

HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF GEOGRAPHY RESEARCH GROUP

*Royal Geographical Society
with the Institute of British Geographers*

Newsletter

June 1999

In this edition

New Committee

Annual Report for 1998, Minutes of the 1999 AGM and Accounts for 1998

'Radical Histories Past and Present' by Neil Smith

Conference Reports

- Prometheus and the Pastoral
- Fieldwork in Geography
- Feminisms and Geographies

Calls for Papers

- Enacting Geographies
- Geopolitics of Geographical Knowledge
- Geographies of Languages
- Geographic Thought of East and West
- Eurocentrism
- Poetics of Space
- Locating the Victorians

Suggestions for HPGRG Meetings

Other Forthcoming Meetings

- Gender and Travel Writing
- Frontiers of Memory
- Consumption and Representation

New Journals

Email Lists

Fellowships: 'Ecological Conversations'

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

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1998

1. Strategic Plan

The three-year Strategic Plan had been adopted in 1995 and so was due for renewal and/or revision in 1998. A proposal to replace the Strategic Plan with a more concise Statement of Purpose was tabled at the 1999 AGM on 6 January (see the Minutes of this meeting).

2. Conferences

The HPGRG had a high profile at a number of international conferences during 1998. At the 1998 Annual Conference at Guildford, the HPGRG convened three successful and well-attended sessions: 'Darwinism and Geography', 'Exploring the Geographies of Science, Technology and Nature' (with the SCGRG) and 'Medical Geography Research Traditions' (with the GHRG). These sessions reflected the diversity of interests in the history and philosophy of Geography as well as the close links fostered with other Research Groups. Janet Browne (Wellcome Institute) and James Moore (Open University) attended the 1998 Annual Conference as Research Group Guests and presented keynote papers in the 'Darwinism and Geography' session.

The HPGRG organised a two-day conference on 'Postcolonial Geographies' at the University of Southampton on 25-26 June 1998, convened by Alison Blunt and Cheryl McEwan. Twenty-one papers were presented at this interdisciplinary and international conference, including a plenary paper by Dipesh Chakrabarty from the University of Chicago. The conference was supported by a £500 grant from the RGS-IBG, which funded the travel, registration and subsistence costs of Dipesh Chakrabarty.

Four members of the HPGRG presented papers at the IGU Commission on the History and Philosophy of Geography in Lisbon in August 1998 and a report was published in the November Newsletter.

During 1998 the HPGRG was awarded a £700 grant from the RGS-IBG to support its forthcoming day conference on 'Field-Work in Geography', to be held on 5 May 1999 at Royal Holloway. This conference is being convened by Felix Driver and will include a plenary paper by Dorinda Outram from the University of Rochester, New York.

3. Publications and Communications

The Group places a great emphasis on publishing cutting edge research on the history and philosophy of geography. *Geography and Enlightenment*, edited by David Livingstone and Charles Withers, will be published by the University of Chicago Press in 1999. This volume is based on papers presented at the 1996 HPGRG conference on this theme at the University of Edinburgh.

Alison Blunt and Cheryl McEwan are preparing a book proposal on *Postcolonial Geographies*, based on papers presented at the 1998 HPGRG conference on this theme at the University of Southampton.

The biannual HPGRG Newsletter is circulated to all members in May and November and is a highly successful channel for publicising the activities of the Group, research activities of

members, conference reports and forthcoming conferences. Pyrs Gruffudd assumed the role of Editor in January 1998 and has produced two highly regarded issues.

Over the course of 1998, the Group discussed the possibilities of designing a home-page and linking it to the RGS-IBG website. Discussions are continuing concerning the roles of the home-page and the Newsletter.

4. Finance

The Group continues to consolidate its financial resources, ending 1998 with a balance of £1909.39. This total includes the £700 grant that will support the day conference on 'Field-Work in Geography' on 5 May 1999. The Group has successfully maintained a minimum balance of £1000.

5. Personnel

Three new officers and two new committee members were elected in January 1998. Felix Driver (Royal Holloway) was elected as Chair, Mike Heffernan (Loughborough) was reelected as Treasurer, and Pyrs Gruffudd (Swansea) was elected as Newsletter Editor. Noel Castree (Liverpool) and Ron Johnston (Bristol) were elected as Committee members. 1998 was the final year of office for Alison Blunt (Secretary), Judith Tsouvalis (née Gerber) (Postgraduate Liaison) and Mark Bassin (Committee Member).

6. RGS-IBG Liaison

The HPGRG nominated two candidates for the RAE 2001 Assessment Panel and three candidates for the new Academy of Social Sciences. Over the course of the year, matters of liaison with the RGS-IBG were publicised at Committee meetings, in correspondence with Committee members and brought to the attention of all members via the Newsletter. The HPGRG welcomed the appointment of a part-time archivist at the RGS-IBG in 1998.

Dr Alison Blunt
Honorary Secretary, HPGRG

January 1999

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE 1999 AGM

January 6th 1999, Leicester

1. Minutes of the 1998 AGM

These minutes were approved.

2. Matters arising

Item 9: a part-time archivist is now employed at the RGS-IBG.

3. Chair's Report: Felix Driver

i. Conference activity

January 1998: three HPGRG sessions were convened at the Annual Conference of the RGS-IBG in Guildford: 'Darwinism and Geography,' 'Exploring the Geographies of Science, Technology and Nature' (with the SCGRG) and 'Medical Geography Research Traditions' (with the GHRG). These sessions had all been successful and well-attended.

June 1998: a two-day HPGRG conference on 'Postcolonial Geographies' was held at the University of Southampton and was convened by Alison Blunt and Cheryl McEwan. 21 papers were presented at this well-attended conference, including a plenary paper by Dipesh Chakrabarty from the University of Chicago. Dipesh Chakrabarty's attendance was funded by a £500 grant from the RGS-IBG. Alison and Cheryl plan to submit a proposal for an edited volume to Pluto by late January 1999.

August 1998: four members of the HPGRG presented papers at the IGU Commission on the History and Philosophy of Geography in Lisbon. A report by Mark Bassin was printed in the November Newsletter.

January 1999: two HPGRG sessions were convened at the Annual Conference of the RGS-IBG: 'Feminisms and Geographies' (with the WGSG) and 'Prometheus and the Pastoral' (with the ERG). Reports of these sessions will be printed in the May Newsletter.

ii. *Geography and Enlightenment*, edited by David Livingstone and Charles Withers, will be published by the University of Chicago Press in 1999. This volume is based on papers presented at the 1996 HPGRG conference on this theme at the University of Edinburgh.

iii. FD congratulated Pyrs Gruffudd on the two excellent Newsletters that had been sent to all members this year.

iv. FD thanked the retiring Committee members for their work: Mark Bassin; Alison Blunt (Secretary); and Judith Tsouvalis (née Gerber) (Postgraduate Liaison). He proposed that the Committee might be expanded to include a corresponding member from overseas to contribute to the Newsletter and a co-opted member to facilitate links with scholars in the history of science. This proposal was agreed (see Item 7 below).

v. FD reported that the Strategic Plan was due for renewal and proposed an alternative Statement of Purpose (see Item 9 below).

vi. FD reported that a HPGRG home page is under consideration (see Item 10 below).

