

# HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF GEOGRAPHY RESEARCH GROUP

*Royal Geographical Society  
with the Institute of British Geographers*

Newsletter

November 1999

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

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Send material as a hard copy, on disc (Word or ASCII files please), or as an email message or attachment. The Newsletter is published twice a year; copy deadlines are April 1<sup>st</sup> and October 1<sup>st</sup>.



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## PROPOSED CONSTITUTION OF THE HPGRG

The committee propose to introduce the attached constitution, which codifies existing practice and procedures relating to the activities of the Group. This follows a request by the RGS-IBG that all Research Groups supply up-to-date constitutions. Any member wishing to propose an amendment to the proposed constitution should notify the Chair (Felix Driver) in writing, no later than 15 December 1999. The committee propose that the constitution be formally adopted at the AGM to be held at the RGS-IBG annual conference.

*A more succinct 'statement of purpose', adopted at the last AGM, was published in the last Newsletter.*

### Aims & Objects

1. The History & Philosophy of Geography Research Group (HPGRG) aims to further research and learning in the history and philosophy of geography.
2. The remit of the HPGRG includes the histories of geography; contemporary philosophies, theories and methods in the field of geography; and the history and philosophy of knowledge in associated disciplines.
3. The HPGRG is affiliated to the Royal Geographical Society with the Institute of British Geographers (RGS-IBG).

### Structure & Working Practice

#### 1. Committee

- 1.1 The business of the HPGRG is managed by a committee consisting of a Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, Postgraduate Liaison Officer and up to four ordinary members. Additional members may be co-opted by the Committee.
- 1.2 Committee members are elected at the AGM. They must be proposed and seconded by HPGRG members. The term of office is normally three years. The appointment of co-opted members for a period of up to two years must be agreed at AGMs.
- 1.3 The Chair, Secretary and Treasurer are expected to be members of the RGS-IBG.
- 1.4 Committee members offer their time and expertise on a voluntary and unpaid basis.

#### 2. Meetings

- 2.1 Committee meetings are convened by the Secretary, normally twice a year.
- 2.2 A minimum of four members is required for a committee meeting to be quorate.
- 2.3 Decisions of the committee are made by consensus. Where necessary, decisions are made on the basis of a simple majority, with the Chair having the casting vote.
- 2.4 An AGM is held annually, at which annual accounts are presented and approved, reports on activities received, proposals for future activities considered, and elections held. All members of the HPGRG are entitled to attend. Where necessary, decisions are made on the basis of a simple majority, with the Chair having the casting vote.

#### 3. Functions of the Committee

- 3.1 The Committee is empowered to convene conferences, workshops and conference sessions on behalf of the HPGRG itself or in collaboration with other bodies, and to sponsor similar events organised by its members.



3.2 The Committee is responsible for producing newsletters, normally twice a year, which are mailed to all members.

3.3 The Committee is empowered to support the production of other publications, including research registers, on behalf of the HPGRG.

3.4 The Committee is empowered to make grant applications to RGS-IBG and other bodies on behalf of the HPGRG in support of conferences and other research-related activities.

3.5 The Committee is empowered to enter into communication on behalf of the HGRG with cognate organisations in its field.

#### 4. Finance

4.1 The Committee oversees the HPGRG's financial affairs. The Committee is responsible for proposing budgets for different areas of expenditure.

4.2 The Committee is responsible for the presentation of accounts to the committee, to the AGM, and to the RGS-IBG. The Treasurer is the authorised signatory on all cheque payments.

4.3 Committee members are permitted to claim expenses for costs reasonably incurred in the conduct of committee business. In all cases, receipts must be submitted to the Treasurer.

4.4 All proposed expenditure, other than minor expenses, must normally be agreed in advance by the committee.

#### 5. Changes to the Constitution

5.1 Any member of the Group may propose a change to the constitution. All such proposals must be made in writing, and supported by the signatures of ten members of the Group. Such proposals must be circulated to all members of the Group. Decisions on changes to the constitution are made by majority vote at AGMs.

