

HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF GEOGRAPHY RESEARCH GROUP

*Royal Geographical Society
with the Institute of British Geographers*

Newsletter

November 1998

In this edition

Conference Reports

- Postcolonial Geographies
- 'Around the World'

Calls for Papers

- Generation(s) of Change
- Cinema and the City
- Crossing the Boundaries: Fluid
- Myth and Scientific Knowledge
- New York, Chicago, Los Angeles
- The Idea of Heritage
- City as Text
- Frontiers of memory

Forthcoming HPGRG Meetings

- RGS-IBG Annual Meeting 1999
- Field-work in Geography

Other Forthcoming Meetings

- Space: Narrative and Image
- IGU Workshop
- London Group Seminars
- Philosophy and the Feminine
- Theorising Time and Space
- Landscapes of Memory
- Oslo Congress 2000

New Books

IGU Web Page

Memorial Scholarship for Suzanne Mackenzie

Please send any material for inclusion in the Newsletter, and any suggestions for future content, to the editor

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CONFERENCE REPORTS

POSTCOLONIAL GEOGRAPHIES

HPGRG Conference, University of Southampton, June 25-26th 1998

The two-day Postcolonial Geographies conference sponsored by the HPGRG was hosted by the Geography Department of the University of Southampton in June. Organised by Drs Alison Blunt and Cheryl McEwan the conference attracted an international group of scholars interested in a diverse range of issues connected with Postcolonial thought both within the discipline of Geography and extending to History and Cultural Studies. Run in single sessions, 21 papers were presented including the Plenary given by Dipesh Chakrabarty and three keynote speakers - Morag Bell, James Duncan and Jennifer Robinson. This review focuses only on a few papers as a way of giving the flavour of the event. The conference was divided into seven themed sessions comprising of up to four papers. The sessions were Imaginative Geographies of Empire; Inscribing Nations, Territories and Regions; Decolonizing Minds and Bodies; Postcolonial Travels; Postcolonial Popular Cultures; Postcolonial Urban Spaces; and Postcolonial Geographies. The single session organisation of the conference fostered lively discussion and throughout the two days discussion points were drawn from previous papers and developed. The organisers should be thanked for creating an atmosphere that was conducive to social and intellectual interaction.

In the opening plenary Dipesh Chakrabarty from Department of History, University of Chicago and one of the founding members of the subaltern studies group attacked the historicist habit of contemporary theory. In a very challenging paper he urged a greater consideration of Marx's notion of history in postcolonial theory. In the first session of the conference James Ryan delicately kept the critical appraisal of the Royal Geographical Society alive whilst introducing a theme which was to re-emerge throughout the conference concerning the politics of displaying and curating. Ryan compared two recent displays of photographs from the RGS archive: the first concerned a recent though under-advertised exhibition sponsored by the RGS titled "Photos and Phantasms" which attempted a positive, critical re-engagement of photographs of Jamaica held by the RGS taken by Harry Johnston. In contrast, Ryan introduced the second example - a coffee table book of photographs from the RGS which offers an uncritical, "National Geographic" style-view of the unusual people and places of the world, including a selection of the President's favourite images of Memsahibs viewing the landscape and a Southern Seas beauty.

In the second session titled 'Inscribing Nations, Territories and Regions', Andrew Crampton presented a paper entitled *Monumentalising a nation: the Voortrekker monument and the birth of Apartheid*. This paper analysed the different discourses embedded in the monument that was opened in 1949 following Independence from Britain. Crampton argued that the discourses connected to the monument which were concerned with building a new nation were predicated on a continuation of racial exclusion from the ideas of Nationhood. This paper led to a continuation of discussion from Ryan's paper concerning our response to the remnants of empire, be they photographs or monuments, and how we are to deal with memory without "air-brushing out history". A second paper which drew on colonial representations through photography was presented by John Bale in the third session and entitled *Jumping the gun: the impact of imperialism on a non-western body culture*. This paper focused

on the emphasis found within Western photographic representations of the Tutsi in Rwanda and Burundi in the early 20th Century on "corporeality and athleticism". In his analysis of the appropriation of Tutsi body culture by Europeans, Bale focussed on the Tutsi cultural practice of *gusimbuka* which became appropriated by the Europeans as a similar practice to "high jumping". In one section of his paper Bale explored the ways in which the racial superiority of Europeans was sustained despite the activity of *gusimbuka* being so similar to high jumping.