4. Secretary's Report: Alison Blunt

i. The HPGRG had nominated two candidates for the RAE 2001 Assessment Panel and three candidates for the new Academy of Social Sciences.

ii. The RGS-IBG is establishing closer links with the ESRC and would welcome two-page proposals to be considered as possible thematic priorities. More details about submitting such proposals will be circulated in due course, and will be publicised in the Newsletter.

iii. The RGS-IBG is also establishing links with the National Academy of Sciences in the USA, which should benefit collaborative research.

iv. The HEFCE Subject Centre for Geography and Quality Assurance Agency were benchmarking geography at degree level. Research groups will be asked for their input over the next few months.

v. *The Geographical Journal* is being relaunched, focusing on the themes of environment and development, in an attempt to attract more submissions.

vi. The deadline for applying for the editorship of *Area* is 31 March 1999.

vii. The deadline for nominating candidates for RGS-IBG Awards is 29 January 1999. Attention was drawn to new award specifications.

5. Treasurer's Report: Mike Heffernan

MH reported that the closing balance of the HPGRG at the end of 1998 was £1909.39. This includes the £700 grant received from the RGS-IBG for the 'Field-Work in Geography' conference to be held in May 1999 (see Item 8 below). The annual subvention had been received. The importance of maintaining a minimum balance of £1000 was reiterated.

6. Newsletter Editor's Report: Pyrs Gruffudd

PG had sent his apologies. He was thanked for the excellent standard of the Newsletter. Session convenors were reminded to ask someone to write a report for publication in the May Newsletter.

7. Election of new officers and committee members

Alison Blunt was reelected as Secretary and John Wylie was elected as Postgraduate Liaison Officer (both until 2002). Neil Smith was nominated as a Corresponding Member, with a particular role in writing for the Newsletter (until 2002). Michael Bravo was nominated as a co-opted member to foster links with the history of science and anthropology (until 2002). These new members and officers were welcomed to the Committee.

8. Conference planning

i. *Annual Conference* of the RGS-IBG, 2000: University of Sussex: the conference themes are One Europe or many?; Geography and interdisciplinarity; and the earth transformed. A number of options were being explored, including sessions on Eurocentrism, the visual, geographical education and the region. Information including the convenors, title and length of the proposed session should be sent to Tony Fielding at the University of Sussex by 31 January 1999. AB will circulate details about nominating research group guests and young research workers to session convenors.

ii. *Field-Work in Geography: Cultures, Practices, Traditions*: This day conference will be held at Royal Holloway on Wednesday 5 May and has been supported by a £700 RGS-IBG grant. Dorinda Outram will present a plenary paper. The provisional programme includes 7 papers and time to view the fieldwork installation by Perdita Phillips.

iii. *Future Day Conferences*: It was suggested that the Newsletter should include a piece that invites members to propose themes for future day conferences. The deadline for applying for RGS-IBG grants to support such conferences is 31 July 1999. AB hopes to organise a day conference on domesticity and ideas of home in 2001.

9. HPGRG Strategic Plan

FD said that the adoption of the Strategic Plan in 1995 reflected the development of a more strategic approach to the Group's activities, providing direction and targets for their longer-term development. In addition, the Plan was intended to provide a summary of HPGRG activities for external bodies, so raising the profile of the Group. Now that the period covered by the Plan had expired, it was thought necessary to consider whether and how it could be updated. Given that many of the initial objectives of the Plan have been achieved, as well as the need for a simpler and less bureaucratic statement of the Group's activities, FD proposed that the HPGRG consider adopting a Statement of Purpose in place of a revised Strategic Plan. This text (reproduced in Annex 1) would provide a broad framework for the Group's activities and could be included in documents submitted to external bodies and in other publicity (including a web-page). A similar proposal has recently been adopted by the HGRG Committee. FD's proposal was agreed. A corrected version of the Statement of Purpose will be published in the next Newsletter.

10. HPGRG Home Page

There was some discussion about the utility of a home page and its relationship with the Newsletter. This issue will be discussed with Pyrs Gruffudd.

11. Any Other Business

The HPGRG congratulated David Livingstone on being awarded a two-year British Academy/Leverhulme Readership.

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next AGM of the HPGRG will be held in early January 2000 at the Annual Conference in Brighton.

**Item 9: Annex 1:
Draft Statement of Purpose**

The HPGRG aims to initiate and foster the development of research in the history and philosophy of geography, including research on the histories of geography; on the history and philosophy of knowledge in associated fields; and on contemporary philosophies, theories and methods related to geography. The Group is affiliated to the Royal Geographical Society with the Institute of British Geographers (RGS-IBG).

The HPGRG Committee promotes the aims and objectives of the Group by

- organising and sponsoring academic conferences
- convening sessions at the Annual Conference of the RGS-IBG
- subsidising the costs of attendance of postgraduates at its conferences
- disseminating information about relevant research activities in a twice-yearly newsletter
- supporting the publication of research monographs, collections and related materials (including a research register)
- liaising with cognate organisations and disciplines
- co-ordinating bids to RGS-IBG and other bodies for grants

The HPGRG Committee consists of a Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, Postgraduate Liaison Officer and up to four ordinary members.

**ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY WITH THE
INSTITUTE OF BRITISH GEOGRAPHERS**

**HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF GEOGRAPHY
RESEARCH GROUP**

ACCOUNTS FOR 1998

INCOME	(£)	EXPENDITURE	(£)
Balance of 1997 account	1498.16	Guest speaker's expenses, RGS-IBG '98*	95.85
RHED grant for 'Field- work in Geography' conference, Royal Holloway	700.00	RHED grant for 'Postcolonial Geographies' conference, Southampton**	500.00
RGS-IBG subvention	247.00	Newsletter postage and production	92.84
Hodder Headline advert in newsletter	100.00		
Interest	52.92		
TOTAL INCOME	2598.08	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	688.69
CLOSING BALANCE	1909.39		

* Professor James Moore (Open University) - conference fee, rail travel (Cambridge-Southampton) and subsistence expenses

** Professor Dipesh Chakrabarty (University of Chicago) - conference fee, return air fare (Chicago-Heathrow), taxi (Heathrow-Southampton) and subsistence expenses

Michael Heffernan
Honorary Treasurer, HPGRG

1 January 1999

RADICAL HISTORIES PAST AND PRESENT

From Strabo to Pinochet, scholars trained in geography have long harbored the ambition of becoming intellectual handmaidens to the state. Even so, it is remarkable how conservative the history of geography actually is. After mention of Kropotkin and Rcdus, it is difficult to think of any geographers prior to the late 1960s whose work made them enemies of the state or even its trenchant critics (but see Hepple 1999). As post-1960s histories begin to be written, the history of geography could actually become the arena for some quite impassioned debate. This impression was confirmed for me when I came across a debate currently occupying some Japanese geographers. Some of it is available in English. It also suggested that the common judgement of a paucity of radicals in geography's history may be too simple.