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## HPGRG SESSIONS AT THE RGS-IBG ANNUAL CONFERENCE UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX, JANUARY 4<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> 2000

### a. Enacting Geographies

Convenors: John Wylie, Paul Harrison and J-D Dewsbury (University of Bristol)

#### *"Lay Geographies: Enactment, Practices/knowledges"*

*D. Crouch, Anglia University*

Lay geographies and human subjects provide focus for this paper. Recently geographers have begun to engage with social constructionist theories of embodiment, and yet there is a lack of empirical working of these debates (c.f. Radley, Crossley, Shotter). This paper considers embodied practice in relation to the materiality and metaphor of particular spaces, and relates these in the processes of constructing lay geographies. In particular, using ethnographic material on leisure practices, it seeks to articulate the kaleidoscope, or rather patina, of knowledge of soft, flexible spaces enacted that refract life and are refracted in that life, as spaces that the human subject makes herself. This amounts to an encounter with others, the self, memory, representations, desires, imagination, artefacts, such ideas as of nature, in a practice that is dynamic, unsettling, multi-sensual. Through a consideration of ethnographic material the paper develops a theoretical discussion of lay geographies as embodied, enacted, and considers the challenge of expressivity, poetics and embodied semiotics. There is a reflection on knowledge in activity and activity through knowledge without resolving the dualism, but acknowledging the

limits of language. From this, remarks are developed regarding investigative and interpretive methods.

#### *"Are the fish in water, or is the water in the fish?: how learners embody the university"* *P. Gray, University of Stirling.*

Although the role of the university in the "age of information" is often brought into question, the (student) body which enacts that role shows little sign of becoming obsolete. There has been little consideration of the spatial embodiment of student experience, and its effects on the learning process. An over-emphasis on discourse has hidden some of the spatial and corporeal aspects of the learning process. This paper examines some of these aspects. In particular, it looks at how adult learners develop a sense of proximity to the university, using mobility, possession and atmosphere as organising concepts. Drawing on empirical research amongst nurse students at the University of Stirling, I show that proximity can be studied using a combination of qualitative and quantitative approaches. The spatial theory set out by Martin Heidegger, in *Being & Time* and elsewhere, is shown to be helpful in relating seemingly disparate ideas such as 'distance' and 'involvement'. Moreover, although Heidegger is not interested in the body as such, his work can be seen to have influenced those such as Merleau-Ponty and Irigaray who have seen embodiment as a major challenge for spatial theorists. In concluding, I argue that a coherent theory of proximity is necessary in order to address issues such as empowerment, participation and exclusion, which exceed disciplinary boundaries and which maintain the body as a locus of resistance to ideology. The research outlined above demonstrates that the student body is still just that.

#### *"The Senses React to Every Sound and Smell About Them': Naturism and Embodied Experience in Twentieth-Century Britain"*

*N. Morris, University of Hull.*

This paper considers the ways that some humans encounter, understand and reflect upon the spaces, places and environments around them. Using a dialectical conception of the body-environment relationship, I will explore the concept of embodiment and the development of ideas concerning physical, mental and moral well-being within naturist literature between the late 1920's and the mid-1960's. Although naturist ideas were part of a much wider human-environment debate in these periods, the embodied geographies of the naturist movement have been largely neglected. Yet this literature sustains a constant discussion regarding the ways the body 'feels' environments and the natural world. In particular, the environment was thought to impact upon the human body both physically and mentally. For example, fresh air, sunshine and healthy exercise were believed to make fitter individuals who were healthier in body and mind. A consideration of these debates and the embodied geographies they suggest also raises questions about the methodological issues surrounding embodied/sensory experiences when researching such themes.

#### *"Moving feeling: affective territories and placing rhythm"*

*D. McCormack, University of Bristol*

What is the place of rhythm, how is this place inhabited, and can we think, talk, and write about the rhythmic enactment of embodiment? This paper gestures in the direction of such questions. Gestures that here, involve thinking about the way we live through rhythm, and the way in which it inhabits us, and there, involve the sensuous apprehension of how we affectively embody rhythm. This paper wraps itself up in these issues, and a little more besides, for thinking about rhythm involves taking on board the realisation that 'we' are always more than we 'think'.



Its chief concern is how we might approach rhythm as affective territory, as moving home, as expressive abode. This is not so simply a concern with the 'where' of rhythm, or the ways that rhythm can be mapped onto environmental, biological, and cultural dynamics. It is also a question of the 'how' of rhythm. How, in particular, rhythm allows us to move on, the ways in which we move, and how this movement involves the drawing of irreducibly plural affective territories, territories that nevertheless offer 'the subtle pleasure of inventing, within the plurality, one's own conduct, one's own language, one's own individual work and private existence, one's body itself' (Serres, 1995:138). As a way to distil some of these ideas, the paper offers insights gleaned from participation in a contemporary movement practice known as the 5 Rhythms, a practice based upon the exploration of the therapeutic relationship between rhythm, sound, expressive movement, and emotion.