The session entitled "Post-colonial Travels" offered four stimulating papers, including a keynote presented by James Duncan who explored hybridity within the landscape of Kandy in the highlands of Ceylon. Duncan first examined the response of tourists and short term visitors who responded aesthetically to the picturesque environment they found in the Anglicised hill stations away from the degradation of the plains. Secondly Duncan focused on the response to the landscape of second generation settlers who were more concerned with environmental determinism and cultural degradation and the fear of colonial rebellion. Duncan offered a series of vignettes around the issue of hybridity which were particularly concerned about how hybridity worked in a specific place, stressing that the responses of tourists and settlers required the place to exist for the imaginary to take place. John Wylie from the University of Bristol presented a compelling paper entitled *Toward no earthly pole: Antarctica and the practice of imperial imaginaries*. This paper tracked the race between Scott and Amundsen to the South Pole exploring the embodied practice of landscape, looking at how each team enacted the landscape, questioning their styles of dwelling and examining the different practices of imperial travel. The word "imagination" had already been picked up within the conference generally as a key word in modern criticism that needed to be opened up in the same as "community". Wylie argued that both explorers had "imperial imaginaries" which dictated the embodied practices of landscape. Georgina Gowans from the University of Southampton explored the complex interaction between travel, dwelling and mobility by looking at British women's experiences of having to leave India on Independence to come "home" to Britain. By drawing on memoirs and letters Gowans explored the significance of terms such as "home" "return" and the ambiguity of positionality associated with a sense of belonging.

Pre-lunch pop-corn was distributed by Rajinder Kumar Dudrah in preparation for his paper *Vilevati Bollywood: decolonisation in popular Hindi films in Birmingham*. Arguing that Bollywood films have received little critical attention, this paper first offered a history of the Indian film industry and, secondly, introduced a research project that would analyse the engagement of the British South Asian Diaspora living in Britain with Bollywood films and their relation to the realisation of a South Asian identity. Jennifer Robinson's keynote paper began by looking at the challenges of the political project of Postcolonialism, looking at the challenge to historians who are in the process of writing a postcolonial, post-apartheid history. Robinson suggested that by looking at the experiences of separation and division it is necessary to have a 'remembering' of different kinds of spatiality. Robinson drew on a close analysis of the 1936 Empire Exhibition held in Johannesburg to expose a history where there was a desire for the possibilities of interaction with different peoples. Mark McGuinness from the University of Birmingham presented one of two papers in the final "Postcolonial Geographies" session that specifically focused on the challenges facing Geography's engagement with postcolonial literature. He critiqued recent work in Geography that focused on hybridity and community, looking at the interface between local and global relations.

McGuinness argued that although we may be able to look at spaces of hybridity within the cities geographers have been looking with a "white eye", and have failed to take into account spaces of whiteness.

Although this review has touched on only a few papers, the conference was impressive in the quality of papers and the breadth of research. It was encouraging to see that the Postcolonial Geographies attracted an international and interdisciplinary audience that contributed to a very rewarding conference.

Nicola Thomas, School of Geography, University of Oxford

AROUND THE WORLD: THE CIRCULATION OF IDEAS IN THE HISTORY OF GEOGRAPHICAL THOUGHT

A Meeting of the International Geographical Union Commission on the History and Philosophy of Geography, Lisbon, August 1998

The interim regional meeting of the IGU was accompanied this year as usual by a series of specialised commission-organised symposia, which this year - again as usual - significantly outshone the meeting itself in terms of enthusiasm and quality. The meeting of the Commission on the History of Geographic Thought was a particularly successful event, attracting over 50 participants and over 30 papers. Undaunted by the sweltering late-summer temperatures of Lisbon and the lack of any ventilation whatsoever in the conference hall, participants met over 21/2 days to share analyses and insights.

The themes engaged in the individual papers were broad-ranging, and can be grouped roughly into five categories. A series of papers dealt broadly with various aspects of the problem of the perception and signification of nature, ranging from the connections between the Romantic movement and conservation (J.Gomez-Mendoza) to concepts of forestry in early-modern France and Germany (J.Puyo) and ideas of the natural world in Zionist geography (I.Schnell). A number of participants considered various issues in the history of academic geography, including Orientalism and the Vidal school (G.Mercier), geographical ideas in Japan (H.Nozawa), and reciprocal influences in French-Anglophone geography since the 1950s (J-F Staszak). Particular interest was excited by a paper on Richard Hartshorne (U.Wardenga and F.Harvey), which occasioned some rather impassioned commentary from those who had known the American geographer personally. Perhaps the largest number of papers dealt with the themes of exploration and travel. These included perceptions on the part of visitors and foreign societies (C. Gil de Arriba, K. Takeuchi, L. Martins, A. Bopda), the "scientific" practice of the explorer (H.Gorem, F.Driver, I.Surun), and the writing of the exploration experience (D. Laplace, N.Cantero). The problem of the credibility of unverifiable travellers' accounts - the so-called "geography of trust" - was addressed (C.Withers), with an effort of integrate work done on this question in the philosophy of science. A fourth theme was the perennial problem of the region, with contributions on the regional concept in Portuguese geography (F. Alexandre) and the region and the city (M-C. Robic). Finally, a small number of papers addressed geographical dimensions of the problem of identity, looking variously at the role of geographical science in the construction of substate nationalism in Galicia (J. Garcia Alvarez) and the articulation of a feminist identity in the writings of women travellers (D. Garcia Ramon).

