



HISTORICAL  
GEOGRAPHY  
RESEARCH  
GROUP

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Copy for the next issue:  
**20 January, 2021**

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HGRG Newsletter, Autumn 2020

# NEWSLETTER

- Autumn 2020 -

## Letter from the Chair

Dear HGRG Members,

Welcome to the Winter 2020 edition of the newsletter. I am writing this letter from my kitchen table where I have been working since March, when the world altered all our lives due to the pandemic. It feels an extraordinary time to have taken over as Chair of the HGRG from Dr Briony McDonagh, who I would like to thank on behalf of all of the HGRG for her incredible commitment and care in the role of Chair. I have appreciated her mentorship greatly and am very pleased that Briony is staying with the Committee in the role of Research Series Editor. It also feels a strange time to be talking about achievements. The impact of the pandemic has changed perspective on what is possible to manage for many individuals in the current time. As a research group it has been heartening to see how the community has pulled together to adapt and support one another. The recent 26<sup>th</sup> Practising Historical Geography workshop took place online to the theme Decolonising Historical Geographies and, as always, was a wonderful example of the core strengths of the HGRG. It featured a keynote by Chandan Mahal, discussion sessions, and the very popular 'postgraduate reflections' session this year delivered by Dr Catherine Oliver. The second part of the event will take place in December and will consist of a keynote by Clifford Pereira and a workshop on decolonising historical praxis. A core remit of the events is to support postgraduate and early-career researchers and in this

current time the HGRG wishes to extend this support through various endeavours. The Annual HGRG Writing Retreat will be returning from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup> January 2021, and will take place virtually. This is a fantastic opportunity for the global community to come together to work, write, and share ideas. We will be using the hashtag #HGRG\_VWR2021 and more information will be shared on the HGRG website so please put it in your diaries for a positive start to the new year.



Clifford Pereria's Presentation at the Practising Historical Geography Conference. Credit: Dr Jo Norcup

The RGS-IBG annual conference that was sadly postponed this year will be taking place in late August next year. The Conference Chair is Professor Uma Kothari, and the theme of the conference is *Borders, borderlands and bordering*. As a research group we will shortly be releasing a call for sponsorship submissions and we are looking forward to seeing the range of topics that are submitted. More information about this process will be on our website soon. The very popular 'New and Emerging' Sessions for postgraduate and early-career researchers will once again be running and we would encourage people

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to submit to the session. As members will know, the Group are keen to support conferences dedicated to the advancement of historical geography and supporting the profile and careers of postgraduate and early-career historical geographers. Applicants should be members of the HGRG and application forms can be found on the Group's website at [hgrg.org.uk/grants-and-prizes](http://hgrg.org.uk/grants-and-prizes). The page also includes information about our Postgraduate Support Scheme, Small Conference and Seminar Funding, and Undergraduate Dissertation Prize. The deadlines for the first two schemes are 1st April, 1st August, and 1st December in any year, so postgraduate readers might like to consider making an application for the next round.

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to this issue of the newsletter. Our

contributions come from Dr Kirsten Greer, who writes

movingly about her engagements in the praxis of repair-work and repatriation. The piece expands the concept of the archive to include 'tree-core samples, historic timbers, soil monoliths, and paleo records' that pose fascinating questions about the 'doing' of historical environmental research. Clair McDonald opens up her work on the colonial geographies of Ireland through her 'Shelfie'. Delving into the five selected texts Clair demonstrates the range of questions around 'voice' and 'narration' that remain central to unpicking and writing colonial

geographies. 'From the digital archives' introduces a number of new digital humanities projects, [One More Voice](#) and [Livingstone Online](#). The piece demonstrates the scope of the projects and the possibilities they have for supporting and generating new research in historical geography.

Members keen to contribute to any of these regular features are encouraged to get in touch with our newsletter editor, Edward Armston-Sheret ([ed.armston-sheret.2017@live.rhul.ac.uk](mailto:ed.armston-sheret.2017@live.rhul.ac.uk)), or to drop me a line.

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### One More Voice

*Lost Voices from the British Empire's Archives*

Website of the the "One More Voice" Project Discussed Below.

