeping with the conference theme—“geographies of trouble / geographies of hope”, chaired by Professor Hester Parr (University of Glasgow)—we are interested in both standard sessions in historical geography and those that speak, more directly, to the conference theme. We are particularly keen to encourage the development of innovative session formats (such as round-tables, public debates, and displays) and activities that extend beyond the spaces of the conference. We especially encourage proposals for sessions that incorporate early-career researchers, international scholars, and those who have not previously attended the Annual International Conference.

The deadline for submissions to the HGRG is **Friday, 18 January 2019**.

Proposals for sponsored sessions should be emailed to the Honorary Secretary, Cheryl McGeachan ([cheryl.mcgeachan@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:cheryl.mcgeachan@glasgow.ac.uk)).

In your submission, please include the following details:

1. The session title and abstract (400 words);
2. The name(s) and affiliation(s) of the session convener/convenors;
3. The anticipated format of the session;
4. The number of session timeslots you require (strictly up to a maximum of 2).

Convenors will be notified in due course of the outcome of their request. If sponsorship can be provided, convenors will have until **15 February 2019** to provide the full session details (with all proposed papers and presenters) for final submission to the RGS-IBG.

The full timeline for submitting sessions and abstracts for the 2019 RGS-IBG Annual International Conference can be found on-line:

[https://www.rgs.org/research/annual-international-conference/programme-\(1\)/](https://www.rgs.org/research/annual-international-conference/programme-(1)/)

Convenors will be expected to produce a report of their session to be published in the autumn 2019 issue of HGRG's newsletter.

We look forward to hearing from you.



 [HGRG Website](#)

 [HGRG Twitter](#)



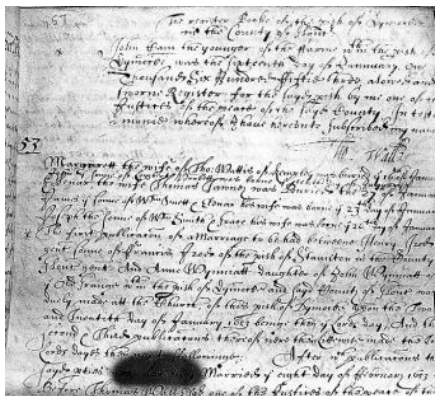
Announcements

Funding:  
Roger Schofield Local Population Studies  
Research Fund

Thanks to the generosity of Roger Schofield, the Roger Schofield Local Population Studies Research Fund has been created to provide grants to individual researchers working in the field of local history, social history, and historical demography in a local context.

Applications are invited from amateur historians, undergraduate and postgraduate students, and researchers and lecturers in educational institutions. Grants are intended to cover research costs such as travel to archives, conference fees and accommodation, and the costs of archival photocopying and purchase of microfilm. We are not able to fund capital costs (such as computer equipment or books), grants for student fees and maintenance, and subventions for publications.

Subject to annual financial constraints, the Fund Committee will consider applications of between £75 and £500; grants exceeding £250 will be awarded only exceptionally. The Fund Committee will assess all applications on merit, in accordance with the aims of the Local Population Studies Society.



Applications will be assessed twice yearly, in January and June. Application forms can be downloaded from <http://www.localpopulationstudies.org.uk/the-society/funding-for-research/> Please send your completed application form, with an accompanying CV (no longer than two pages) to Chris Galley ([chrisgalley77@gmail.com](mailto:chrisgalley77@gmail.com)) by the end of December or May, for consideration at the next meeting. Please also ask a suitable referee (such as a supervisor or archivist) to write a brief letter of support and comment on the suitability of the application.

Any enquiries concerning the fund can be sent to [funding@localpopulationstudies.org.uk](mailto:funding@localpopulationstudies.org.uk).

HGRG Dissertation Prize Results (2017-18)

Winner



Harry Gibbs (University of Oxford):

‘Connected Concrete, Vital Communications and the Radical Openness of Civil Defence: Reimagining the Cold War Bunker.’

Judges’ comments: “Well-written, with clear, persuasive, and detailed analysis and fluid and convincing prose ... An excellent literature review demonstrating considerable conceptual sophistication and impressive insights ... Excellent use of fascinating materials .... These are challenging ideas and arguments.”

