



**HISTORICAL
GEOGRAPHY
RESEARCH
GROUP**



Historical Geography Research Group

NEWSLETTER

- AUTUMN 2019 -

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HGRG Newsletter, Autumn 2019

Letter from the Chair

Dear HGRG members

Welcome to the Autumn issue of the newsletter. I hope members are looking forward to the upcoming seasonal festivities and what will hopefully be a relaxing break from work or study.

As is usual, the Group's Annual General Meeting took place at the RGS-IBG Annual Conference in London in late August. This saw several changes to the committee membership. Cheryl McGeachan was elected to the new role of Chair Elect. She will assume the role of Chair at next year's AGM, when I will step down after four years in the post (and more than a decade on the committee). The new post is intended to deliver an improved sense of continuity within the executive committee and a robust handover process, helping HGRG to continue to be (one of) the most active of the RGS-IBG research groups. It extends current practice of the Outgoing Chair continuing as an ex-officio member of the committee. In other changes to the committee, Dean Bond takes over the role of Membership Secretary from Iain Robertson and Ed Armston-Sheret moves from PG Representative to Newsletter Editor, a role previously held by Jake Hodder. My sincere thanks go to both Iain and Jake for all their hard work on behalf of the Group over many years: we will miss them. The committee's thanks also go to outgoing PG representatives Laura Crawford and Peter Martin, who have done sterling work over the past two years, not least on the forthcoming HGRG Monograph Series volume (expected to reach members in the New Year). We also welcome Ruth Quinn as the new PG rep.

In other HGRG news, November's Practising Historical Geography event was a huge success and the committee's thanks go to Jo Norcup for organising the workshop and University of Nottingham for hosting what was by all accounts another super day. The HGRG Dissertation Prize was presented at the workshop. My congratulations go to Olivia Russell (University of Edinburgh) for her winning project on Gertrude Bell's work for the RGS and to Tallulah Gordon (University College London), who was awarded the highly commended place for her work on two London

exhibitions about British women's suffrage. The judges praised both projects for their methodological sophistication and excellent grasp of the relevant literature. My thanks as Chair go to James Kneale as Dissertation Prize Coordinator and to those who kindly offered to act as external judges on the panel. As always, I would encourage members supervising undergraduate dissertations in historical geography in British and Irish universities to consider entering the best work for next year's prize.

In terms of upcoming events, this year's HGRG writing retreat will take place in a virtual capacity between 7th and 9th January. Watch the #HGRGVirtualWritingRetreat hashtag for more info from 2nd January and join in online. The RGS-IBG conference takes place in London 1st - 4th September 2020. The call for papers is now out (the deadline for organised sessions is 14th Feb) and the HGRG will be sponsoring sessions as usual. Those interested in securing HGRG sponsorship should take a look at the Call for Sponsorship in the announcements section of this Newsletter or contact HGRG Honorary Secretary, Cheryl McGeachan.

Readers will, I'm sure, enjoy this issue's features. First up, Nuala Johnson describes her route to becoming a historical geographer, with periods studying and working in universities in Ireland, the USA and the UK as well as time spent in archives 'trying to piece together the past from the fragments of its paper landscape' (a fabulous phrase!). In 'From the archive', Philip Jagessar writes about his cataloguing work in the University of Nottingham's map archive. This is followed by Jahzeel Aguilera Lara's 'Shelfie' (with books on landscape, region and Mexican cultural politics) and Ruth Quinn's report on this year's RGS-IBG conference. Thereafter, the usual series of announcements appear.

With warm wishes for the season's festivities

Dr Briony McDonagh, HGRG Chair

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How I became a historical geographer

Nuala Johnson



Nuala Johnson is Professor of Geography at Queen's University Belfast. Her research interests include nationalism and the politics of identity; public monuments and collective memory; literary spaces; and the historical geographies of science. She is author of numerous articles and book chapters as well as three edited collections, and two monographs: *Ireland, the Great War and the Geography of Remembrance* (Cambridge University Press, 2003) and *Nature Displaced, Nature Displayed: Order and Beauty in Botanical Gardens* (I B Tauris, 2011). She was elected Member of the Royal Irish Academy in 2014.

I can't begin these reflections with any epiphanic moment when I was inspired to become a historical geographer. Indeed my interests have always straddled political and historical geography. This is reflected in the fact that I took a joint degree in Geography and Politics at University College Dublin. I was excited by the combination. One subject focused on landscape, space and place, including lectures from historical geographers Annagret Simms and Tom Jones-Hughes which brought home the significance of a geographical perspective. The other subject focused on political theory and systems – Plato, Hobbes, Rousseau, Marx, Engels, party systems, democracy, socialism, nationalism – and provided a strong theoretical dimension to my education on dominant political ideologies over the last two hundred years. In Ireland in the 1970s the thorny national question was never far from the news channels as the 'Troubles' took hold in Northern Ireland. Although the conflict was mainly experienced remotely – I had never crossed the border in my youth – when the South Leinster St., Dublin, bomb of 1974 killed the sister of a pupil in my school, the conflict was brought closer to home, and maybe subliminally piqued an underlying interest in nationalism.