Finally, in an extraordinary year I would like to thank every member of the HGRG for their kindness, care, and consideration for one another. In a year when the Group has achieved so much, as highlighted above, it is also important to note the support the Group has given to things that could not be managed. A community that shows compassion and understanding of the challenges its members face, is one that undoubtedly will grow and strengthen because of it.

Stay safe and best wishes,

Dr Cheryl McGeachan, HGRG Chair





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## From the Archives

# Kirsten Greer: Nbisiiing Traditional Lands during a Global Pandemic



**Kirsten Greer** is an Associate Professor in the Departments of Geography and History at Nipissing University, and the Canada Research Chair (CRC) in Global Environmental Histories and Geographies. Her CRC program addresses specifically reparations “in place” from Northern Ontario to the Caribbean through interdisciplinary, integrative, and engaged (community-based) scholarship in global environmental change research. As a critical historical geographer, she is interested in human-environment relations in the past; the environmental histories and legacies of the British Empire; and the politics of biodiversity heritage in the global North Atlantic. Greer is the past chair of the Historical Geography Specialty Group of the American Association of Geographers (2016-2019). She is of Scottish-Scandinavian descent, from the unceded lands of Tiohtià:ke/Montréal.

We are currently on day 237 of the global pandemic in Ontario, Canada, which altered significantly the ways in which we conduct research, build connections, and teach our courses. Since March 17th, our universities, museums, and archival institutions closed down, while governments placed severe travel restrictions not only in Canada, but also to other countries, including the closing of the border to the United States. As I write this piece today, I am working from home at my kitchen table, breaking up my days with long walks, regular Zoom meetings, and teaching, having only visited my office twice since the spring. However, this time has allowed me to reconsider the value of slow research, and the importance of building strong relationships, as well to contemplate the process of repair-work during social movements such as Black Lives Matter, anti-racism and anti-fascism, and defending First Nations treaty rights. What does it mean to enact gestures of care during these challenging times?

I am presently in the second term of my Canada Research Chair in Global Environmental Histories and Geographies (2020-2025), which centers on the research program “Reparative Environmental Histories and Legacies of the Global North Atlantic.” This theme builds on the previous CRC research program, as well as the ongoing SSHRC projects, by addressing specifically reparations “in place” through interdisciplinary, integrative, and engaged

(community-based) research and pedagogy. As the first term of my CRC program demonstrated, a significant unexpected outcome of the research program was the extensive interdisciplinary and [collaborative research with my geophysical colleagues](#) and First Nation partners from the region (see [Greer et al 2018a](#), [2018b](#)). These collaborations allowed me to reflect directly on the role of historical geography as an anchor to integrative research on past environments from a humanity and decolonial perspective, and to work in relationship with First Nations communities on treaty and unceded lands within Anishinaabe and Algonquin perspectives. Here my concept of the “archive” expanded from archival materials and museum artifacts to [tree-core samples](#), historic timbers, soil monoliths, and paleo records in critical approaches to global environmental change research.

Considering how Nipissing University sits on Nbisiiing Anishinaabeg traditional territory, and the land protected by the Robinson Huron Treaty of 1850, one of the main research themes for the new CRC program is to address what it means to practice reparative work, reparation, and *repatriation*. Reparation means different things to different people and communities. As Indigenous activist, June Oscar AO, described in her foreword to [The Routledge Companion to Indigenous Repatriation: Return, Reconcile, Renew](#) (2020): “Repatriation as an academic study, practice and as a

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global Indigenous movement for justice and truth-telling knows few bounds.” For Oscar, however, repatriation involves not only the returning home of stolen ancestors and sacred objects from museums and collecting institutions, but the exposing of the brutal histories of colonial theft, and the active role of coming together (Indigenous and non-Indigenous) to confront and heal from these histories to build a better future.