Highly Commended

Isabel Dewhurst  
(University of Cambridge):

‘Jennie Churchill: Rethinking the Public/Private Divide and the Origins of the “Special Relationship” Through the Lens of the Female Body.’

Judges’ comments: “...the dissertation was clear and thoughtful, with an interesting and original argument based on a range of original sources. The analysis engaged with both women’s and gender history, and with intersectional questions of race, wealth and Americanness. It’s written with a confident, clear style. It’s an excellent piece of work, and we were really impressed by it.”



## Announcements



### CALL FOR PAPERS

#### **Thirteenth Biennial ASTENE Conference 2019**

Friday 12 July – Monday 15 July 2019

University of York and the Railway Museum, York

*Deadline for abstract submission is 28 February 2019*

Dear Colleagues,

We are very pleased to announce that the Thirteenth ASTENE biennial international conference will be held at the University of York from **Friday 12 July to Monday 15 July 2019**.

The Association for the Study of Travel in Egypt and the Near East is the only international forum that meets every two years for the presentation of the latest research on travellers and travel to and from the Middle East and Egypt from the earliest times to the end of the Ottoman Empire (1922). A selection of papers is published the following year in time for the next Conference.

#### **Preliminary Call for Papers**

Contributions of papers to the ASTENE Conference are welcome from a wide range of disciplines and interests connected with travel to and from the Near and Middle East. It is envisaged the conference will cover many themes – including, but not limited to:

- Lady Mary Worley Montagu, an original thinker, traveller & writer, lived near York
- Travel in classical times and during the Byzantine Empire
- Exploring archaeology through travel accounts
- Travellers from India and the Far East to the Middle East and Egypt
- Pilgrimage and pilgrims as travellers
- Ottoman Empire travels and travellers, explorers and visitors
- The impact of travel writings on Egyptology
- Travelling artists
- Fictional travellers
- Different approaches to reading and interpreting travelogues... and more.

**The Conference will include a visit to the York Railway Museum so we particularly welcome talks on railways and travel by rail in the Middle East and Egypt. The day includes a visit to be arranged.**

If you wish to offer a paper, please send an abstract of not more than 250 words to [2019yorkastene@gmail.com](mailto:2019yorkastene@gmail.com) on or before 28 February 2019 for consideration by the Conference Committee. Do not send abstracts to any other e-mail address.

Abstracts must include: 1) the name(s) and full contact details and affiliation(s) of the contributor(s); 2) the working title of the proposed paper; 3) what the proposed paper intends to cover; 4) an outline of the approach it will take; 5) an indication of the significance of the topic; 6) five keywords; 7) up to three relevant bibliographical references. Abstracts that are significantly over the word limit may be rejected.

Presentations are limited to 20 minutes, with an additional 5 minutes for discussion.

Due to programme time constraints, and the ever-increasing number of abstracts received, there is no guarantee that all papers will be accepted. The Conference Committee will select those abstracts that are most relevant to ASTENE's themes, clear aims and methodology, well-

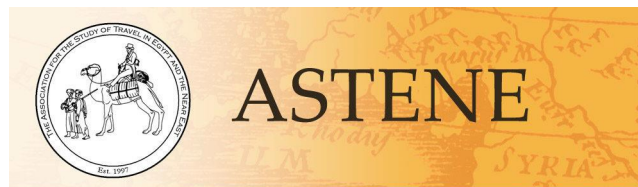


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HGRG Newsletter, Autumn 2018

## Announcements



organized research data and coherent conclusions. As in previous years, the Conference Committee will normally only accept one abstract from any given member.

Only those papers that are actually presented at the Conference will be considered for publication, and they will be subject to editorial and peer review.

### Focus Session Proposals

The Committee is happy to consider possible Focus Session Proposals. A Focus Session Proposal must include a minimum of four papers and have a clear focus with the explicit purpose to promote discussion and debate on work currently in progress, the current state of scholarship, issues involved in the application of new approaches and models, etc. A proposal for a Focus Session should include a summary of up to 200 words outlining the purpose of the Session, along with individual abstracts formatted as outlined above and the name of the person coordinating the session. The Committee will still consider each focus session abstract individually. A Focus Session chair may be nominated by the proposer but a final decision on this will remain with the Committee.