On completion of my undergraduate degree, I undertook a Masters in electoral geography at UCD. This really set me on a path of research where the connections between geography and politics would become the central focus of my work. Inspired by Ron Johnston and Peter Taylor's book *Geography of Elections* (1979), the study examined how social class and the 'friends and neighbours' effect were manifested in the patterns of voting in Ireland under the STV Proportional Representation electoral system and my first published paper in *Irish Geography* stemmed from this thesis. It also reflected a fascination with elections which still keeps me up until the wee hours listening to results. It was also during these years that I

first encountered John Agnew's captivating work on Scottish nationalism and the relationship between place and politics. After five years at UCD, and itching to travel to pastures new, I obtained a Fellowship to undertake a PhD at Syracuse University, New York under John's supervision. The prospect of going to the USA filled me with excitement and just a little trepidation but the remarkable display of Autumn trees when I arrived in upstate New York in 1985 made for an enchanting initial encounter. It was here, under John's tutelage, that my interest in politics, nationalism and place from a historical perspective crystallised. It was here too that I learned the value of a historical geography that would be strongly underpinned by a robust conceptual framework. Courses taken with Jim and Nancy Duncan, John Western and Don Meinig reinforced the rich diversity of perspectives that could be adopted when dealing with the past, and the company of a vibrant graduate student body, including Liz Young, Judith Kenny, Marie Price, Sue Roberts, Rich Schein, Gerard Toal, Jonathan Leib, made the experience delightful. My dissertation examined the role of language in conceptualising national identity. Drawing on Antonio Gramsci's work and, in particular, his idea of organic intellectuals, I investigated how language, education policy and place were intertwined in the construction of an idea of Irish nationhood at the turn of the twentieth century. Early publications in *Political Geography* and the *Journal of Historical Geography* were drawn from this work. This research brought me into the archives of educational institutions, as well as national repositories, and cemented a passion for rummaging through old documents, sifting through dusty volumes and facing the challenge of trying to piece together the past from the fragments of its paper landscape. It also, perhaps, reflects a personality that is drawn more to the solitary work of the archive than the more social methodologies of other types of research.

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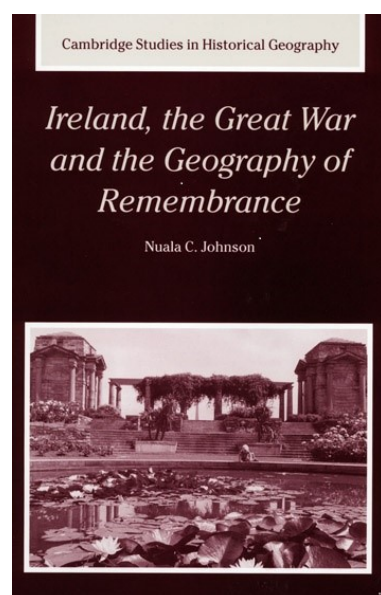
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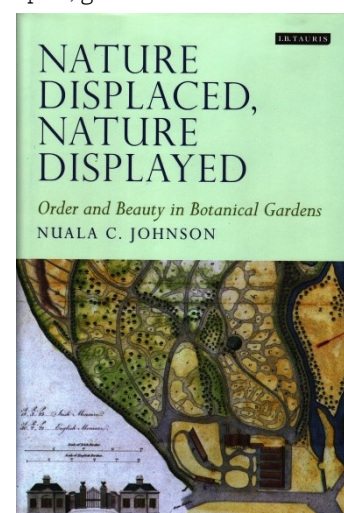
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My first academic job was a one-year post at Loughborough University, and I couldn't have been luckier. Historical Geography was thriving in the East Midlands, and the work of Mike Heffernan, Robin Butlin, Denis Cosgrove, Morag Bell and Steve Daniels proved inspiring. Their interest in the iconographies of landscape, and, coincidentally their strong Irish connections, reinforced my fascination with the links between landscape, nationalism and symbolism. It was here that I re-read Carl Schorske's wonderful book *Fin-de-Siècle Vienna* (1979) and began to think about the relationships between public monuments, nationalism and memory. This work began to take shape when I moved to UCL – another institution where Historical Geography was vibrant – and Hugh Prince, Hugh Clout, Richard Dennis, and Peter Jackson proved pivotal. After publishing some papers on memorial landscapes my monograph *Ireland, the Great War and the Geography of Remembrance* (2003) appeared. In it I sought to challenge the conventional historiography that Ireland had erased the memory of its role in the First World War from public space and to reveal the quite complex debates that surrounded commemorative activity in the two decades after the war.