Today's debate focuses on some basic bureaucratic issues concerning the administration of the Japanese Association of Economic Geographers (JAEG). Founded in the ashes of defeat following World War II, the JAEG provided an organizational alternative for younger geographers bent on reinventing human geography as a social science. This was at precisely the same time (1953) as Fred Schaefer launched his critique of Hartshorne in the US, but it differed from the US situation insofar as many of the JAEG leaders were openly communist. Iwao Kamoza, one of the founders, was slavish in his devotion to Moscow while others were members of the Japanese Communist Party (Mizuoka 1996). As the JAEG became more institutionalized in the 1970s its work was increasingly organized around the arguments of Toshifumi Yada for whom a radical economic geography involved an understanding of the regional structures of post-war Japanese capitalism. As they developed a modicum of academic influence, and as the level of political struggles in Japan declined after the early 1970s, the later anti-airport mobilization notwithstanding, some of the JAEG leaders also became significant policy advisers to successive national governments. Much as Soviet geography was an enthusiastic handmaiden to the state, the JAEG moved in that direction and the passion of critical intellectual debate declined (Mizuoka 1999).

It's a depressing thought that this history might be a prequel to the kinds of histories we might come to write about radical geographies in the English-speaking world after the 1960s. But there's too much depression around these days and the parallels are far from clear. The broadly radical movement in English-speaking geography was never organized around any communist party or any parties at all and what it lacked in terms of political focus it flaunted in terms of intellectual vivacity. The emergence of an International Critical Geography (ICG) group following an inaugural 1997 conference in Vancouver suggests not only that this vitality survives but that with representatives of 30 countries present it is spreading. And in any case, as John Cleese might have put it, the JAEG is "not dead yet." But the JAEG history as well as our own history of radicalism do suggest the need for a revived internationalism. Writing our histories of geography in an internationalist vein is a connected challenge.

Leslie W. Hepple, "Socialist geography in England: J.F.Horrabain and a Workers' Economic and Political Geography," *Antipode* 31.1, 1999, 80-109.

Fujio Mizuoka, "The disciplinary dialectics that have played eternal pendulum swings: spatial theories and deconstruction in the history of alternative social and economic geography in Japan," *Geographical Review of Japan (series B)* 69.1, 1996, 95-112.

Fujio Mizuoka, "The development and demise of alternative geography in Japan," *Discussion paper 1998-13*, 1999, Graduate School of Economics, Hitotsubashi University.

Neil Smith, Rutgers University

CONFERENCE REPORTS

1. RGS-IBG ANNUAL CONFERENCE, UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER, JANUARY 4TH - 7TH

Between Prometheus and the pastoral: looking at nature through the lens of modernist aesthetics

Convenors: Matthew Gandy (UCL) and Mark Bassin (UCL)
History and Philosophy of Geography Research Group & Environmental Research Group

The cultural and symbolic articulation of nature is a vibrant focus of scholarly inquiry which powerfully connects with a series of interdisciplinary themes in contemporary western thought. The papers in this session approached these questions through a consideration of the perception and representation of nature in late nineteenth-century and twentieth-century art. The opening paper by Mark Bassin (University College London) examined ways in which the legacy of nineteenth-century Russian art had been appropriated within Stalinist ideology in socialist realist depictions of Russian landscape. Bassin detected a striking tension between the transformation and preservation of nature within the iconographic discourses of inter-war Russian art. The next paper by David Matless (Nottingham University) began by elaborating on the theoretical dimensions to nature-based art and the articulation of 'geo-aesthetics' as a mode of landscape interpretation. Matless developed these themes with a richly textured reading the art of Paul Nash as emblematic of a distinctly English modernist tradition. The third paper presented by Alison Sleeman (Slade School of Art) focused on the installation art of Richard Long. Sleeman used the work of Long in order to critically interrogate the degree of intersection between the modern and 'the pastoral' and developed her argument through an engagement with the critical writings of Erwin Panofsky and Robert Smithson. The final paper by Charles Harrison (Open University) began with a provocative reworking of the session's principal themes and the degree of intersection between modernist aesthetics and authoritarian political ideologies. Harrison hinted at a lineage from Caspar David Friedrich to Mark Rothko wherein the opacity of visual representation may illuminate a higher order of critical import within the evolution of artistic practice. Implicit within Harrison's contribution was an epistemological argument in favour of art as integral to an understanding of the social production of space premised on a rejection of relativist cultural theory. Taken together, these four papers - and the detailed discussions which followed them - provided a myriad of potentially new ways of conceptualizing the representation of nature and landscape in the modern era. In this respect it is hoped that this session made a

valuable contribution to the evolution of new kinds of interdisciplinary dialogues between geography and range of cognate disciplines concerned with cultural representations of nature.

Matthew Gandy, Department of Geography, University College London

Feminisms and Geographies: Theoretical Orientations and Future Directions

Convenors: Alison Blunt (Southampton) and Cheryl McEwan (Birmingham); History and Philosophy of Geography Research Group and the Women & Geography Study Group

This session centered on the theoretical tensions and practical problems which derive from asserting a gendered subjectivity for strategic purposes, while simultaneously recognising that all such assertions are, at best, partial constructions. Some have remarked on the irony of feminist geography foregrounding these contradictions and thus undermining its basic premises, just as it has become sanctioned as a legitimate form of knowledge production within the academy. However as Linda McDowell noted in 1993 (1), this interrogation of the theoretical subject reflects a certain maturation of feminist geography. The session in Leicester was a clear marker of the fruitfulness, but also the complexity, of feminist geography subjecting itself to its own critique in order to resist universalizing tendencies, while simultaneously attempting to move beyond the divisiveness individualism which has tended to plague the broader identity politics project. In this context the session brought together themes of subjectivity, difference, representation, knowledge production, and pedagogy with the specific intention of working toward viable and productive future directions for feminist inquiry.