It is particularly encouraging that the symposium benefited from an unprecedented attendance from the UK (4 individuals). This hopefully points the way to a leaping of language and other barriers in the future, and for closer co-operation with the activities of the Commission. Possibilities for organising specialised workshops etc. were discussed at the business meeting of the Commission and informally; the IBG might have a role to play here.

Upcoming meetings of the Commission include:

- Leipzig, 15-18 January 1999: "The Use of Archival Material for Research in the History of Geographic Thought"
- Yaounde, Cameroon, Summer 1999: "Myth in the History of Geographic Thought"
- Chongju, Korea, Summer 2000: Congress of the IGU

Mark Bassin, University College London

CALLS FOR PAPERS

1. GENERATION(S) OF CHANGE

*Fourth Annual Women's Studies Conference, March 4th-6th, 1999
Valdosta State University, Valdosta, Georgia, USA*

Educators, students, community activists, theorists, and all proponents of social change are invited to submit proposals for papers, workshops, roundtables, complete panels (3-4 papers), and performances examining the generation of change and the changing generations. Please note that topics are not limited to academic presentations only. Creative submissions in various media are encouraged. Complete performance pieces (short stories, poetry, dramatic and artistic presentations) and proposals for academic papers must be postmarked by November 27, 1998. E-mail submissions are acceptable.

Feminist theories continually challenge canonical disciplinary paradigms from the "transcendental ego" of philosophy to the "detached observer" of science. Even the metaphors of personal identity have been shaken by such 'shape-shifters' as Donna Haraway and Judith Butler. The theme of this year's conference is designed to elicit thoughts on how women have been both agents and beneficiaries of change. Proposers might consider the following subject areas:

- historical or recent changes within the feminist movement,
- the growing polyvocality within feminism
- the alliance of feminism with postmodernism and post-colonialism
- the impact of new ideas of "personhood" on the academy and other educational systems
- transformations toward economic, social, and political equality for women of color
- the changes in the professions - business, law, medicine, and science-caused by the insistence for equality

- religion, women and change
- third wave feminism

Notification of papers' acceptance will be made by December 15, 1998. A registration form and general conference information will be included with your acceptance letter. All inquiries, correspondence, and submissions should be addressed to:

A.V. (Wiki) Soady, Director of Women's Studies, Valdosta State University, Valdosta, GA 31698; vsoady@valdosta.edu; (912) 249-4842 FAX:(912)293-6300

2. CINEMA AND THE CITY:

University College Dublin, March 12th - 14th 1999

In the final year of the millenium, the conference will examine the history of representations of urban space in narrative cinema (broadly defined), the relationship between cinema and architecture, the modern and post-modern city, urban alienation, social conflict, and escapism. It will analyse the city in narrative cinema as a site of play, wonder and magic, social cohesion and productivity, focusing, for example, on the suburban family home as a zone of stability and harmony. It will also examine the city in narrative cinema as a space of ideological conflict between, for example, corporate, military and governmental power and radical social formations, subcultures and the underclass. The conference will seek to explore and define likely representations of the city in these terms in the 21st century.

Proposals for papers are invited in the following areas:

- Cinema, Architecture, and Capitalism
- The Human Body in the City
- Mobility, Escape, and Urban Alienation
- Utopian and Dystopian Visions of Urban Space
- The City and the Country - the Natural vs. the Built-Environment
- Suburbia and the Cinema - Histories and Representations
- Local histories of particular film industries and their home cities
- The City as Cinema Marketplace - Reception and Consumption

Papers will be of 30 minutes duration each. Additionally, there will be one graduate session in which papers will be of 20 minutes duration each. It is anticipated that selected papers from the conference will be published in book form. Further details will be available shortly. Abstracts of 300 words should be addressed to the conference organisers at the following address, to arrive no later than 20 November 1998:

Mark Shiel and Tony Fitzmaurice, The Cinema and the City Conference, Centre for Film Studies, University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4, Ireland.
Abstracts will also be accepted by e-mail to the following address: mashiel@ollamh.ucd.ie

Conference website: <http://www.ucd.ie/~film/conf.htm>

3. CROSSING THE BOUNDARIES VII: FLUID

*An interdisciplinary graduate student conference, March 26-27, 1999
SUNY Binghamton, NY, USA*

The theme for this year's conference is "FLUID." The collective of the 7th annual international Crossing the Boundaries conference invites graduate students from various cultural spaces and different academic disciplines to explore "fluid" as a theme in contemporary academic practice. We invite paper and panel proposals, as well as visual presentations such as video and performance art. We encourage submissions that relate to a wide variety of historical periods and geographic locations.

Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

representations of liquid	fluid as metaphor
identities: cyber, gendered, racial, national	Being
cosmology	transmission of disease
medieval humours	regulation
the abject	bath houses
public fountains and pools	aqueducts
sewage systems, drainage	travel, immigration, migration
transnationalism: circuits of communication, circuits of commodities	

Submit one page (250 word) abstracts, presentation or panel proposals by January 15, 1999 by mail to: Crossing The Boundaries VII, c/o Sarah Bassnett, Art History Department, Box 6000, SUNY Binghamton, NY, USA 13902; email bg23750@binghamton.edu

4. MYTH AND SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE IN THE HISTORY OF GEOGRAPHICAL THOUGHT

IGU Symposium, Cameroon, 4 days, Summer 1999

Preliminary Version of the Call for Papers

The aim of this conference is to show that there exists conflicting views on the complementarity between Scientific thought and Mythic thought. Papers are invited which clarify the epistemological challenges that the connection between the two types of thought constitute. Three main themes will structure the debate:

1. Myths in the main streams of thought in which Geography has participated (e.g. 'founding myths');
2. The elimination (or the putting in brackets) of the importance of myths during the creation of the discipline of Geography;
3. The pros and cons of scientific thinking in conceptualising Cultural Geography or the domain of mythical thought.

Scientific Co-organisers: Athanese Bopda (Cameroon)
Angelo Turco (Italy)

Local Organiser: Athanese Bopda

5. NEW YORK, CHICAGO, LOS ANGELES: CULTURES AND REPRESENTATIONS
University of Birmingham, U.K. September 3rd-4th, 1999

As part of the HRB-funded *Three Cities: New York, Chicago and Los Angeles* project we are pleased to announce a call for papers for our second international conference, to be held on September 3rd-4th, 1999 at the University of Birmingham. The project, a collaborative venture based at the Universities of Birmingham and Nottingham is pioneering interdisciplinary work on the study of urban formations and representations, focused on New York, Chicago and Los Angeles in the modern period. A primary aim of the project is to foster national and international collaborative links between researchers working on these cities from the broadest range of disciplinary approaches. As part of this initiative we invite papers from scholars working on our focus cities in any period and from any disciplinary orientation. The project is developing the use of multimedia in the study of urban formations, visual, literary and cultural representations of urban space and urban theory and we would particularly welcome papers that seek to utilise or address the use of new technologies for the study of city spaces. The project members and many of our associates work on representations of urban space in literature, photography, fine art, maps, architecture, popular art, advertising, television and film and many draw on contemporary work in urban and visual theory, cultural studies and cultural geography. We would be pleased to see papers reflecting these emphases. However, the project also has an historical and material aspect to it and we would particularly encourage scholars from disciplines such as history, social science, urban planning and architecture to submit papers in order that different standpoints and approaches may be brought into productive dialogue with one another. Likewise, though the primary foci of the conference will be the cities of New York, Chicago and Los Angeles we welcome comparative papers that set these cities in a wider national or international context.

Papers should generally be 25-30 minutes in length. We are open to papers that think creatively about the paper presentation—whether this is through the use of video, computer or visual presentation. We also welcome proposals for whole panels, short roundtable discussion panels, or presentation and response sessions. Plenary speakers for the conference (one to be focused on each city) will be announced mid-December. The deadline for proposals is March 1st, and proposers will be informed of their acceptance by April 1st. Proposals should be submitted on paper and disc and should be no more than 300 words in length. The proposal should be accompanied by a covering letter detailing institutional affiliation (where appropriate), contact address and where possible email address. Proposals can also be submitted electronically to Dr Maria Balshaw at M.J.Balshaw@bham.ac.uk

Details on conference cost, registration and accommodation will be announced mid-December. For further details and enquiries please contact Dr Maria Balshaw at The Department of American and Canadian Studies, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham, United Kingdom. Telephone: 0121 414 3274 Fax: 0121 4146866

Information on the conference and further details on the Three Cities project can be found on our project web site at: <http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/3cities/>

6. THE IDEA OF HERITAGE: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE
London Guildhall University, September 7th - 9th 1999