In 1996 I moved to Queen's University Belfast. The Geography Department had been founded by Estyn Evans, a name I knew well from my undergraduate days at UCD. Moreover it was where David Livingstone worked. Nobody of my generation would have undertaken a geographical thought course without encountering his work. While I was now firmly established as a historical-political geographer, David Livingstone widened my horizons to the broader fields of intellectual history and the historical geographies of science. James Ryan, Diarmid Finnegan, Keith Lilley, Oliver Dunnett

and others have ensured that QUB has maintained a significant presence in historical research and has been a sympathetic home for geographers concerned with the past. Living in Northern Ireland, with its legacy of conflict, has meant that I've maintained my interest in space, nationalism and symbols. At the same time, however, I have moved onto new projects such as the work I carried out on the role of beauty in animating debates around questions of natural history in the development of botanical gardens, culminating in *Nature Displaced, Nature Displayed: Order and Beauty in Botanical Gardens* (2011). Currently I am working on a monograph centred on the work of a female naturalist and botanical illustrator, Charlotte Wheeler-Cuffe, who lived in colonial Burma from 1897-1921. The political dimension of my work, over time, has shifted from questions related to nationalism to understanding the interconnections between empire, gender and natural history.



While digital technology has made it more convenient to carry out historical research, I continue to cherish time spent in archives. The Reading Room of the National Library of Ireland is, for me, a particularly appealing space. The methodology suits my temperament, I enjoy the secluded adventure the archive represents, coupled with animated conversation with colleagues, over coffee, about various conceptual and empirical issues. Attempting to make sense of the past through its paper trail and landscape evidence – that hermeneutic challenge – consistently fascinates and energises me. Whether through design or serendipity, I have studied and worked in universities where Historical Geography has had a powerful presence, and the localised, everyday encounters, inevitably produced by having a cohort of people working in the same broad field, in the same place, has decidedly shaped my academic career.



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From the archive

The Nottingham University Map Archive

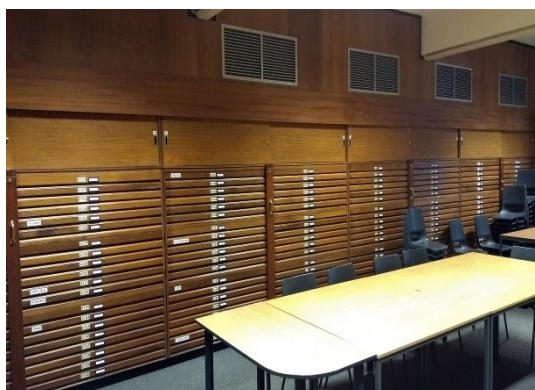
By Philip Jagessar, University of Nottingham

When we consider what archival research involves, we often think of repositories or sites to be explored away from our desk, office or department. My own research has taken me as far afield as India and I'm always amazed by the places and variety of archives colleagues in the geography department at Nottingham visit in order to undertake their research. Whether our research takes us to smaller, regional or private archives to large national and institutional archives, we are for the most part travelling elsewhere to do so - except, perhaps, those fortunate to be based at the archive. Yet many of us who are based in geography (and occasionally other) departments are in close proximity to an undervalued, underutilised and often forgotten archive - departmental map collections or map libraries.

essential mapping skills and drew maps for staff to use in their research or for external clients, utilising the latest OS or international map series acquired by the library. Geography map collections were also regarded as an archive early on, often employing a librarian or curator responsible for maintaining the collection.

Unfortunately, many departmental map collections are under threat or have already been lost. Some have been consolidated into a university's central library or archive. Others have been simply dispersed to other collections or disposed of. The emergence of digital cartography has too often relegated the importance of physical maps and the space needed for map collections has become increasingly difficult to justify in a changing university environment.

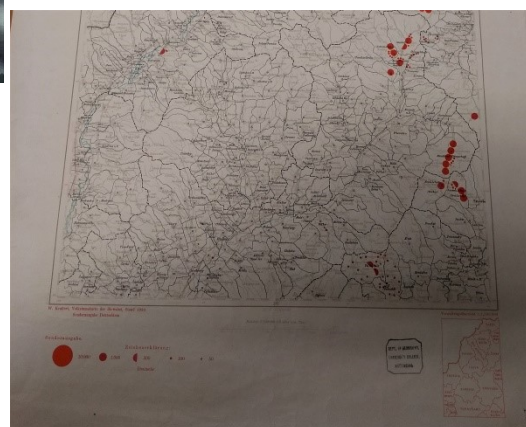
In the last year or so, colleagues in the geography department at Nottingham have started to look into ways we can (re)engage with our collection and throw light on this invaluable resource. This includes developing collaborative projects with local communities and artists as well as a 'Map of the Month' blog where members of the department use a map from the collection to discuss their research or interests.