*"Fieldwork and radical hermeneutics: disrupting power and representation in the field"*  
M. Rose, University of Cambridge

For the last twenty years interpretation and representation have been in crisis. In geography the 'field' has transformed from a physical assignation where researchers transparently grasp the world, to a social terrain where gathering, analysing and depicting data is a highly political - and potentially oppressive - process. The power/knowledge couplet that sustains this understanding of the field is based on a particular reading of Foucault made popular by Said. In Said's reading, representations of the 'other' are organised through narratives that sediment certain routines of thought. While these narratives are symbolic, and thus interpretative, they are primarily ideological. An alternative reading of Foucault, however, is that these narratives are not a product of power relations but rather an effect. Discourse establishes the presence of power by representing itself as a response to it. Given this reading I argue that the politics of fieldwork is not about representation but about accepting the supposed relationship between representation and colonial power - a relationship that colonial writers themselves established. In other words, in accepting representation as power, geographers reify the discourse that enacted the power/knowledge couplet in the first place. The goal of this paper, therefore, is to generate an alternative understanding of fieldwork and the field outside of the power/knowledge link. Drawing upon the work of John Caputo, I discuss how radical hermeneutics can transform our concept of the field from a space in which we interpret and read the world, others, objects, etc., to a space through which the world is produced. In other words, the field is not a point of access or gateway through which we read and represent the 'other'. Rather, it is the fundamental process through which our own geographic world (as a meaningful narrative) is constituted.

*"Looking in on and Peering out of my World: An Obsessive-Compulsive, a Geographer and a Self: the Personal Enactment of (De)stabilised/transitional Psycho-physical Body Space Interaction"*

A. McIvor, University of St. Andrews

When the psychological becomes 'over-logical' and the physical embodies and enacts this dynamic, the affected individual's body becomes the location of a highly personalised geography of psycho-physical conflict, constraint and control. The individual body emerges as not only a space wherein everyday subconscious acts are exaggerated and excessive, but often results in behavioural and psychological manifestations within these universal/'common' practices that are frequently life-dominating ritualistic habits. In this paper the author explores the enactment and embodiment of this behaviourally (and psychologically) explicit mind/body relationship through the exploitation of his own experience of an obsessive-compulsive disorder, its 'treatment' and its relationship to his identity as a geographer and a self. He takes on the role of researcher

and researched, and enters the geography of his own 'disturbed' psychological and physical body/ies (particularly their existence as a mutually-reinforcing and informative entity), the (de)stabilising of its/their 'normality', their representation in his perceptions of his own (internal and physical) self-space and the relationship of this space and his perceptions of it to the external world, and the transitional character of the continual (re)creation and (re)production of this geography. From this process of enquiry, in combination with the author's unique positionality within (and outside) it, and given the role his identity as a geographer played in the success of his clinical psychology treatment of this disorder, he offers three strategic conceptual pathways for the forwarding of 'the body' within human geography: firstly, a more explicit introduction of the conceptual 'self' and the process of selving to aid and further our understanding in this area of geography; secondly, the use of a self-critical, self-analytical approach to 'the body' either substantially and/or conceptually; and finally, that in considering the body as an embodied 'enactment' of a geography, we must neither view it as an enclosed/informed/singular concept or space, but as that of one in a transitional state of flux, where the dynamics of the self and the body both continually reconstruct and reconstitute that self and body.