'All at once heritage is everywhere'. It mobilizes individuals and communities, localities and nations. Whether structured by the media or museums, monuments or monographs, memory or landscape, it shaped our very identities. As an activity, 'pastifying' has become at the same time a hobby and an industry. It generates 'unofficial knowledge' at the hands of metal detectorists and amateur family historians, but also hegemonic accounts of the past when authored by the National Trust or UNESCO. But just what status should such heritage narratives enjoy? Are they a product of late capitalism and industrial decline or are they the latest chapter in a ceaseless dialogue with the past whose origins lie beyond both Europe and the Christian era and whose future development can only be guessed at? Put another way, if the history of heritage and the heritage of history were examined side-by-side, who, with confidence, could always distinguish between 'official' accounts of the past and 'unofficial' ones, elite from popular historical consciousness? Keynote speakers will include Celia Applegate, John Arnold, Neal Ascherson, Sultan Barakat, Peter Burke, Chris Miele, Patrick Wright, Maria Wyke.

Proposals for papers of 30-minuted duration should be sent to Simon Ditchfield, Heritage Studies as Applied History Project, University of York, King's Manor, York YO1 7EP; phone/fax 01904 433966; email: srd5@york.ac.uk by January 30th 1999.

7. CITY AS TEXT: URBAN TOPOGRAPHIES AND CRITICAL INTERVENTIONS
8th-10th September 1999, Department of English Language and Literature, National University of Singapore

First Call for Papers:

In the third of the Department's biennial series of conferences on "Meaning as Production", the phenomena characterizing our lived urban experiences will be explored from the perspectives of literature, architecture, geography, sociology and linguistic and cultural studies. By recognizing the city as text, we hope to foster critical interventions that will be at once spatio-temporal and figurative: a double topography, alert to the complex dialectic of the urban and the textual. Accordingly, relevant topics for the conference include:

Neighbourhoods, Ghettos, Enclaves and Slums	Noise
Undergrounds and the Unconscious of the City	Pathways and Passages
Consumption and Space	Subcultures
Urban Literature	Graffiti: Patterns and Languages
Urban Communications: Language and Media	Travel, Tourism and Text
Surveillance and Power	The "Virtual" City
Wandering: the "Meander Tale"	Organism, Tradition, Change
Urbanism, Theatricality and Performances	

Panels are currently envisaged on the following topics, and suggestions for others are welcome:

Walter Benjamin and the City
Joyce and Urban Literature
Narrativizing/Representing the City: Theories and Topics

If you wish to present a paper, join a panel, or simply know more about the conference, kindly direct your enquiries to:

Dr. Robbie Goh, Department of English Language and Literature,
National University of Singapore, 10 Kent Ridge Crescent, Singapore 119260.
Tel: (65) 8746033 - Fax: (65) 7732981 - E-Mail: ellgohbh@nus.edu.sg

8. FRONTIERS OF MEMORY

Institute of Education, London, September 17th-19th, 1999

Speakers: Paul Antze, Miriam Hansen, Annette Kuhn, Michael Lambek, Luisa Passerini, Richard Terdiman, Allan Young.

In the last decade or so, work centered around the idea of memory has come to prominence across a wide range of disciplines: history, literature, philosophy, anthropology and cultural studies have placed memory at the heart of their various interrogations of subjectivity, narrative time and imagination. At the same time, memory has also become omnipresent in the wider culture. We believe that the time is now right to review this work within a broad, inclusive and interdisciplinary context, to allow an engagement with memory in all these aspects, delineating the contours of memory as it is presently constituted in a wide variety of disciplines and discourses, and mapping out future paths for exploration.

Themes will include:

- Spaces of Memory (memory and places, 'les lieux de memoire', public and private memory, the place of the nation)
- Times of Memory (histories of memory, memory and temporality, memory's time/s)
- Regimes of Memory (disciplinary constructions and deployments of memory: science, law, medicine, psychology, psychoanalysis; epistemologies of memory)
- The Stuff of Memory (material memories, textual memory)
- Subjects of Memory (identity politics, subjectivity and memory, memory/fantasy, memory and narrative)
- Cultures of Memory (heritage culture, 'hystories', recovered memory, 'roots' culture)

Send abstracts (c. 300 words) by December 1st to:

Yvette Fitzgerald, Dept of Cultural Studies, University of East London, Longbridge Road, Dagenham, Essex RM8 2AS, United Kingdom; Tel: 0181 8493545, Fax: 0181 8493598

Further enquiries to conference organisers:

Kate Hodgkin or Susannah Radstone (address as above)
E-mail: K.Hodgkin@uel.ac.uk S.Radstone@uel.ac.uk

FORTHCOMING HPGRG MEETINGS

1. HPGRG SESSIONS AT THE RGS-IBG ANNUAL CONFERENCE, UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER, JANUARY 4TH - 7TH 1999