A View of the Map Library. Image credit: Philip Jagessar.

The establishment of departmental map collections coincided with the advent of geography as a taught subject at universities in the early-twentieth century. Nottingham's map collection started to take shape in the 1920s when it was part of the Geology and Geography Department of the then University College. By the time Nottingham received a Royal Charter in 1948, the collection had grown to include a large quantity of surplus war maps and today it numbers over 80,000 maps, mostly acquired from the 1940s to 80s. Particular strengths of the collection are, unsurprisingly, the East Midlands but also Central Europe, Eastern Europe and Africa.

Maps, of course, served a practical and pedagogical purpose when these collections were being assembled, to be used for teaching and research. Geography departments employed cartographers who taught students



1930s Ethnographic map of Trenín, Czechoslovakia. Image credit: Philip Jagessaer

For the last six months, separate from my PhD, I've been examining and cataloguing the Africa and Eastern European drawers in detail to uncover unique or historically significant maps in the collection. We chose to focus on Africa and Eastern Europe not only because they are strengths of the collection, but they were two areas which underwent momentous changes in the twentieth century through conflict, decolonisation and the rise and fall of



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communism. Highlights so far include: a *Deutschtum* or ‘Germaness’ ethnographic map of Trenín, in Czechoslovakia (formerly,) produced a few years before the Nazi invasion of the Sudetenland; a Population Distribution map produced in apartheid South Africa dividing the population into four perceived racial groups – ‘Europeans, Coloureds, Asiatics and Natives;’ a *Provisional Map of Northern Rhodesia* from the 1910s showing the distribution of land to various companies operating there at the time. The archive also reveals the close connection between the military and Nottingham’s geography department. A large number of maps were acquired from the War Office and then the MoD after the Second World War and again in the 1980s when surplus military maps were offered to the university.

The map collection is not only a significant yet underutilised archive of the 20th century but a window into the past – and present – of a geography department. Nottingham’s map collection reflects the work, travels and interests of academics, cartographers and students at the university over the course of several decades. Many of the geological maps in the collection were acquired or produced for specific research projects. A considerable number of Eastern European maps were given to the department by Professor Dick Osborne, who worked and travelled throughout the Eastern bloc in the latter half of the last century. Geographical map collections, such as Nottingham’s, remain indispensable to understanding the discipline’s past, and Nottingham’s evolution into a modern geography department.



Shelfie

Shelfie

By Jahzeel Aguilera Lara

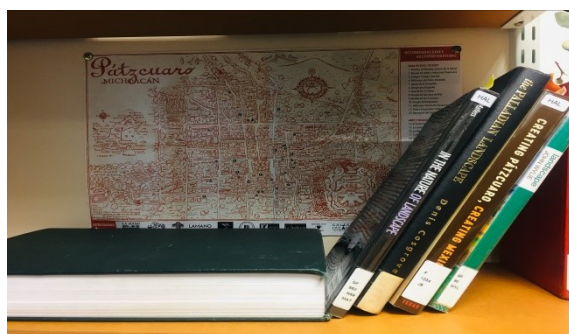


Image credit: Jahzeel Aguilera Lara.*

The books featured in my *shelfie* reflect different aspects of my research on the cultural construction of Lake Patzcuaro regional landscape in Central West Mexico during the mid-twentieth century. I am especially interested in understanding how particular ways of relating to Lake Patzcuaro emerged and came to define the landscape’s character. To do so, I study the development of different practices and institutions and their role in shaping the landscape, the establishment of authority and governance over the region, and the formation of identities. These include natural science

research and environmental protection schemes, murals and visual productions, as well as social science research. The books I have chosen encompass different topics: the first three are about the concepts of landscape and region in cultural geography, while the last two are specific to my area of study

Landscape and region

The first book I would like to acknowledge is John Wylie’s *Landscape* (2007), which is one of the first books I read when I just started my PhD. Actually, this book has been with me for a long time since my master’s studies, helping me to navigate the complexities of the concept

*You will notice that one of the books mentioned in the text does not appear in the photo. This is because I only have it in a digital format, yet it has deeply informed my work and that is why I have decided to acknowledge it here.



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Shelfie

each time I undertake a new project.

The book provides a description of the different approaches to the study of landscape within geography. It starts by critically examining early twentieth-century landscape traditions. Subsequently, he analyses the various trends that have emerged within contemporary cultural geography for the study of landscape. Such approaches to landscape study are often perceived as contradictory or opposite, which reflects the inherent tensions that the notion of landscape entails.