The session opened with Cheryl Gowar's (Rutgers University) discussion of possible futures for feminist geography in the context of attempting to work with multiple differences. Cheryl suggested that the individualism-universalism predicament is irresolvable, and that attempting to understand subjectivity within this frame promotes the use of strategic essentialism which theoretically contradicts an understanding of difference. Rather than attempting to identify a single experiential identity of womanhood established on a same/difference binary, she suggested that similarity in subject positioning might operate as an alternative basis for coalition formation. The subsequent presentations by Liz Bondi (University of Edinburgh) and Alison Blunt gave concrete examples of the complexity of subject positioning and negotiating difference. Liz's discussion of the potential connections between psychotherapeutic, experiential, and feminist knowledges was framed in the context of pedagogical performance and the differences between situated knowledges of teachers and students. Alison's discussion of gendered subjectivities focused on the spatial politics of home for Anglo-Indian women in Britain and India since 1947. She explored the connections between mobility and fixity in both the construction of hybrid subjectivities among Anglo-Indian women, and in their formations of imaginative geographies of home as hybrid spaces.

The second module focused on connecting theoretical understandings of the complexity of subjectivity with practicing feminist geographies. Using the work of women travelers and geographers as examples, Avril Mander (Oxford University) discussed the ways in which interpreting feminist historiographies through the lens of difference provides new insights into the knowledges produced by, and about women in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Parvati Raghuram (Nottingham Trent University) then provided a useful critique of feminist academic

knowledge production by questioning the implicit hierarchical ordering of forms of knowledge by feminist geographers. She suggested that feminist academic research limits its own emancipatory and pedagogic potential by prioritizing scriptural knowledge over experiential and inferential knowledge. Parvati's paper spoke directly to the constant predicament for feminist geography, where the potential for re-imposing hegemonic knowledge forms threatens the theoretical and practical value in the initial recognition of difference. Sophie Bowlby, Sally Lloyd-Evans and Clare Roche (University of Reading) completed the module by reporting on some practical problems they had experienced while working with notions of difference. Drawing from their research project studying the labor market experiences of a diverse group of young people, they showed how frequently used categories fail to explain adequately the plurality of subjectivities involved in both identity construction, and in the formation of structures of inequality in employment.

The final module, which centered on matters of representation, continued with the themes of negotiating subjectivity and connecting theory with practice. Drawing on research at gay pride parades in Aotearoa/New Zealand and Australia, Lynda Johnston (University of Edinburgh) discussed the ways in which heterosexual tourists construct the queer bodies on parade as 'other' by understanding and representing their own dominant position as unmarked. Lynda showed how certain subjectivities resisted the categorization employed by the heterosexual tourists, and thus disrupted the use of tourist/host and straight/gay binaries on which these dominant understandings were premised. Cheryl McEwan ended the sessions by focusing on postcolonial theories of representation, thereby returning the debate to potential methods for negotiating the complexity of subjectivities. She considered the possibility for reconceptualizing the research process in a way which might displace the privileged position of the researcher. Rather than attempt the erasure of difference between researcher and researched, which would elide the power relations inherent in any research process, Cheryl's work considered the utility of making the research process itself the object of investigation. In so doing, she foregrounded the idea of writing the complexity of understanding and representing subjectivities into research results, a theme which had been implicit in most of the papers during the day.

The modules ended with an impromptu discussion of the use of strategic essentialism in feminist geography. The diversity of opinion offered in this final debate proved that while there was general agreement concerning the complexity of understanding and representing subjectivities, there is still considerable debate about how this complexity should be negotiated. Long may this sort of productive disagreement inform our work and stretch our methods of understanding, analyzing and representing subjectivities. And a final reflection - as a first time visitor to the annual meetings in Britain and in my guise of pseudo-American (at least by affiliation), I was struck by the coherence of the sessions in general, but particularly by the success of 'Feminisms and Geographies'. Thanks and congratulations then must go to Alison Blunt and Cheryl McEwan, who organized such a productive session.

1) Linda McDowell (1993) Space, place and gender relations: Part I. Feminist Empiricism and the geography of social relations' *Progress in Human Geography* Vol. 17, No. 2, pp. 157-179

Cheryl Gowar, Rutgers University

2. FIELDWORK IN GEOGRAPHY: CULTURES, PRACTICES, TRADITIONS *HPGRG & HGRG Conference, Royal Holloway, University of London, May 5th 1999*

Organised by Dr. Felix Driver, the day conference on 'Fieldwork' attracted an international and interdisciplinary group of speakers and participants, with notable contributions coming from anthropology and the history of science as well as geography. Eight papers were presented sequentially, divided into four sessions. The session topics were: Cultures of Fieldwork, Passages and Encounters, Seeing and Knowing, and Teaching and Learning. The conference was characterised by a relaxed atmosphere, which encouraged discussion of the key themes across the sessions throughout the day. All who attended would like to thank Felix Driver for his work in organising and hosting the conference.

The conference opened with a short introduction from Felix Driver, which, whilst noting fieldwork's crucial links to hegemonic epistemologies of authority and observation, also argued that the practical and material aspects of fieldwork merited closer attention. Rather than being a 'projection' of knowledges onto a physical substrate, fieldwork could be understood in terms of cultures of material dwelling, produced through embodied practices of vision, travel and encounter. This introduction was then followed by a plenary address by Dorinda Outram from the University of Rochester, New York. Similarly arguing against a tendency to situate fieldwork within a 'negative history of visualisation', Outram presented a counterfactual account of the epistemologies which have informed debates around fieldwork and scientific practice more generally. Issues surrounding the status and 'validity' of knowledge produced 'in the field' perhaps formed the core of a wide-ranging paper, with Outram arguing that fieldwork and observation, with their empirical emphases, were denigrated during a rationalist Enlightenment suspicious of sensible experience. The sensible, the engaged, and the detailed, were, during this period, understood as 'feminine' modes of knowledge. This characterisation, Outram argued, persisted within 19th century scientific anxieties about fieldwork's status, and perhaps informed a later purification of fieldwork in terms of masculine vision and distanced observation. A paper in response by Stephen Daniels was read by Felix Driver, Daniels being unfortunately unable to attend. He nonetheless applauded Outram's focus upon a late 18th century context, but also warned against reading fieldwork solely in terms of scientific practice. For example, whilst the Peak District was a paradigm of the 'field' during the 18th century, scientific activity also facilitated its transformation into a space of tourism and consumption, lending the field a carnivalesque aspect.

After coffee, Luciana de Lima Martins presented a paper detailing the practices of voyaging, sketching and landscaping which characterised European encounters with the harbour of Rio de Janeiro. Focusing upon the question of 'the observer in transit', she argued that sketches of the harbour and botanical illustrations, (often conjoined), revealed an 'art of seeing' at once scientific and aesthetic, an idiom incorporating both pictorial convention and biotic exactitude. She concluded with a subtle analysis of how the harbour at Rio, figured as a 'sleeping giant' by early navigators, is differentially envisioned from the city and from the sea. The following paper, presented by Kapil Raj, also dealt with the themes of vision and travelling. Here, these were explored in the context of British attempts, in the mid-19th century, to survey Transhimalayan Tibet, a region believed at the time to be the object of imperialist Russian ambitions. In a fascinating account, Raj recounted the experiences of a series of Indian and Tibetan 'fieldwork spies', who, in the employ of the British, travelled incognito through the transhimalayas, posing as traders and pilgrims. Unable to openly carry large items of surveying equipment, these spies

measured the landscape by literally pacing it, the human body here operating within a technical discipline as a surrogate instrument of mensuration.