Responding directly to [the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action](#) (2015), and to the needs of the Nipissing First Nations partners (Dokis First Nation and Nipissing First Nation), reparation as part of the new CRC research program involves not only using the research skills and experiences to locate materials found in museum and archival collections. It also includes challenging the ways in which colonialism shaped geography as a discipline and, in turn, how geography as discipline enabled different colonial projects such as settler colonialism. In other words, it addresses directly the decolonization of the “geographical tradition” and provides new ways to reconstitute the archive in powerful ways to inform First Nation sovereignty, land claims, and language and revitalization projects.

Drawing from my doctoral and postdoctoral research on nineteenth-century British military geographers (e.g. [Greer 2020](#)), one of my major research questions is: what did the British know geographically prior the Robinson-Huron Treaty (1763-1850), how did they know it, and what practices did they use to produce such knowledge as they circulated in a wider global North Atlantic? During this time, a number of colonial officers and surgeons mapped, surveyed, collected, and documented parts land and water bodies prior to the signing of the treaty, relying heavily on Nishinaabeg and Algonquin knowledges and relationships to the land.

One such officer included Philip John Bainbrigge (1817-1881), a member of the Royal Engineers, who sketched the trade route such from Lachine (Montreal) to Lake Huron in 1841. Bainbrigge joined George Simpson’s Hudson’s Bay Company expedition “in order to survey the country with respect to the means of navigation” ([Simpson 1847, 13](#)). As part of

this expedition, Bainbrigge uncovered a map of the French River to Lake Nipissing sketched onto a birch tree by an Indigenous guide, which he removed without permission, and sent to the United Service Institution (USI) in London, England. In a racist fashion, Bainbrigge hoped “that it may show young officers how small an effort is needed to acquire that most useful art, Military Sketching, since even Savages can make an intelligible plan.”



**Fig. 1:** “Hudson Bay Canoes at Chats Falls on the Ottawa River, Canada,” by Philip John Bainbrigge (1817-1881) at the Library and Archives Canada, Acc. No. 1983-47-18.

The Nishinaabeg birch bark map – which reflects a long tradition of using birch bark to pass down intergenerational knowledge of the land among the Anishinaabeg peoples through scrolls and artwork since time immemorial – is now in the collections of the British Library, which holds the former map collection of the United Service Institution. Due to restrictions on travel, the Library provided members of Nipissing First Nation and Dokis First Nation with a high-resolution digital copy of the map in hopes that we can build on this research, and possibly work towards an exhibition at the Library in the coming years as part of relationship-building with the institution.

Working with Dokis First Nation and the Chicago Field Museum, “The Dead Island Repatriation Project: Bringing Our Ancestors Home,” speaks directly to the histories of our Western disciplines (i.e. geography, anthropology, history), which depended on observations and collections of natural history specimens, including Indigenous human remains. Justified in the name of science, British naval and army surgeons (and later American army





surgeons) unearthed burial grounds on Anishinaabeg traditional territory as part of their studies, which continued until the late nineteenth century, but within a different context.

In the early 1890s, Franz Boas (1858-1942), commonly known as the founder of American anthropology, led the physical anthropology section of the Anthropological Building for the World Columbian Exhibition in Chicago in 1893. Over the course of six months, the City of Chicago hosted 27 million visitors to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Christopher Columbus and his “discovery” of the New World. For the organizers of the exposition, it was an important event to narrate the progress of western civilization to the end of the twentieth century, and it included an anthropological pavilion to display the history of northern American Indigenous peoples (Greer 2017).

Ontario		
Names	Office	Address
James G. Thompson	Supt.	W. Hamilton
Chas. S. Thompson	Agent	Chatham
James Allen	Agent	Chatham
J. W. Thompson		Chatham
C. O. Thompson		Chatham
W. Van Allen	Asst.	Chatham
Matthew Bell		Chatham

New Brunswick		
Names	Office	Address
Chas. Sargent	Supt.	Chatham
James Farrell	Agent	Chatham

Prince Edward Island		
Names	Office	Address
John O. Asmus	Supt.	Chatham

**Fig. 2:** List of Indian Affairs Superintendents associated with T. Proctor Hall. The Dokis First Nation is in the process of community consultations with its members on the repatriation of the remains associated with the Boas collection.