Wylie understands landscape as a series of tensions, between proximity and distance, observation and inhabitation, eye and land, and nature and culture. These tensions, far from being considered as problematic, are seen as productive and creative. This quality of landscape has been recognised by other scholars, who have called for studies of landscape that focus on its complexity and multiplicity, rather than trying to limit the concept to a single definition (Daniels 1989, Matless 2014). In my research project, I have decided to embrace landscape's multiple meanings, paying attention to the ways in which ideas about landscape have been articulated and how they have shaped the way landscape is constituted.

The other component of my research theme is the region. Although today the conceptual boundaries of landscape and region are well defined, this has not always been the case. In traditional cultural geography, landscape and region were two interrelated concepts; sometimes, they were even used interchangeably. Thus, for instance, Carl Sauer considered landscape as the descriptive content of a region, whereas for Vidal de la Blache landscape was the reflection of regional ways of life.

Unlike landscape, the study of the region has not attracted so much attention within contemporary cultural geography. There are, however, some exceptions. This brings me to my second and third book choices, which are Denis Cosgrove's *The Palladian Landscape* (1993) and David Matless's *In the Nature of Landscape* (2014).

The first book examines the region of Veneto in northern Italy during the Renaissance. The region is characterised by the architecture of Andrea Palladio, reason for which Cosgrove calls it the 'Palladian landscape.' However, the term also refers to a way of seeing and making sense of the world held by particular social groups, who sought to improve their place within nature through architecture, engineering interventions, maps and landscape paintings.

Cosgrove's book exemplifies the ways in which landscape came to be understood by cultural geographers at the end of the twentieth century. Landscape was seen as a cultural image, a medium and an outcome of cultural signification. Accordingly, landscape representations were considered forms of the landscape itself, through which ideas, feelings and values about the world were expressed. In this book, Cosgrove introduces landscape as a way of culturally approaching regional enquiry.

David Matless's *In the Nature of Landscape* (2014) further examines the relationship between landscape and region in his study of the Norfolk Broads, an eastern English wetland. Rather than an image, landscape is conceived as a shifting set of practices, shaped through a colloquium of voices, claiming landscape character and nature. Culture is considered in terms of discursive and non-discursive cultural practices regulating people's conduct.



View of Lake Patzcuaro from the Estribo viewpoint. Source: Image Credit: Jahzeel Aguilera.

A key concept introduced by Matless is 'cultures of landscape,' referring to a set of everyday practices and performances, beliefs and attitudes. For him, the *everyday* is understood to be the effect of regulatory processes and cultural discourses that structure the way we behave in the landscape. From this point of view, discourse is not a set of things said about a separate entity, already existent out in the world. Instead, discourse about landscape creates landscape.

A regional enquiry into culture demands attention to the way in which a regional distinct became established, through notions of proper conduct. The term region, observes Matless, is associated with issues of rule and regulation, indicating scales of authority and governance. Consequently, regional cultural landscape 'inevitably concerns the articulation of scale and its political, economic, imaginative, emotional consequences' (p.14). I find this notion useful to explore questions of culture, authority and identity in an integrated manner.

Cultural Histories of the Revolution

The second strand of literature I have included in this shelfie focuses on culture and identity



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Shelfie

in Mexico during the mid-twentieth century. Mary K. Vaughan's book *Cultural Politics of the Revolution* (1997) examines the role of rural schools and teachers in the cultural transformation of the country.

Her work focuses primarily on the socialist



Fragment of a mural in the outside walls of the primary school "Tzitzinpendacuare" on the island of Yunuen. ca. 1938. The mural tells the story of the origin of the Purhepecha state. Image Credit: Jahzeel Aguilera

education programme developed during the 1930s, through which the federal government sought to transform the rural and indigenous populations and incorporate them into the project of a modern multi-ethnic nation.

Through examining the development of this programme in two regions of Mexico, Vaughan proposes to understand socialist education not only as a state endeavour but also as a process in which different actors of society participated in its construction. Socialist education, she argues, was the arena for negotiation between state and society.

Vaughan's book has helped me understand the cultural programme of the revolution and its institutions. Moreover, she uses the regional scale to study the development of a national programme revealing the inherent tensions between the categories of nation and region. Such tensions are also present in my project. However, in my work, the local sphere is of equal importance in shaping the regional landscape.

My final book selection is the book of art historian Jennifer Jolly's *Creating Patzcuaro. Creating Mexico* (2018). Jolly examines cultural production in Patzcuaro during the postrevolutionary period. Focusing on murals, she studies the changing ways of seeing Lake Patzcuaro and the construction of a region's image. She proposes that during the 1930s, Lake Patzcuaro was seen and represented from above, allowing the region to transcend the local and stand from the nation. This image of the region was, according to Jolly, ideologically loaded. Therefore, for her, representing Patzcuaro was a prelude for its transformation. During the same period, Patzcuaro developed into a touristic centre. Seeing and touring the

country allowed people to identify with the region's image.