• FEMINISMS AND GEOGRAPHIES: THEORETICAL ORIENTATIONS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

History and Philosophy of Geography Research Group and the Women and Geography Study Group

Convenors: Alison Blunt, University of Southampton and Cheryl McEwan, University of Birmingham

For many feminists, clear tensions exist between recognising both gender and subjectivity as constructed and the strategic need to assert gendered subjectivity. Such tensions are increasingly articulated in spatial terms whereby gendered subjectivity both repeats and yet denies its grounded confinement. Spatial notions of subjectivity have inscribed gender in more contingent, unstable and decentred terms. At the same time, spatial notions of subjectivity have also led to an increasing call for materially grounded representations of subjectivity and feminist politics. This session traces the interplay of feminisms and geographies by focusing on representations of subjectivity both in place and across space. It addresses theoretical concerns with reference to material examples, including studies of bodies, homes, and worlds; transnational representations of subjectivity; images of mobility and displacement; and the spatial performativity of subjectivity. The session considers the ways in which spatial inscriptions of subjectivity can be grounded and located in ways that resist confinement. As such, the session examines the theoretical orientations and future directions of feminisms, geographies, and the crucial links between them.

Module 1: Subjects and Positions

Chair: Cheryl McEwan, University of Birmingham

Feminist futures: differences and similarities in gendered subjectivities. Cheryl Gower, Rutgers University, New Jersey (USA)

Spaces of subjectivity: between psychotherapy and personal experience. Liz Bondi, University of Edinburgh

Feminist geographies of hybridity: Anglo-Indian women and the spatial politics of home. Alison Blunt, University of Southampton

Module 2: Theory and Practice

Chair: Tracey Skelton, Nottingham Trent University

Feminist histories of geography. Avril Mander, University of Oxford

Asking the 'right question'. Parvati Raghuram, Nottingham Trent University

Working with notions of difference and inequality: comments from a study of racialised gendering in the labour market. Sophia Bowlby, Sally Lloyd-Evans and Clare Roche, University of Reading

Module 3: Bodies and Representation

Chair: Alison Blunt, University of Southampton

Placing bodily pleasures: Gay Pride parades as heterosexualised tourist spectacles. Lynda Johnston, University of Edinburgh

Identity crisis: a place for 'women' in geographical research? Lisa Doyle, University of Reading
Lost in (third) space?: the possibilities and problematics of postcolonial feminist geographies. Cheryl McEwan, University of Birmingham

- **BETWEEN PROMETHEUS AND THE PASTORAL: LOOKING AT NATURE THROUGH THE LENS OF MODERNIST AESTHETICS**
History and Philosophy of Geography Research Group and the Environmental Research Group
Convenors: Mark Bassin and Matthew Gandy, University College London

Module 1

Chair: Mark Bassin, University College London

Modern Dutch pastoral in the 20th century: between nostalgia and imagination. Eric de Jong, Free University, Amsterdam (The Netherlands)

Complexities of the modern. David Matless, University of Nottingham

A TVA for Wales: tradition, modernity and the planning of nationhood, 1918-50. Pyrs Gruffudd, University of Wales, Swansea

Module 2

Chair: Matthew Gandy, University College London

'I reject rain that is pessimistic and cheerless': Stalinist aesthetics and the discourse of landscape. Mark Bassin, University College, London

'Absolutely equally modern and pastoral'. Alison Sleeman, Slade School of Fine Art, London
Painting detail and nature. Charles Harrison, Open University

We are pleased to announce that Professor Erik de Jong of the Department of Art History, Free University Amsterdam will be attending the Conference as a Research Group Guest.

- 2. **FIELD-WORK IN GEOGRAPHY: CULTURES, PRACTICES, TRADITIONS**
HPGRG Day Conference, Wednesday 5 May 1999
Department of Geography, Royal Holloway, University of London

Fieldwork has long been regarded as integral to the production of geographical knowledge, requiring a training in particular kinds of skills. Yet there has been surprisingly little reflection on the historical development and contemporary significance of fieldwork within the discipline of geography. The prime aim of this day-conference is to provide a forum for discussion of the practice and cultures of fieldwork from a range of perspectives, reflecting recent work in both the history of science and the history of geography. The focus on fieldwork as a set of skills and practices is intended to address questions about the field tradition within geography, and to shed new light on the contemporary culture of fieldwork within the discipline. Conference sessions will be organised under the following headings:

- science in the field: histories and practices
- popular knowledges and the field

- seeing and knowing
- fieldwork and geographical education

The keynote speaker will be Professor Dorinda Outram (University of Rochester, New York). The conference will be accompanied by an installation on the theme of fieldwork by the artist Perdita Phillips. Programme and booking forms will be available from January 1999. For further information contact: Dr Felix Driver, Department of Geography, Royal Holloway, University of London, Egham, Surrey, TW20 0EX.