Boas, who trained as a geographer in Germany prior to immigrating to the United States in the late 1880s, worked within this framework leading up to the World Fair (Powell 2015). Corresponding with Indian Affairs in 1891, Boas

requested assistance from the department to help gather measurements of the heads of Indigenous children, as well as to amass a collection of skulls. The department approved Boas’s request, and sent notices to the regional Superintendents, including to Thomas Walton, who oversaw the activities from Sault Ste Marie to Penetanguishene. As a result, a number of remains were taken from the French River and Georgian Bay region, and ended up in the collections of the Chicago Field Museum after the World Fair. Dokis First Nation is currently leading the repatriation process on behalf of, and with the endorsement of the First Nations in the region, and will be bringing their ancestors back home next summer.

These are just two examples of engaging in the praxis of repair-work and repatriation, which has taken on greater importance as part of our SSHRC Partnership Development Grant, *Reassembling Ontario’s “Near North”: Reparation through University-Museum-Indigenous Partnerships* (also known as *NBisiing Mii yi edebwetmaang*). Other interventions include repurposing historic aerial photographs to inform land claims, beading herbarium collections to decolonize and Indigenize plant specimens, and partnering with international museums to digitize materials connected to Nibisiing traditional territory such film footage from the 1920s of the Carnegie Museum Expeditions to northern Ontario at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

## Acknowledgements

Some of the research mentioned above is currently in review for publication.

I am grateful to be working in relationship with the following First Nation members from Dokis and Nipissing First Nations, and beyond. Miigwech to Randy Restoule, Joan McLeod Shabogiesic, Cindy Peltier, John Sawyer, Norm Dokis, Maurice Switzer, Alan Corbiere, Glenna Beaucage, Peter Beaucage, Chief Scott McLeod Shabogiesic, Chief Gerry Duquette, Suzanne Campeau Whiteduck, Aimee Bailey, Carrie Allison, and Wendy Mackoons Geniuz.

Historical geographers key to my academic training include Jeanne Kay Guelke (master’s supervisor), Laura Cameron and Joan Schwartz (doctoral supervisors), and David Lambert (host supervisor and post-doctoral mentor).



# A Brief Introduction to One More Voice, Fieldwork of Empire, and Livingstone Online

From the digital archives

**O**ne More Voice is a new digital humanities project that focuses on recovering non-European contributions from nineteenth-century British imperial and colonial archives. [Adrian S. Wisnicki, Associate Professor of English and Faculty Fellow in the Center for Digital Humanities Research at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln](#), serves as the lead developer of the project, a role that underscores his leadership in terms of both site scholarship and technical site development. The project also includes an internationally-distributed set of collaborators and, at present, works closely with [archives of SOAS, University of London and with the National Library of Scotland](#).

The project's name reflects the fact that there is always *one more voice* to recover from the archives, while the project's focus on *contributions* rather than *authorship* seeks to expand and diversify critical understanding of the materials that constitute colonial archives in the first place. In contrast to critical arguments that emphasize the lopsided, Eurocentric-nature of colonials archives or that highlight the many ways that the voices of the colonized have been silenced, [One More Voice](#) argues 1) that the archives of the British Empire contain a diverse array of voices hiding in plain sight, 2) that these voices can be recovered and made available for advanced critical study, but 3) that reference to these voices also requires a very cautious interpretive approach as the voices [often come down to us in a highly mediated form](#).

The technical form of *One More Voice* represents part of the project's critical intervention. The project is rooted in a

[minimal computing methodology](#), which means that the project foregoes a lot of bells and whistles usually associated with digital humanities projects. Instead, it concentrates on providing users with a simple but aesthetically pleasing interface and relies on a significantly reduced digital footprint. The latter makes the site easy to maintain long-term and ensures that it is equally accessible and useful for users with high-performance desktop computers and those working with mobile devices in limited bandwidth environments. In other words, the project seeks to extend its reach to diverse locations around the world, including the audiences whose literary heritage serves as its focus.