Building upon Jolly's research, my project examines the role of murals in shaping Lake Patzcuaro regional landscape. To do so, I explore these issues beyond the city of Pátzcuaro, to see how they worked in the different towns that make up the region. I also consider murals' multidimensionality, examining the visual discourses they try to communicate but also their setting and material properties. This is important since murals, unlike other graphic representations, are characterised by being attached to a place. In the region, murals were painted in schools, former religious buildings transformed into theatres and libraries, governmental spaces and touristic infrastructures. Paying attention to this has revealed new actors, practices and institutions involved in the shaping of Lake Pátzcuaro. Showing how murals helped to communicate ideas of landscape character and proper conduct in landscape but also to create the spaces for the performance of identities.

In addition to the study of visual production, my research also reflects on the role of scientific practice and knowledge in landscape formation. I thus examine the role of natural science research in the production of Lake Patzcuaro's nature-cultures, as well as its role in the governance of region. Moreover, I am interested in understanding how scientific discourses about Lake Patzcuaro's environmental past triggered concerns about its future. Likewise, I attempt to comprehend the role of social sciences in defining the region's history, culture and identities. The books mentioned in the first part of this shelfie also deal with the geographies of science, providing useful examples of how that relationship can be addressed. While the second group of books has provided a context in which to understand scientific practise and its relationship with other cultural processes and institutions.

About a month ago, I finished my archival work and fieldwork in Mexico and now is the time for me to reflect carefully on what I did. I have also been examining the materials collected so that I have been able to identify cross-cutting themes to my research topics. While most of the books presented in this shelfie were read at the beginning of my PhD, I am sure I will go back to them for inspiration. Books will continue accumulating on the shelves of my office and on my computer, as new knowledge is always produced by building on the work of others.

Jahzeel Aguilera is a PhD Candidate at the University of Nottingham.



RGS-IBG International Conference ‘Geographies of trouble/geographies of hope’

27 – 30th August 2019

By Ruth Quinn

I have a confession to make: by disciplinary background, I am not a Geographer. However, dear readers, after attending this year’s RGS-IBG International Conference, I am finally starting to feel like one. This year’s theme focused on the theme of ‘Geographies of trouble/geographies of hope’ and provided space for geographers from across the world to come together at what is a critical time for researchers who are concerned with the study of a rapidly changing world.

The breadth of papers on offer at the conference was overwhelming, so in an attempt to develop some sort of selection criteria to help navigate the programme, I decided to focus on sessions organized by the HGRG, Postgraduate Forum and titles which related to heritage. After getting hopelessly lost in the labyrinthine corridors of Imperial College on the first day, my spirit was lifted by a brilliant session on ‘Non-Representational Historical Geography? Archives, Affects and Atmospheres’ organised by Stephen Legg and Ivan Markovi (University of Nottingham). Up first was Dr Ruth Slatter (University of Hull) who shared some of her exciting new research on visual and literary culture of the Methodist thinker and Pre-Raphaelite Artist James Smetham (1821-1889). In a exploration of Smetham’s ‘squarings’ (miniature pen and ink drawings that Smetham used to record his thoughts and experiences) historical geographers can use ‘material religion’ approaches when studying spiritual and religious practices in order to understand how faith has been practiced as an embodied tradition within networks of specific geographical spaces. Continuing on with the theme of religious practice and the space of the city, Eric Olund (University of Sheffield) gave a fascinating paper on ‘more-than’ metaphors of Chicago’s red-light district. Olund’s paper explored how in the early twentieth century a group of Christian missionaries known as the Midnight Mission sought to mobilize citizens to shut down the city’s red light district through an emotive campaign in which heavily charged language was deployed to evoke guilt and responsibility amongst the city’s inhabitants and construct a moral geography of the red light district, that located the

practices that happened therein in a ‘vortex of evil’.

It is difficult not to be affected by the atmospheres created by university buildings and their histories when attending a conference, and this is the subject that Stephen Legg explored powerfully in his paper on ‘Social Atmospheres of Racial Difference at the India Round Table Conference, London 1930-32’. Adopting ‘beyond representational approaches’ Legg’s paper moved through the spaces in which over one hundred Indian Delegates were hosted in during the conference and explored how historical reflections on atmospheres evoke a sense of place, and how evocation of racial and cultural difference between British and Indian delegates was inscribed in experiential accounts of the conference and through the physical spaces used for business and for entertainment and over the course of the event. Moving to another consideration of an atmospheric and experiential geographer,

Hayden Lormier (University of Edinburgh) presented an intriguing and fragrant (owing the bottles of perfume which circulated the room) paper on ‘An Aid to Loveliness’: Lavender and the Production of English Beauty. Lorimer’s paper explored how industrialized beauty culture and the material practices of applying perfume, lotions and make-up constitute ‘non-representational art form par excellence’. The history of the perfumier Yardley and the success of their English Lavender perfume formed the main nexus of the paper which considered how this fragrance was advertised to women globally (in the guise of numerous products) led to the emergence of a language of femininity and embodied ideals of loveliness, both as a ‘look’ achieved through the application of cosmetic products which promised a uniformity in ‘ideal’ skin tones, and a ‘feeling’ gained through the wearing of the English Lavender scent.