### Posters

The Committee is happy to receive submissions for the presentation of research posters. All posters presented at the Conference must have an abstract approved in advance by the Committee; other posters will not be accepted. The deadline for the submission of poster abstracts is 31 May 2019. For further information please see the ASTENE website and contact [2019yorkastene@gmail.com](mailto:2019yorkastene@gmail.com)

### Registration

The Conference Booking Form and Bursary Application Form will be available on [www.astene.org.uk](http://www.astene.org.uk) from 1 January 2019 with the deadline for bookings being 31 March 2019.

Participants will be informed about the acceptance of their paper by 17 March 2019

Conference Bursaries are being offered—please consult [www.astene.org.uk](http://www.astene.org.uk) for the Application Form.



 [HGRG Website](http://www.astene.org.uk)

 [HGRG Twitter](https://twitter.com/HGRG)

# Critical Heritage Studies in Canada

Richard M. Hutchings

*Susan L.T. Ashley and Andrea Terry, guest editors*

**2018** Special Issue: Critical Heritage Studies in Canada / Études critiques du patrimoine au Canada. *Journal of Canadian Studies* 52: 180–360. <https://doi.org/10.3138/jcs.52.1.01>

*Marina La Salle and Richard M. Hutchings*

**2018** Is Canadian Heritage Studies Critical? *Journal of Canadian Studies* 52: 342–60. <https://doi.org/10.3138/jcs.2017-0088>

*Marina La Salle and Richard M. Hutchings*

**2018** “What Could Be More Reasonable?” Collaboration in Colonial Contexts. In *The Oxford Handbook of Public Heritage Theory and Practice*, edited by Angela Labrador and Neil A. Silberman, pp. 223–37. Oxford: Oxford University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780190676315.013.22>

*Richard M. Hutchings and Marina La Salle*

**2018** Canada’s Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Reserve as Colonial Placemaking. *Landscapes: The Journal of the International Centre for Landscape and Language* 8(2). <https://ro.ecu.edu.au/landscapes/>

*Richard M. Hutchings and Marina La Salle*

**2018** Why Cultural Resource Management is Not Part of the ‘New Public Archaeology’. *Antiquity* 92: e10. <https://doi.org/10.15184/aqy.2018.222>

*Richard M. Hutchings*

**2018** Meeting the Shadow: Resource Management and the McDonaldization of Heritage Stewardship. In *Human-Centered Built Environment Heritage Preservation: Theory and Evidence-Based Practice*, edited by Jeremy Wells and Barry Stiefel, pp. 67–87. London: Routledge. <https://www.taylorfrancis.com/books/e/9780429014079>





HISTORICAL  
GEOGRAPHY  
RESEARCH  
GROUP

## ARE YOU A FULL MEMBER OF THE HGRG?

Some of you reading this newsletter and, perhaps, participating in our activities will not be a full member of the HGRG. Some of you, for instance, will have expressed an interest in the work of the group when you became a member of the RGS/IBG and so joined that way. And that's just great! We welcome and celebrate the breadth of our membership.

Nevertheless, there are some important benefits to be gained by switching to Full membership and we would encourage you to consider doing so. It would be of immense benefit to the Group and we promise to make you feel 'special' in return! As it stands if you are with us as a RGS/IBG member only, we receive a minimum contribution (as little as £2 *per annum*) from that. In return all you receive is this newsletter.

In short we would be delighted to welcome you to join us as a full member of the HGRG community! Membership subs are essential for us to continue to provide the full range of support and we are grateful for the collegiate generosity of members in this regard.

### **Full Membership** £12.00 *per annum*.

Should you choose to become a full member you will be added to the e-circulation list, will receive the HGRG Research Series and the HGRG Newsletter. Your subs will help support the grants that we provide to the HGRG community and you will be eligible to apply for these. Finally, you will get a reduced rate on back issues of the HGRG Research Series and have the opportunity to take up an Officering role.



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