Although *One More Voice* only launched in June 2020, it has already published a handful of critical essays, digital editions of over thirty critically-edited [archival texts](#) (manuscripts and periodical press articles), over [forty artifact images](#), and extensive lists of [published works](#) by nineteenth-century non-European authors and [related critical works](#). Together this body of scholarship is beginning to dismantle the notion – particularly prevalent in Victorian literary studies – that scholars of nineteenth-century British imperial literature, history, geography and other fields have few alternatives for engaging with non-European voices. Through its DIY ethos, *One More Voice* also sets a model for developing innovative new scholarship under exceptionally limited research circumstances, such as those created by the present pandemic.

The project's critical emphasis and content also takes Dr. Wisnicki's prior, peer-reviewed print and digital scholarship in new directions. For



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## From the digital archives

instance, *One More Voice*'s emphasis on non-European voices grows directly out of research that Dr. Wisnicki developed for his recently published book project, [\*Fieldwork of Empire, 1840-1900: Intercultural Dynamics in the Production of British Expeditionary Literature\*](#) (Routledge, 2019). In that book, the outcome of nearly fifteen years of critical reflection and archival work, Dr. Wisnicki examined the impact of non-western cultural, political, and social forces and agencies on the production of British expeditionary literature.

*Fieldwork of Empire* thus took the works of well-known British explorers such as David Livingstone, Richard Burton, John Hanning Speke, Samuel White Baker, and others – writers whom critics often engage using frameworks rooted in colonial discourse analysis – and instead linked the literary production of the individuals to the nineteenth-century African cultural contexts in which the explorers traveled. Research for the book, in turn, turned up the work of some of the individuals that now features in *One More Voice*.

Additionally, *One More Voice* is also positioned as an “imprint” project of Dr. Wisnicki's other important digital humanities endeavor [\*Livingstone Online\*](#). *Livingstone Online* is a digital museum and library that focuses on a single individual – the iconic Victorian-era explorer and abolitionist David Livingstone (1813-73) – and seeks to restores Livingstone's written and visual legacies to the many international contexts in which he worked and continues to be remembered. The project, however, also acknowledges Livingstone's complex legacy and opens it to further [critical interrogation](#).

With a collection of nearly 15,000 high-resolution images, over 700 critical-edited transcriptions of manuscript texts, and an array of critical essays by a wide range of [project collaborators](#), *Livingstone Online* is the one of the largest projects on the internet dedicated to a Victorian-era British traveler to Africa. The project owes its scale to the integrated work of multiple project teams and the support of nearly fifty collaborating archives, including the Royal Geographical Society, a long-time project partner. The project also includes an assortment of materials that illuminate its own creation as a digital humanities endeavor and so that serve as [a rich methodological resource](#).

The site as a whole has been peer-reviewed by [NINES](#) and has received the prestigious [Seal](#) signifying an edition approved by the Modern Language Association's Committee on Scholarly Editions. Several editions published by the site, including two developed with the help of [advanced multispectral imaging technology](#) (these two editions focus on Livingstone's [1870](#) and [1871](#) Field Diaries respectively) have also received the MLA Seal.


*One More Voice* and *Livingstone Online* along with *Fieldwork of Empire* thus offer a unique critical intervention with resonance in a number of fields, including historical geography. The open access natures of the two websites, in turn, means that all the images, critical-edited transcriptions, critical essays, and other materials published by the sites are freely available to scholars around the world and so ready to support the development of new research by individuals and by teams working in multiple fields.

## Shelfie



### Shelfie

By Clair McDonald



**M**y approach to my PhD research hangs firmly on the books in this shelfie, which holds a triad of ideas centered on theories of archive, postcolonial-

ism, and the formation of landscape and society. These theories underpin my exploration of colonial geographies in Ireland, which I develop by investigating two former landed estates. The chosen case

## Shelfie



studies are the estates of the Cosby and Walsh-Kemmis families located in Stradbally, Co. Laois, the histories of which differ in respect of family origins, modes of acquisition of their lands, and longevity of connections with Stradbally. Yet there are remarkable similarities, both having retained ownership of core parts of their original estates and archives to the present day. This is highly unusual in the Irish context and makes Stradbally a unique place to examine the ways in which colonialism was experienced in Ireland over a sustained period and within a defined spatial setting from c. 1640 to the early twentieth century. I propose that colonial experiences can be read in the practices of landlordism, which in turn were reflected in the formation of landscape, society, and archive, an approach that is founded on the texts in this shelfie.