Finally, Maarten Loopmans (University of Leuven, Belgium) presented a challenging paper on ‘Drawing to remember: Graphics for subaltern histories of migrant sex workers in Belgium’. Loopman’s shared the work that he has been developing in collaboration with Magaly Rodriguez Garcia (KU Leuven, Belgium) in which the process of drawing interviewees was woven into the process of recording oral histories of migrant sex workers’ spatial life course trajectories. The paper considered how drawing as research method in oral history interviewing can be used as a tool to communicate embodied,



Reports

affective dimensions of a person's oral history and prompted a careful discussion on research ethics and the positionality of the interviewer/sketch artist-as-observer-and-recorder in the life story recording process.

The New and Emerging Session was a jam-packed double session, which featured a broad array of exciting new work from postgraduate researchers. My own paper focused on how the notion of the 'Healthy Countryside' at Saltaire has been informed by nineteenth century picturesque readings of rural space and how these narratives have now been inscribed as heritage. Relationships between health and urban environment were explored further in papers on the changing environmental and social landscapes of children's play in London's parks (Jon Winder, University of Kent) and Infant mortality decline in London, 1870-1929 (Sarah Rafferty University of Cambridge). The city of London was considered further through the 'radical municipalism' of the Greater London Council in the 1980s and how the relationships between left-wing social movements, local government influenced the unique socio-

As a newly appointed HGRG post-graduate representative, I will have the privilege of helping to organise next year's 'New and Emerging' session, so if you are working on some burgeoning research that you would like to share in a relaxed and friendly session keep your eyes peeled for our call for papers!

Ruth Quinn is a PhD candidate at the University of Hull and one of the HGRG's postgraduate representatives.



Flossie Kingsbury in the New and Emerging research in Historical Geography Session. Image credit: Briony McDonagh

political landscape of the city (Timothy Joubert University of Leeds, UK).

The politics of 'doing historical geography' was also explored and critiqued, through examinations of the production of knowledge in landed estate archives in Ireland (Clair McDonald Dublin City University, Ireland) and the implied dichotomies creative and critical writing (Flossie Kingsbury Aberystwyth University, UK). Finally, the inherent tensions in spatially bounded geographies of knowledge were scrutinized in papers on the geographies of Lake Patzcuaro regional landscape in Mexico (Jahzeel Aguilera, Lara University of Nottingham) and the mapping of languages in colonial India, 1890-1947 (Philip Jagessar, University of Nottingham, UK).



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Imago Mundi Prize

2019

The Board of Directors of Imago Mundi Ltd takes great pleasure in presenting the eighth biennial Imago Mundi Prize for the best article published in Imago Mundi: the international Journal for the History of Cartography to:

Mario Cams

In 'Not Just a Jesuit Atlas of China: Qing Imperial Cartography and Its European Connections' (Imago Mundi 69:2, pp.188-201), Dr Cams provides a thorough and original reinterpretation of an early 18th century atlas of Qing China's territories. This atlas had traditionally been assumed to be the work of European missionaries, implanting European traditions into Chinese culture, but the paper persuasively argues that the atlas in fact represents a more complex integration of different cultures and methods. The paper also impressed the judges in its research process and methodology, its international perspective, and in its encouragement to further work in this area.

HGRG Dissertation Prize Results (2018-19)

Winner

Olivia Russell (University of Edinburgh):

"Geography, Cartography and Military Intelligence; Gertrude Bell's Cartographic Work for The Royal Geographical Society In 1913 To 1918."

Judges' comments: "an archivally-rich analysis of the work of Bell and others for British military intelligence in the Near East. Theoretically and methodologically sophisticated, it shows a good grasp of contemporary questions about the history of geography."



Highly Commended

Tallulah Gordon (University College London):

"Suffragettes in the City: Exploring Gendered Memory Through Analysis of Two London Exhibitions Commemorating the British Women's Suffrage Centenary."

Judges' comments: "...a nicely framed and insightful analysis of the commemoration of the centenary of women's suffrage, paying attention to the differences between the WSPU and NUWSS as well as the fluidity of activism. The analysis of materials is exemplary and the dissertation shows a good grasp of work on gendered geographies and museum geography..."