OTHER FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

- 1. **REMINDER: SPACE: NARRATIVE AND IMAGE**
European Group for the Study of Geographic Representations
Université François-Rabelais of Tours, December 4th-5th 1998.

A full announcement of this meeting appeared in the May 1998 issue. For further details on the programme contact Michel Lussault, Maison des Sciences de la Ville, 4 allée du Plessis, 37000 Tours, France; email Lussault@aol.com

- 2. **REMINDER: SPECIALIST WORKSHOP, INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL UNION COMMISSION ON THE HISTORY OF GEOGRAPHICAL THOUGHT**
Leipzig, Germany, January 15th - 18th 1999

A full announcement of this specialist workshop on the use of archival material for research in the history of geographical thought appeared in the May 1998 issue.

Further details available from:

Dr Ute Wardenga, Institut für Länderkunde, Scongauer Str. 9, Leipzig, Germany
Fax + 49 341 255 6599 email: wardenga@ifl.uni-leipzig.de

- 3. **LONDON GROUP OF HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHERS**
Seminar Programme, Spring 1999

BEYOND THE VISUAL

- 19 January John Wylie (Bristol University)
Becoming-icy: voyaging in the visible with Scott and Amundsen
- 2 February Anne Secord (Cambridge University)
Observing differences: artisans, gentlemen and the work of nineteenth-century botany

- 16 February Stephen Daniels (Nottingham University)
The path to Strawberry Fields: the Beatles and suburban pastoral
- 2 March Felicity Callard (Johns Hopkins University)
Urban neurosis during the fin-de-siecle: thoughts on affect and agoraphobia
- 16 March Jessica Dubow (Royal Holloway, University of London)
Title to be announced

Seminars are held at 5pm in the Training Room at the Institute of Historical Research, Senate House, London University. For further information, contact Felix Driver, Royal Holloway (01784 443572), Miles Ogborn, QMW (0171 975 5407) or Jenny Robinson, OU (01908 65474).

4. THEORIZING TIME AND SPACE AT THE END OF THE MILLENIUM: THE 1999 GEORGIA CONFERENCE *University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia USA. April 9th - 11th 1999*

Contemporary processes of social, economic and political change are dramatically transforming how space and time are produced both as material entities and as organizing categories. Such changes are having significant effects on the ways in which people live their lives, constitute their identities, and understand their place in the world. As a result, long-standing notions of time and space are being challenged, reworked and reconstituted.

For further details contact Dr Andrew Herod, Department of Geography, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-2502, USA.
Fax: (706) 542 2388, email: aherod@arches.uga.edu

5. LANDSCAPES OF MEMORY: ORAL HISTORY AND THE ENVIRONMENT *Oral History Society Annual Conference with the Centre for Continuing Education, University of Sussex, Brighton, England, May 15th - 16th 1999*

This interdisciplinary, international conference which will explore the relationships between memory and place and the contested meanings of diverse human and physical landscapes. The conference themes are:

- Memory and Place (place & identities, tradition & change, urban & rural, ownership & contested meanings, gender & cultural differences, 'coming in' & staying put)
- Protest (political / environmental movements, conservation & change, disputes & confrontations, rights & boundaries, contested accounts of arrival & ownership)
- Green Lifestyles (creating new societies & communities, buildings & camp sites, conflicting lifestyles, alternative ecologies, retreats & revolutions)
- Heritage (preserving the past, creating traditions, collecting & archiving, museums & exhibitions, public and participatory histories of place)

- Oral History and Development (using traditional knowledges in development, oral history for change, urban & rural, 'North' & 'South')
Enquiries to Steve Hussey, History Department, Essex University, Colchester, CO4 3SQ, England (huss@essex.ac.uk)

6. 19TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF HISTORICAL SCIENCES *University of Oslo, Norway, August 2000*

The major themes are

Perspectives on Global History
Millenium, Time and History
The Uses and Misuses of History

Sessions Include:

Memory and Collective Identity
Christian Missions, Modernisation, Colonisation and Decolonisation
Regions and Regionalisation
Masculinity and Practice and Representation
Central Europe: Unity and Diversity
Modernity and Tradition in Latin America
New Developments in Environmental History

The preliminary program is now available. If you would like a copy, please respond to this message with a message to oslo2000@hf.uio.no and include your full name, title, and mailing address. For the latest information about the congress, please visit our site:
<http://www.hf.uio.no/oslo2000>