Lunch provided an opportunity to view an installation on the theme of fieldwork by Perdita Phillips, artist in residence at the Department of Geography, Royal Holloway. Phillips' installation explored the often ambivalent relations between text and world, subject and object, which fieldwork mediates, through its juxtaposition of found objects and ribbons of texts. An accompanying and suggestive section comprised a series of notebooks upon which subjects had visually represented routes through the 'field'.

After lunch, two stimulating papers were presented under the rubric of 'Seeing and Knowing'. The first, by Laura Cameron, focused upon the life and thought of A.G. Tansley, who combined pioneering studies in ecology and ecosystems with a passion for Freudian psychoanalysis. Cameron highlighted provocative connections between these two interests, noting a commonality in the idea of ecology as the study of 'disturbed' or modified nature, and the practice of psychology as a dynamic mapping of the mind. As 'nature's analyst', and a champion of field studies, Tansley's field notes combined detailed studies of vegetation with pages of wine lists, love letters and free association. The second paper was given by Michael Bravo, a presentation which centred upon the author's video diary of a voyage by icebreaker to Svalbard. From an anthropological perspective, Bravo argued that 'fieldwork' commonly involved a presupposed distinction between the 'scientist' and the 'indigent', a distinction shading the ambit of their encounter. He illustrated the ambivalence of this distinction by invoking Deleuze and Guattari's account of smooth and striated space as a model for comparing 'scientific' and 'indigenous' modes of travel and perception. What is crucial about this model is that no absolute distinction exists between the smooth and striated; they always already form an ongoing mixture - a quality which Bravo used to argue that scientific and indigenous practice are always both different and similar. His account of the voyage to Svalbard, in a group containing both 'scientists' and 'humanists', drew on these insights in recounting moments and areas of tension between the 'co-travellers'; he also sketched a fascinating outline of the differences and similarities between a 19th century panorama of the Spitsbergen coastline and the vision of the same coast encountered by those aboard the icebreaker.

The final session of the day, 'Teaching and Learning', saw fieldwork re-situated within the practice of geography. Firstly, Teresa Ploszajska presented a compelling historical account of fieldwork's status within British school geography. Already established as an integral component of the curriculum by the 1870's, school fieldwork incorporated notions of heroic adventure and exploration, along with more decisively colonial overtones: the 'field' as a territory to be colonised. A theme persistent from the Victorian era to the interwar years, moreover, linked fieldwork, as 'local study', to ideas of citizenship, with knowledge of, and attachment to, 'locality', serving to further ingrain a particular understanding of national identity. A final paper, jointly presented by Dave Matless and Paul Merchant, also focused upon fieldwork's specific association with geography. The speaker's began by noting some of the anxieties which surround fieldwork practice, anxieties evident in attempts to differentiate it from other activities such as 'sightseeing' or 'everyday' walking. Citing Frank Debenham's definition of fieldwork as 'normal yet special travel', an entertaining image of a geographer was presented: one who walks a tightrope between the 'proper' art of cultivated, purposeful seeing, and the neurotically obsessive, cataloguing stare of the bore. The middle section of the paper drew these themes out in a study of the Geography Field Group, an association of mostly female schoolteachers who

annually undertook 'fieldwork' in different regions of Europe throughout the 1950's and 60's. Tensions and anxieties subsisted within the group's understanding of fieldwork as a space between work and leisure; they were eager to differentiate themselves from the 'superficial' gazing of the tourist, but at the same time remained self-conscious in relation to how they might be perceived by outsiders, as overly-earnest 'oddballs'. The speakers concluded by speculating as to how contemporary fieldwork cultures might profitably explore such tensions between 'work' and 'fun'.

In conclusion this reviewer was struck by the consistently high quality of the papers presented throughout the day. The subjects tackled were diverse, complex and sometimes provocative; they were also enhanced by lucid and engaging styles of delivery and presentation. The papers were further characterised by a willingness to embrace the complexity of fieldwork traditions, to critically use, rather than dismiss, discourses and practices of visualisation, description, and pedagogy. On this note, it was perhaps suggestive that the conference began and ended with allusions to contemporary fieldwork cultures in geographical research and teaching, with Felix Driver producing a 'fieldwork kit' given to geography undergraduates at Royal Holloway, and Matless and Merchant noting the still-prominent, if ambivalent, position of field excursions on most geography courses.

John Wylie, Department of Geography, University of Bristol

CALLS FOR PAPERS

1. RGS-IBG ANNUAL CONFERENCE, UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX, JANUARY 4th - 7th 2000

HPGRG SESSIONS:

Enacting Geographies

Convenors: John Wylie, Paul Harrison and J-D Dewsbury

Proposals for papers are invited by 15th June 1999 for a half-day session at RGS-IBG 2000 on the topic of 'Enacting Geographies'. The aim of this session is not to 'add' the body to human geography, but rather to attempt to rethink geographies through embodiment. This highlights a growing interest in the constitutive role of practice and the embodied 'enactment' of geographies. In focusing upon enactment, the aim is to foreground the materialities of 'everyday' embodied practice and processual, relational understandings of subjectivities and spaces. We welcome both 'theoretical' discussions, 'empirical' exemplars, and especially contributions which problematise this unhelpful dualism.

Below are some themes/issues with which we would like to engage - although this is in no way an exhaustive list:

- Enactment and embodiment as methods in the production of geographical knowledges.
- 'Hidden' histories of embodiment within geographical traditions
- How can enactment be 'written'? Is the lived body excessive and irretrievable?

- Embodied stylistics and habits in the production of 'everyday' geographies.
- Post-phenomenological, ecological, and non-cognitive approaches to perception and affect.
- Materiality, corporeality and dwelling.
- How might an embodied, performative ontology transform traditional interpretative categories, such as 'social structure', 'historical context', 'imagined geographies'?
- Where does the body end?