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SEMINAR PROGRAMMES

London Group of Historical Geographers

Seminar Programme, Spring Term 2020

Encounters

28 January 2020 Luciana Martins (Birkbeck, University of London). Drawing together: the visual archive of travel in Latin America.

11 February 2020 Helene Engnes Birkeli (University College London). Imaging colonial conflict in the Danish West Indies, 1801–1806: delay and the dis-continuous line.

25 February 2020 Archie Davies (Institute of Latin American Studies). The question of translation in the history of Brazilian critical geography, 1930 to the present.

10 March 2020 André Reyes Novaes (UERJ, Brazil). Exploration maps as Indigenous knowledge in Jaime Cortesão's historical narratives.

24 March 2020 Jake Richards (Durham University). Abolition for sovereignty: judges, merchants, illegally-trafficked Africans and legal geography at the end of the slave trade to Brazil, 1850–1856

Seminars, unless otherwise indicated, are held on **Tuesdays at 5.15pm**. 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).





Announcements

Maps and Society Lectures

Lectures in the history of cartography convened by Catherine Delano-Smith (Institute of Historical Research, University of London), Tony Campbell (formerly Map Library, British Library), Peter Barber (Visiting Fellow, History, King's College, formerly Map Library, British Library) and Alessandro Scafi (Warburg Institute).

2019

October 17 Dr James A. Welu (Director Emeritus, Worcester Art Museum, Worcester, MA). 'Vermeer's "Mania for Maps"'.


December 5 Dr Mordechai Lewy (Ambassador (retired) Bonn, Germany). 'The apocalyptic Abyssinian: Transferring an Islamic motif to Europe and giving Horn of Africa an eschatological meaning after the fall of Acre'.

2020

January 16 Jon Quixley (co-author, with RCE Quixley, of *Antique Maps of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly*, 1966, 2018). 'How Cornwall took shape from Saxton to the Ordnance Survey, with quirks and gaffes on the way'.

February 20 Philip Curtis (Director, The Map House, London). 'When Maps Go to War: Pictorial Conflict Maps, 1900-1950'.

March 19 Dr Ronald Grim (formerly Curator of Maps, Norman B. Leventhal Map and Education Center, Boston Public Library, USA). 'Annotated Atlases: Unravelling Stories of Personal Provenance'.

April 30 Dr Jacob Gestman Geradts (Early Modern History, Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium). 'Cornelis de Hooghe (1541-1583): Emperor's Son and Cartographer'.

Meetings are held at the [Warburg Institute](#), School of Advanced Study, University of London, Woburn Square, London WC1H 0AB, at 5.00 pm on selected Thursdays.

Admission is free and each meeting is followed by refreshments. All are *most* welcome.



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Announcements



Call for Session Sponsorship

RGS-IBG Annual International Conference,
2020

The Historical Geography Research Group (HGRG) of the RGS-IBG is pleased to extend an invitation to sponsor sessions at the 2020 RGS-IBG Annual International Conference.

In keeping with the conference theme—"borders, borderlands and bordering", chaired by Professor Uma Kothari (University of Manchester)—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 17th January 2020.

Proposals for sponsored sessions should be emailed to the Honorary Secretary, Cheryl McGeachan (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 14 February 2020 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 2020 RGS-IBG Annual International Conference can be found on-line: <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 2020 issue of HGRG's newsletter.

We look forward to hearing from you.



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HGRG Newsletter, Autumn 2019



Announcements

Call for Papers: New and Emerging Research In Historical Geography

RGS—IBG Annual Conference, 1st-4th September 2020

Royal Geographical Society, London, UK

This session provides a space for postgraduates undertaking research in historical geography to present at a major conference in an informal and relaxed setting. Building upon past successful HGRG postgraduate sessions, our intention is to foster a supportive environment in which speakers receive feedback from experienced colleagues on their emerging research. As such, we welcome papers from postgraduates at any stage of their research to present papers that discuss initial research aim/design; engage with methodological and/or theoretical questions; or that draw upon empirical findings. There is no chronological or geographical limit to papers and the sessions will be designed to encourage questions, debate, and advice. In short, these sessions will demonstrate the vibrancy of postgraduate contributions to historical geography.

Instructions for Authors

If you would like to participate in the session please submit an abstract (maximum 300 words) to Ruth Quinn (R.Quinn@2017.hull.ac.uk) by **5pm Friday 7th February 2020**. Along with your abstract please include full name, institutional affiliation(s), stage of postgraduate study, and email address. If you have any questions about the session please do not hesitate to contact one of the HGRG postgraduate representatives: Ed Armston-Sheret (Ed.Armston-Sheret.2017@rhul.ac.uk) or Ruth Quinn (R.Quinn@2017.hull.ac.uk).

Call For Papers Deadline | Friday 7th February 2020



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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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