### **Colonial experiences in the formation of archive, landscape, and society at Stradbally**

In the first of my three-pillared approach, I have been influenced by literature centred on the 'archival turn' or that which understands the archive as a process or object of study in and of itself. While exploring several texts in this field of study within the wider humanities I have included *Dust* by Carolyn Steedman (2001) on my shelfie because it opened views that enabled me to consider what archives 'are' and how we 'use' them. Though written about history

these are important questions for the historical geographer. Steedman takes the legal system in eighteenth-century England, for example, and examines how poor law magistrates recorded in writing the verbal accounts of others, then filed and held them. She suggests this kind of 'enforced narration' can be revealing when one considers the 'sites' of the storytelling. That documents and papers find themselves in the archive, intentionally or otherwise, is an important point to make, as archives hold both the official documents of state as well as stories of the poor. The magistrate recorded the events, and this can make clear why and how the archive formed as it did. Steedman thus considers the contextualisation of the archive, a significant idea within archival studies that has been advanced by another key theorist, Eric Ketelaar (2006). Ketelaar's chapter '*Writing on archiving machines*' bolsters this shelfie in spirit as I do not have a physical copy at hand, but his writing has undoubtedly directed my research. He has argued for examining both the document content as well as the processes involved in that document's creation, which shifts emphasis from the archive as a product to the archive as a process. Like Steedman, these ideas suggest the record started elsewhere and thus had a former life and with it, meaning. This mode of thinking - that things ended up in the archive, or not - is fundamental to my research into the colonial world of landed Ireland. This world



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was hierarchical in nature and unequal in weighting whereby landlords monopolised land, and in turn, controlled people occupying it. But within this, there has been little exploration into the role of the landed archives in servicing the landlord's colonial agenda. Considering the archives as both product and process, what should we be asking about the decisions, intentions, and motivations for creating, minding, and keeping records on these landed estates? Equally, what are the ways in which the archive can be read to bring forgotten, invisible, or unheard voices to the fore? How can we explore the landed archive to cast light on the powerful who produced them, while simultaneously seeking out those hidden by their shadow?

The second pillar in my research approach rests on postcolonial theory. In exploring the ways in which such theories could inform my research, international and national perspectives were reviewed from historical geography and the wider humanities. Joe Cleary's chapter, '*Misplaced ideas? colonialism, location and dislocation in Irish studies*' (2003), investigates in the Irish context the ways in which colonialism was practiced. Cleary argues for Ireland's colonial past and discusses a British colonial ideology that influenced the direction of Irish economy and culture. I consider how colonial ideology was practiced on the ground through the landed estate by landlords who implemented colonial ideals of civility, improvement, modernity, and progress. Building on this I also draw from William J. Smyth's *Map-making, landscape and memory: a geography of colonial and early modern c. 1530-1750* (2006), which investigates the ideas of binaries and differences in Ireland's past. Smyth's ideas draw from the canons of postcolonial critique, such as Edward Said's *Orientalism*, whose colonial discourse analysis spoke to geographers. In the colonial world literary texts and maps were fundamental in supporting the creation of imagined geographies founded on colonial agendas intent on power, control, and hegemony. Smyth has charted methods that enable me to examine the material and physical world for the ways in which Stradbally may have been imagined and conceived during the landed era. Within this too, I also consider Cleary's

views on the hybridity of Ireland's landed society, which is a revisionist, postcolonial view that sees societal relationships as more nuanced than is often presented. Unveiling this complexity within the landed world in Ireland is a key aim of my research.