Proposals should include a title and a short abstract (200-300 words). They should be sent, along with any queries or suggestions, to one of the following convenors:

John Wylie, School of Geographical Sciences, University of Bristol, University Road, Bristol, BS8 1SS; email: wylie@bris.ac.uk

Paul Harrison, (address as above); email: paul.harrison@bris.ac.uk

J-D Dewsbury, (address as above); email: jd.dewsbury@bris.ac.uk

Eurocentrism

Convenor: Mike Heffernan

The HPGRG is organising a half-day session at the Annual Conference of the RGS-IBG on the theme of EUROCENTRISM. The conference will take place at the University of Sussex in Brighton, UK in early January 2000. Papers on any aspect of this general theme are warmly welcomed, both substantial theoretical contributions and detailed case-studies. No sub-theme, perspective or historical period are ruled out but all prospective contributions should seek to examine how geographical ideas and theories have been continually shaped and re-shaped by culturally-specific, European or Western presuppositions and a priori reasoning. Papers which explore how Eurocentrism has been challenged (and might continue to be challenged) are especially welcomed. It is intended that the session will include up to six papers, one of which will be sponsored by Academic Press as the *Journal of Historical Geography* Annual Lecture for 2000. The possibility exists to publish a revised version of that paper in a future number of the JHG. Please send a 200 word abstract to Mike Heffernan by June 15th 1999 on either M.J.Heffernan@lboro.ac.uk or mheffern@geog.ucla.edu.

The Geopolitics of Geographical Knowledge

Convenors: Noel Castree (HPGRG) and Klaus Dodds (PolGRG)

This joint session with the Political Geography Research Group will explore how the geopolitical situatedness of knowledge production affects the content and form of geographical thought and practice. For instance, how has the geopolitical specificity of the German situation informed the work of Ulrich Beck with his supposedly general thesis of 'the risk society'? Or in what ways is development a specific product of specific geopolitical circumstances? The four themes are as follows:

- the geopolitical contexts/pretexts of particular bodies of geographical knowledge
- the geographical assumptions implicit within particular bodies of geographical knowledge and how these assumptions are translated/imposed on/contested within other geopolitical settings
- to think about how geographers and others can engage in normative work which seeks to produce knowledge about the world which is unsettling and at least resistant to some of the dominant ways of knowing the world.

• the modalities, difficulties and challenges of WRITING critically about the geopolitics of geographical knowledges. Intellectual historians like Martin Jay have long been interested in writing histories of disciplinary knowledges and this theme is relevant here in that writing critically about the geopolitics of geographical knowledge is itself as geopolitically situated act.

Abstracts of approx. 200 words should be sent by **June 30th 1999** to Noel Castree, Department of Geography, University of Liverpool, Liverpool L69 3BX; Tel: 0151 794 2874; email: N.Castree@liv.ac.uk or to Klaus Dodds, Department of Geography, Royal Holloway, Egham, Surrey TW20 0EX.

OTHER RESEARCH GROUPS' SESSIONS AT RGS-IBG 2000

Geographies of Languages/Languages of Geography Social and Cultural Geography Research Group

Proposals for papers are invited by **15 June 1999** for a session on the Geographies of Languages/Languages of Geography. The session focuses on the politics and power of language in contemporary geographies. We look forward to contributions that discuss geographical perspectives on languages, the contested spaces of language at a variety of spatial scales and historical moments, as well as the politics of languages (particularly the use of English) in the production of geographical knowledge. We hope to cover some of the following areas:

- Geo-linguistics
- The historical geographies of languages:
- The regulation of languages and dialects.
- The impacts of new media and technologies.
- Language and the organisation of power in the spheres of: education, the media, law, popular culture, state politics and nationalism
- Minority language movements and the politics of bi-/multi-lingualism.
- The role of the English language in academic geography.
- The politics of languages, writing and publishing.
- Pedagogy and languages.
- Languages and the agendas of human geography.
- Fieldwork, translation and geographical (mis)understandings.
- Multiculturalism, minority rights and the multi-lingual university.
- Languages, class and cultural capital.

We hope to produce a uniquely multi-lingual space for this session, by making available facilities for simultaneous translation. The experience of taking part in a linguistically diverse environment where geographers can present in the language of their choice could be a step towards a multilingual geography in its own right. For further information or to send abstracts contact:

Rhys Jones or Luke Desforges raj@aber.ac.uk or lud@aber.ac.uk
Institute of Geography and Earth Sciences, University of Wales Aberystwyth,
Aberystwyth SY23 3DB, Wales, UK;

Sefydliad Daearyddiaeth a Gwyddorau Daear, Prifysgol Cymru Aberystwyth, Aberystwyth
SY23 3DB, Cymru, DU

Ffôn/Tel: 01970 622594/2640 (+44 1970 622594/2640)

Ffacs/Fax: 01970 622659 (+44 1970 622659)

2. THE POETICS OF SPACE

11th Annual Conference, Department of Romance Languages & Literatures, Binghamton University, March 10th - 11th, 2000

GUEST SPEAKER: Salvador J. Fajardo speaking on "Mapping Exile"

The conference is designed to explore any issues related to Space. Papers may relate to the general conference topic in any interdisciplinary manner through literature, sociology, anthropology, political science, film, art, history, philosophy of religion. Suggestions for panels or sessions are welcome. To be included in the program you are invited to submit an abstract of Your paper (not to exceed 250 words (to the coordinator no later than **November 19, 1999**).

For information or to submit an abstract contact: Professor Antonio Sobejano-Moran, Department of Romance Languages & Literatures, Binghamton University, P.O. Box 6000 Binghamton NY 13902-6000; e-mail: sobe@binghamton.edu or stiner@binghamton.edu

Detailed information appears on our web site: <http://www.geocities.com/collegepark/4248>

3. IGU COMMISSION ON THE HISTORY OF GEOGRAPHIC THOUGHT **GEOGRAPHIC THOUGHT OF THE EAST AND WEST: LIVING WITH DIVERSITY** 29th IGC Commission Meeting and Symposium

Korea National University of Education, Chongju, South Korea, August 10th - 13th, 2000

The historians of geographic thought have an important intellectual responsibility on our discipline for monitoring, documenting and explaining the trends of geographic thought through time, space and place. Most of the internationally well-known studies in geographic thought are about the Western academic tradition. However, many varieties of Western and non-Western geographic thought have been developed by different cultures and different peoples. The aim of this symposium is to bring together a wide range of 'geographic thought' in academic as well as folk traditions of both the Western and the non-Western world. With the participation of scholars from diverse cultural backgrounds, this conference will focus on the cross-cultural studies in the history of geographic thought. It is planned to produce a monograph, "The Geographic Thought of the East and West" from a selection of conference papers.

The 3 day conference will immediately precede the main congress of the Seoul IGC 2000. The local organiser is Professor Je-hun Ryu, Korea National University of Education, Chongju, South Korea (FAX: 82 431 232 7175).

Participants are invited to present papers in English or French. The second circular including a more detailed schedule of events, symposium booking form and notification of acceptance of paper will be sent to those who express interest in presenting and/or attending.