NEW BOOKS

1. 'TEXT AND IMAGE: SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION OF REGIONAL KNOWLEDGES' Edited by Stanley D. Brunn, Anne Buttimer and Ute Wardenga Institut für Länderkunde Leipzig, 1998 (ISBN 3-86082-033-8)

Includes papers on the History and Philosophy of Geography by:

Fred Lukerman	Simon Rycroft and Denis Cosgrove
Franco Farinelli	Joseph Powell
Haim Goren	Izhak Schnell
Patrick Armstrong	Anssi Paasi
Paul Claval	John Paul Jones and Wolfgang Natter
Ute Wardenga	Hong-key Yoon
Marcelo Escolar	Witold Wilczyński
Maria Dolores García Ramon	Patricia Souto

Available at DM 39 from:
Institut für Länderkunde, Geographische Zentralbibliothek, Scongauerstr. 9,
D-04329 Leipzig, Germany

2. BOOKS ON THE HISTORY OF CARTOGRAPHY

The following message is reproduced from the MapHist email discussion group (mentioned on the Map History web-site at <http://ihr.sas.ac.uk/maps/>) with the permission of Christian Jacob at the CNRS in Paris:

- Françoise Vergneault-Belmont, *L'oeil qui pense. Methodes graphiques pour la recherche en sciences de l'homme* (The Thinking Eye. Graphical Methods for the Research in Social Sciences), Paris, L'Harmattan, 1998, 352 pages, ISBN: 2-7384-6776-8 (Price: 290 FF).

This book is devoted to the use of maps, diagrams, charts etc by historians, sociologists and anthropologists. This is a fascinating reflection on the power and the language of maps, and on an interdisciplinary experience, where a cartographer met scholars such as F. Braudel, R. Mandrou, B. Lepetit etc.

- Giorgio Mangani, *Il "Mondo" di Abramo Ortelio. Misticismo, Geografia e Collezionismo nel Rinascimento dei Paesi Bassi*, Modena, Franco Cosimo Panini, 1998, 336 pages, ISBN: 88-7686-977-8 (Price: Lire 60.000).

An in-depth study on the cultural background of Ortelius. G. Mangani also wrote a paper in the last issue of *Imago Mundi*.

- Sophie Makariou (ed.), *L'apparence des cioux. Astronomie et Astrologie en terre d'Islam*, Les dossiers du Musée du Louvre, Paris, 1998, 128 pages, ISBN: 2-7118-3718-1 (Price: 120 FF).
- Bruno Latour and Emilie Hermant, *Paris ville invisible*, Paris, Les Empecheurs de tourner en rond/La Decouverte, 1998, 260 pages, ISBN: 2-84324-057-3 (Price: 250 FF).

This is a very original and challenging book about urban space and rationalism, about urban administration and all the technical devices that circulate through this space, to control it, to have a global vision of it. This is an important theoretical contribution on the "cartographical gaze" and on the social construction of space, somewhere in between Foucault, J.B. Harley and Italo Calvino.

- Fernando Gil and Helder Macedo, *Viagens do Olhar. Retrospeção, Viso e Profecia no Renascimento Portugues*, Porto, Campo das Letras, 1998, 472 pages, ISBN: 972-610-098-4.

A very interesting book, between philosophy and history, on the cultural frame of Portuguese explorations, with a chapter on the Atlas Miller's maps.

- Alain Ballabriga, *Les fictions d'Homere. L'invention mythologique et cosmographiques dans l'Odysee* (Homer's fictions. Mythological and cosmographical Invention in Odyssey), Paris, Presses Universitaires de France, 1998, 254 pages, ISBN: 2-13-049368-8, 138 FF.

A new approach to Archaic Greek geography and a reevaluation of the genesis of the Odyssey. An important contribution to the history of Ancient geographical representations.

IGU WEB PAGE

The web page for the International Geographical Union Commission on the History of Geographical Thought is:

<http://www.univ-pau.fr/~set/ugi/ugimenu.html>

MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FOR SUZANNE MACKENZIE

A memorial scholarship for Suzanne Mackenzie will be established through the Canadian Women and Geography Study Group. The scholarship will reflect Suzanne's wishes for a final contribution to women in the discipline, and the terms of the scholarship will reflect her dedication to students and to learning. Please send donations to:

The Canadian Women and Geography Study Group
c/o Dr. Audrey Kobayashi, Treasurer
Department of Geography
Queen's University
Kingston, Ontario K7L 3N6

Members of CWAG also plan to compile a 'Memory Book' to commemorate Suzanne's life. If you would like to make a contribution, consisting of a reminiscence, tribute, anecdote or the like, please also send it to the above address.