This point then moves into the third pillar upon which my research rests. For this, I build on the preceding postcolonial readings of the landed estate by drawing from landscape theory and the links made between landscape and social relations. In the latter instance I refer to the relationships between those various hierarchical groups that formed landed society. In this, I am directed by the ideas of hybridity within this society and draw from W. E. Vaughan's pioneering study of the relationships between landlords and tenants in Ireland. *Landlords and tenants in mid-Victorian Ireland* (1994) challenged the simple binary view of the powerful landlord and the oppressed tenant and my research seeks to examine his ideas to illuminate our understanding of the ways in which society was structured at Stradbally. I ask questions about the evidence of clear divisions within and between the classes, for example, considering where and how contact or separation could be found between groups? In support of this I draw from Denis E. Cosgrove's *Social formation and symbolic landscape* (1998) (the introduction of which is found in *Landscape theory* in the photograph). This is important as it uses landscape as a discourse that enables a study of social groups and their relations both with the land and with other groups. My aim is to consider how these texts read society to elucidate the circumstances that led to class formation within the locality and locate these in their socio-spatial settings for an analysis of colonial encounters and experiences. Some ways to explore this would be to understand how landscape, architecture, material culture and urban design were influenced by broader 'official' ideologies and how these, in turn, influenced landed activities on the ground that shaped Ireland's urban and rural landscapes and their societies.

### **Moving forward**

By drawing together three strands from these key theorists my research addresses



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## Shelfie

questions relating to the socio-spatial nature of Stradbally's colonial experience within an approach underpinned by post-colonial perspectives on the formation of landscape and society with reference to the 'archival turn'. Important within this are the methods for researching two archives, one catalogued, the other unsorted, both housed in location and both with unique histories set within one locality for over three hundred years. These case studies offer a rare opportunity for examining colonial geographies within a local setting for a sustained period and so can

enable commentary on their ultimate survival during and after the landed era in Ireland, which is a new focus of my research moving forward.

**Clair McDonald is a 3<sup>rd</sup> year PhD student at the School of History and Geography, Dublin City University, Ireland. Clair is supervised by Dr Jonathan Cherry.**

## Notices



### Launch of New Online Resources for Historical Geographers

#### **Empires Trees Climate**

The [Empires Trees Climate](#) HGIS prototype examines how forests and climates were conceived in the age of empire and sail, and how flows of timber were shaped by imperial expansion and colonization.

Using ESRI Story Maps, the site tells a story of interdisciplinary collaboration and a methodology in *critical dendroprovenancing*, which combines the technique of dendroprovenancing to locate the origins of timbers used in the construction of buildings and ships in the British North Atlantic; and a critical historical and geographical analysis to examine why and by whom such buildings and ships were constructed (i.e. enslaved labour, imperial defence).

The project focuses mainly on Bermuda and its connections to British North America as part of the 19<sup>th</sup>-century British Empire. The research team comprised of historical geographers and physical geographers, as well as scholars from other disciplines such as history and marine archaeology.

In partnership with the National Museum of Bermuda, Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Bermuda, Ingenium: Canada's Museums of Science and Innovation, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, this project was funded by a Social Science and Humanities Insight Development Grant and the Canada Research Chair in Global Environmental Histories and Geographies at Nipissing University.

#### **Historical Geographies of Extreme Weather Events**

The [Historical Geographies of Extreme Weather Events](#) HGIS prototype extends [Empires Trees Climate](#) by retracing the 1839 Hurricane in the British North Atlantic using narrative and an interactive display of archival records. This reanalysis by a historical climatologist is the first that specifically analyses the intensity of the storm, using all available data covering a region from the eastern United States to Maritime Canada, the Caribbean Sea, and into the western North Atlantic to about 55° W longitude.

Data to support the projects comes from ship logbooks, newspapers, instrumental records, and letters/government documents.



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## Notices

### British Commission for Maritime History

MA Dissertation Prize 2020

In these difficult times for students everywhere, the British Commission for Maritime History (BCMh) wishes to maintain its support and encouragement for them. We hope that you will consider an appropriate nomination from your department for our Masters Dissertation Prize.