Statements of interest and any enquiries should be sent to:
Associate Professor Hong-key Yoon; Department of Geography, University of Auckland,
Private Bag 92019, Auckland, New Zealand
Tel: 64 9 373 7599, x.8466; Fax: 64 9 373 7434; Email: hk.yoon@auckland.ac.nz

4. LOCATING THE VICTORIANS London, July 12th - 15th, 2001

The year 2001 will mark the sesquicentenary of the Great Exhibition of 1851 and the centenary of the death of Queen Victoria. Coinciding with the dawn of a new millennium, these anniversaries provide the opportunity to review our interpretation of the culture of the Victorian period. The Science Museum, the Victoria & Albert Museum, and the Natural History Museum in London's South Kensington, a cultural quarter itself funded from the profits of the Great Exhibition, are therefore hosting a Victorian festival. Major exhibitions and an international conference will interpret the 19th century for the benefit of the 21st. The dates of the conference will be 12 - 15 July 2001. The location will be the Forum Hotel, South Kensington, London, with events at the Museums. Accommodation will be arranged at the hotel and at local universities. Before and after the meeting there will be a variety of specialist interest groups meeting under the rubric of 'The Victorian Fringe'. It is likely that the registration cost will be between £100 and £150. Ways of assisting those unable to meet this expense are being investigated. The meeting will be interdisciplinary, wide-ranging and summatory. It is intended to foster communication between historians of all branches of Victorian history, culture and literature. It will address questions such as the Victorian concepts of progress, of certainty and reality, of participation and inclusion, of gender and of organisation. The organising group: Robert Bud of the Science Museum (convenor), Paul Greenhalgh (V & A) and John Thackray (NHM) is being guided by a wide-ranging advisory committee (membership below). Currently the organisers are thinking of 10 to 15 themes that will each incorporate 4 to 6 panels. These might be made up of 3 papers or, alternatively, of discussion sessions; they are also open to unconventional formats. Themes should each be multidisciplinary incorporating treatments by historians of literature, art, culture, sport, science, technology, etc. Contributions should integrate a broad range of research and be interpretative, rather than be seen solely as opportunities to present new research findings. Some potential themes chosen to highlight the interdisciplinary intent are listed below. Proposals from those offering themselves as theme organisers are now being sought. Please give a brief description of your concept of the theme, possible panel headings and indicative lists of people you would invite to speak. On the basis of these proposals, the selected organisers will then be asked to invite speakers formally. Partnerships of two organisers for a theme will be welcomed. Please submit your ideas not later than 1 October 1999. If you do intend to make a submission, the organisers would be grateful if you could indicate your interest now or as soon as possible by emailing Jane Davies at the Science Museum, <j.davies@nmsi.ac.uk> and indicating the likely theme and your name. Of course if you have any special vision of how you would organise your theme, then please do mention it now. Even if you do not wish to organise a session but would like to attend, please indicate your interest now. Suggestions of what you would like to experience at the meeting would be welcomed. Please email <j.davies@nmsi.ac.uk> with your suggestions. While the organisers cannot promise to satisfy everyone, they will try to use the time available to organise a truly memorable conference.

Potential Themes: An Indicative List:

Democratic consumption and popular culture

Managing Capitalism: regulation, statistics, class, immigration, and socialism

Mass production

The built environment

Spectacle: museums, theatre, sport and the circus

Middle class women
The individual and the state
Heroes and sages
Ghosts, new technologies and the boundaries of the real
Death: representation and cultural challenge
Faith and doubt
Contexts of knowledge: the professional and the enthusiast
Globalisation and empire
Managing, representing and imagining Nature
Encounters and exchanges

Advisory Committee:

David Allen, Robert Bud (Chair), Martin Daunton, Felix Driver, David Feldman, Paul Greenhalgh, Ian Inkster, John MacKenzie, Peter Mandler, Jim Secord, Joanne Shattuck, Jennifer Tann, John Thackray, Michael Wolff

There is a conference website at:

<http://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/researchers/victorians>

SUGGESTIONS FOR HPGRG MEETINGS, 2000 ONWARDS

Suggestions are welcomed from HPGRG members for mid-year conferences, meetings and similar activities to be held from 2000 onwards. Research Groups have access to RGS-IBG funds (see details below) and the HPGRG may make applications on behalf of members, depending on the number of proposals and their respective merits. Potential applicants are invited to discuss their proposals with a member of the committee in the first instance. The deadline for submission of applications for grants or loans to the RGS-IBG is the 31st July 1999 so potential applicants should approach the HPGRG by the end of June at the very latest.

Guidance Notes for Applications for Grants/Loans from the Royal Geographical Society (with The Institute of British Geographers), Research Division Committee

1. Grants or loans can be made for seminars and symposia, travel to international meetings, preparation of publications or similar academic activities. Pump-priming support which stimulates or co-ordinates existing research activities (e.g. assistance with the costs of materials, research assistance, travel costs) can also be considered. Given the limited funds available (approx. £5,000 per annum) it will normally only be possible to fund part of the proposed activity. Research Groups should attempt to secure financial and other forms of support from other sources.
2. All things being equal, priority will be given to activities likely to benefit a large proportion of the membership of the Research Group. Priority will also be given to benefit young members and the unwaged, who normally have much greater difficulties in obtaining funds for seminars, travel, etc.
3. Groups may apply for more than one grant or loan, but should indicate their priority.
4. Please note that large sums cannot be allocated to the same Group in successive years.

5. Research Groups are encouraged to publish the results of the funded activity in one of the Society's publications. If the resulting publication is a book, the Special Publications of the Society should be offered the work first, subject to any existing contractual agreements the Group may have with other publishers.
6. A report on the use of the grant must be submitted to the Research Division office by 31st July of the year following the award. No additional awards will be made to that Research Group until the report is received.

OTHER FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

1. GENDER AND TRAVEL WRITING

Sheffield Hallam University, School of Cultural Studies
Wednesday 30 June 1999

PROGRAMME

10.00 - 10.30: REGISTRATION AND COFFEE

10.30 - 11.45:

Sara Mills (Sheffield Hallam University) *The Difference Gender Makes*

Glenn Dibert-Himes (Sheffield Hallam University) *Gridding the Dig: Travel Writing in the Edition Corvey*

12.00 - 1.15:

Miles Ogborn (Queen Mary and Westfield, London) *Writing Travels: The English East India Company and the Production of Global Space, 1600-1620.*

Kate Teltscher (Roehampton Institute) *Maidenly and well nigh effeminate: Constructions of Hindu Masculinity in Seventeenth-Century English Travel Texts*

1.15-2.15:

LUNCH

2.15-3.30

Shirley Foster (University of Sheffield) *Representations of the Harem in the Writings of Eighteenth and Nineteenth-Century Women Travellers*

Tim Fulford (Nottingham Trent University) *Romantic Explorers and Forsaken Indian Women.*