The Masters Dissertation Prize is an annual prize of £100 awarded for the outstanding dissertation on maritime history of the year. Subjects eligible for consideration reflect the Commission's view of maritime history as a wide-ranging discipline. The dissertation must have been assessed as part of a Masters degree and awarded during the previous academic year (the degree must have been awarded during 2019-20). Dissertations awarded distinction marks of 70+ are eligible for consideration. The Prize will be awarded in March 2021.

Institutions may only submit one dissertation to the competition. Nominations must be made by Heads of Department or equivalent.

Nominations should be submitted electronically to Professor Richard Harding, Vice President of the British Commission for Maritime History ([hardinr@westminster.ac.uk](mailto:hardinr@westminster.ac.uk)). They should include:-

- The name of the prize candidate, the title of the dissertation, the awarding university and the date of the award.
- An electronic copy of the dissertation
- A covering letter from the Head of Department or equivalent of no more than 500 words stating why the dissertation is so outstanding that it should be considered for a prize.
- Contact details for the candidate and the Head of Department

The closing date for nominations for the 2020 prize is 11th January 2021.



# SEMINAR PROGRAMMES

## London Group of Historical Geographers

### Seminar Programme

#### Autumn Term 2020

##### Re-encounters

6 October 2020 **Dominik Hünninger** (University of Hamburg)  
Collection ecologies: human-insect encounters in Joseph Banks's knowledge network

20 October 2020 **Archie Davies** (University of Sheffield)  
Missing encounters? Translation and Brazilian critical geography, 1946–1978 (and today)

3 November 2020 **Jake Subryan Richards** (London School of Economics)  
Violent abolition: encounters and authority at the end of the Brazilian slave trade

17 November 2020 **David Gange** (University of Birmingham)  
“At this world's edge”: researching small-boat histories in the North Atlantic

1 December 2020 **Rachel Lee** (Delft University of Technology)  
Transnational encounters: tropical architecture between Bavaria and Tanzania

#### Spring Term 2021

##### Translation and Circulation

19 January 2021 **Iolanda Plescia** (Sapienza University of Rome)  
Transit and translation: Galileo in England, 1660–1685.

2 February 2021 **Susan Pickford** (Sorbonne University)  
Translation and travel writing.

16 February 2021 **Peter R. Martin** (University of Cambridge)  
Arctic silence in circulation: mediating Inuit geographical knowledge.

2 March 2021 **Alison E. Martin** (Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz)  
Managing in translation: Alexander von Humboldt's works in 19th-century Britain.

16 March 2021 **Isabella Alexander** (University of Technology Sydney)  
Copyright, maps and the circulation of geographical knowledge in 18th-century Britain.

Seminars take place online at **17:30 UK time**. Register at <https://www.history.ac.uk/seminars/london-group-historical-geographers>. Details about how to join the seminar, which will be hosted on Zoom, will be circulated via email to registered attendees 24 hours in advance. The event's online waiting room will be open 15 minutes prior to the advertised start time.

Please [subscribe to our mailing list](#) to keep up-to-date with our activities or take a look at our [archive of previous talks](#).







## Seminar Series

## 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).

### 2020

October 22 PJ Mode (Collector and Researcher, Curator of the Persuasive Maps Collection, Cornell University Library, Ithaca, NY, USA). 'Persuasive Cartography: Art, Science and Deception'.

December 10 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'.

### 2021

January 21 Dr Radu Leca (Postdoctoral Research Associate, Heidelberg University, Germany). 'Bathymetric Maps of Tokyo Bay: A Transnational History'.

February 18 Dr Megan Barford (Curator of Cartography, Royal Museums Greenwich, London. Hakluyt Society Speaker). 'Map Collecting at the National Maritime Museum: Histories and Futures'.

April 29 Dr Djoeke van Netten (Department of History, University of Amsterdam). 'The Landscape and the Ship: Mapping Seventeenth Century Naval Battles'.

May 27 Dr Angelo Cattaneo (Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, Rome). 'What Is a Map? The Case of Fra Mauro's Mappamundi: Author's Intentions, Modern Receptions'.

For the 2020-2021 academic year all will be virtual meetings (via Zoom) unless otherwise informed. Details of how to register can be found [online](#).



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HGRG Newsletter, Autumn 2020





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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