3.30 - 4.00

TEA

4.00- 5.15

Nigel Leask (University of Cambridge) *Fanny Parks Colonialism, and the Culture of Curiosity*

Tim Youngs (Nottingham Trent University) *Crossing a Cultural Border: Robyn Davidson and Contemporary Travel.*

5.30 - 6.00

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

For up to the minute news of the meeting visit the Conference Website at
<http://www.shu.ac.uk/travconf/>

2. 1ST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON 'CONSUMPTION AND REPRESENTATION' Plymouth, UK, 1st - 3rd September, 1999

"Consuming Markets; Consuming Meanings"

The relationship between production and consumption represents a key focus for social scientific enquiry and yet the potential for cross-disciplinary collaboration in this field remains largely unexplored territory. This conference is therefore intended to foster links between researchers in consumption from a variety of backgrounds with the intention being to identify common ground for the study of markets as a meaningful arena for social scientific research in an ever-changing world. To this end, future developments in 'consumer research' in its broadest sense will be discussed. The conference will be divided into three complimentary streams: identification, representation, segmentation.

For further details contact:

The Organising Committee,
1st International Conference on Consumption and Representation,
Department of Sociology,
University of Plymouth,
Drake Circus,
Plymouth, PL4 8AA.
UK

Enquiries can also be e-mailed to Alison Anderson, Kevin Meethan, and Steve Miles at one of the following e-mail addresses: aanderson@plymouth.ac.uk; kmeethan@plymouth.ac.uk; s1miles@plymouth.ac.uk

3. REMINDER: 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.

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

NEW JOURNALS

HISTORICAL MATERIALISM: RESEARCH IN CRITICAL MARXIST THEORY

HISTORICAL MATERIALISM is a new journal which seeks to play a part in the recovery and renewal of the critical and explanatory potential of classical Marxism. It will provide a forum for:

- The reappropriation and refinement of the classical Marxist tradition for emancipatory purposes.
- A genuine and open dialogue between individuals working in different traditions of Marxism.
- Interdisciplinary debate and communication on an international scale between graduates, researchers and academics.

For further details and subscription information contact:

The Editors
Historical Materialism
London School of Economics
Houghton Street
London WC2A 2AE, UK
hm@lse.ac.uk

FEMINIST THEORY: AN INTERNATIONAL INTERDISCIPLINARY JOURNAL

Editors: Gabriele Griffin Kingston University, UK, Rosemary Hennessy SUNY at Albany, USA, Stevi Jackson University of York, UK and Sasha Roseneil University of Leeds, UK

Feminist Theory is a new international interdisciplinary journal being launched in April 2000 to provide a forum for critical analysis and constructive debate within feminist theory. Feminist Theory will be genuinely interdisciplinary and will reflect the diversity of feminism, incorporating perspectives from across the broad spectrum of the humanities and social sciences and the full range of feminist political and theoretical stances.

Themes to be covered in early issues include:

- What counts as feminist theory?
- Agency in theory
- New materialist feminisms
- Between difference and gender
- The cultural and the material

Call for Papers

Contributions are invited for early issues of *Feminist Theory*. For further details please contact: The Editors, *Feminist Theory*, Centre for Women's Studies, University of York, Heslington, York YO1 5DD

Tel: +44 (0)1904 433672/433671 Fax: +44 (0)1904433670 Email: feminist.theory@york.ac.uk

EMAIL LISTS

HISTORY OF GEOGRAPHICAL THOUGHT HISTORY-OF-GEOG@LSV.UKY.EDU

Join this list by sending the message 'subscribe maillistname' to listserv@lsv.uky.edu

HISTORY OF GIS PROJECT H-GIS@LSV.UKY.EDU

Join this list by sending the message 'subscribe maillistname' to listserv@lsv.uky.edu

METHOD-AND-THEORY

Method-and-Theory is an email list designed to draw attention to contemporary strategies and approaches in the Humanities and Social Sciences. This may include discussions about the idea of truth, the limits of pluralism, the correctness of theory, and the critique of ideology.

To join this list send an email message to <Majordomo@lists.village.virginia.edu> with a blank subject and the message in the message text 'subscribe method-and-theory'

FELLOWSHIPS: 'ECOLOGICAL CONVERSATIONS'

Ecological Conversations: Gender, Science and the Sacred
A Rockefeller Foundation Humanities Fellowship Program
Center for the Study of Women in Society, University of Oregon

Program Description

Ecological wisdom is cultivating a new ethos, a new covenant, a new spirit of place. More than three decades after Rachel Carson first raised a passionate voice of conscience in protest against the pollution and degradation of nature, the gendered dimensions of the global environmental predicament are increasingly visible. Key elements of Western science and environmental management have been challenged by postcolonial, feminist, antiracist, and indigenous peoples' struggles. These movements have generated investigations of the religious and cultural meaning systems and the socioeconomic underpinnings of Western colonization and desacralization of the natural world. The global nexus of these movements has opened up fundamental philosophical, evolutionary, political, and spiritual questions.

Ecological Conversations: Gender, Science and the Sacred proposes to engage the creativity generated by the convergence of women's and ecological movements around the globe. The program will create a forum for critical reflection and scholarly interchange where the assumptions about knowledge and the world that shape these movements can be complicated and contested. Our goal is a series of dynamic conversations where scholars, writers, scientists, theologians and grass-roots activists from different cultural and national contexts can move beyond environmental crisis rhetoric and explore conceptual and ethical vocabularies that meet the challenges of a new millennium.

The theme for 2000-2001 is the cultural analysis of scientific concepts, practices and policies. We will consider how scientific concepts and findings are translated into public environmental discourse, and the role of the emerging ecofeminist vision of science and technology in this discourse. During 2001-2002, we will focus on the ways in which scientific and sacred epistemologies are being integrated and how this integration (or lack thereof) influences our sense of place. The program is committed to an international dialogue. Ideally, half of the fellows will be from outside the U.S. and Europe.

In addition to pursuing their own research project, fellows will participate in a biweekly seminar and an annual CSWS-sponsored conference on the theme of the Rockefeller program for that year. Appointment duration may range from three to nine months. A monthly stipend, medical coverage and travel expenses will be provided. Awards may not be used for the completion of graduate degrees, advanced training, curriculum development, or for writing poetry or fiction.

Application Deadline for 2000-2001: January 17, 2000

Application Deadline for 2001-2002: January 17, 2001

Address all enquiries and application materials to:

Rockefeller Fellowship Program

Center for the Study of Women in Society

1201 University of Oregon

Eugene, OR 97403-1201

Telephone (541) 346-5015

Facsimile (541) 346-5096

E-mail: csws@oregon.uoregon.edu=20

For more information, contact the CSWS web site:

<http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~csws/>