*"[Im]plication and the subject of physiological vision"*

M. Paterson, University of Bristol

Thinking through the embodied site of perception or 'physiological vision' (Crary 1993), present as a problematic in Lyotard, Merleau-Ponty and Bergson, this paper will look to conceptual and empirical explorations for a reaching-out beyond the site of the individual body in order to investigate possible short-circuits, the irruption of pathways and routes to the 'sensate' through non-discursive practices. This involves the idea of going beyond ideas of discrete, private, sensory experience and the idea of permeable or 'leaky boundaries' of the bodily and the sensate. In particular the example of Bacon's viscerality as short-circuiting of habitual physiological vision, a detournement, that cuts to 'brute' experience between and across bodies, through anamorphosis, and the play of libidinal form. It is through a short-circuiting, a "jamming of signification" (Roberts 1998) that regimes of pathways, 'irruptions' upon the inscriptive surface (body, consciousness, inner/outer mental states) arise. The problematisation of categories of disembodied, universalisable thought-patterns and consciousness will lead to a 'transcendence in immanence' (Lyotard 1992) that can escape limitations of gender-specificity without falling prey to the usual dualisms. Transcendence in immanence, or 'implication' (Harrison 2000) holds the key to a reflexivity in thought that is non-Cartesian, and which discards bodily essentialism and mental universalism in order to explore the nature of boundaries in general and also of the relation between conceptions of conscious thought, conscious action, and embodiment. The body as a route back, a fold, into the 'unthought' (Deleuze 1988). It is through anamorphic, brute expressionism and other non-discursive practices that this embodied transcendence in immanence, departing from a gendered, racialised specificity, permits irruptions to arise on the inscriptive surface - the subject of physiological vision - a route back to the "degree zero of humanity" (Doel 1995), or Merleau-Ponty's primordial perceptual form through the pictorial surface.

*"PLUG MYSELF IN (D.O.E.L. featuring D.O.S.E. and Mark E. Smith)*

*THE ST LUKE MIXES (PART TWO OF A 2CD SET)"*

M. Doel, University of Loughborough

1. Plug myself in (7" Nero mix): spatial fetishism and motionless trips
2. Plug myself in (disco hospital casualty mix): 'glasses are broken'



3. Plug myself in (dodo bassburger escarlot mix): the device
4. Plug myself in (missing link symphonic mix): 'no body'
5. Plug myself in (3 over 3 out patients mix): the figure schiz
6. Plug myself in (Monty's full up pompeii mix): 'do me a favour and don't talk about it'

#### b. Eurocentrism

Convenor: Mike Heffernan, University of Nottingham  
Abstracts in registration pack.

#### c. Geopolitics of Geographical Knowledge

This session will not now take place.

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### SUGGESTIONS FOR HPGRG SESSIONS AT RGS-IBG 2001

Suggestions are welcomed from HPGRG members for sessions to be held under the Research Group's auspices at the 2001 RGS-IBG Annual Meeting. Please bring your suggestions to the Annual General Meeting (date and venue in your registration pack) or speak to a member of the committee in advance of the meeting.

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### CALLS FOR PAPERS

#### 1. SOCIAL THEORY 2000

THE INAUGURAL CONFERENCE OF SOCIALTHEORY.ORG, THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL THEORY CONSORTIUM, MAY 11<sup>TH</sup>-14<sup>TH</sup>, 2000  
University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky, USA

Over the past decade, Social Theory has re-energized contemporary social and humanistic thought in a variety of areas. The purpose of this conference is to organize the international social theory community. This call on behalf of the Consortium is addressed to scholars, faculty, and students who work in the various areas and traditions which social theory embraces (e.g. identity theory, political theory, social epistemologies, political economy, critical race studies, science studies, feminist theory, postcolonial theory). The conference organizers invite 350 word essay abstracts, panel and session proposals that promise to address the concerns of this community, including the future of social theoretic research, improvement of scholarly communications, the place of social theory in the university curriculum, the social theorist as public intellectual, and other issues that bear on the present and future of social theory as a non-discipline-specific endeavor. The conference will be enriched by the presentations of three keynote speakers. For further information about the consortium and the conference, see [www.socialtheory.org](http://www.socialtheory.org). Send abstracts or queries by December 15<sup>th</sup> 1999 to Committee on Social Theory, c/o Wolfgang Natter, POT 1445, Lexington, KY 40506-0027 ([wnatter@pop.uky.edu](mailto:wnatter@pop.uky.edu)) or fax 606-323-1969.

#### 2. BETWEEN NATURE: EXPLORATIONS IN ECOLOGY AND PERFORMANCE

Centre for the Study of Environmental Change & Department of Theatre Studies, Lancaster University, Lancaster, UK. July 27<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>, 2000

BETWEEN NATURE will be a major regional, national and international gathering for anyone concerned with ecology or performance. By bringing together these two domains the event aims to generate new understandings and modes of engagement appropriate to a time when rapid technological and cultural change is disrupting many received boundaries - between aesthetics and ethics, nature and artifice, private and public, knowledge and politics. BETWEEN NATURE will be innovative in its approach, including all types of presentations from academic papers to interactive events, workshops and performances. It presents a unique opportunity to re-think and re-perform our relationship with nature. BETWEEN NATURE will address topics such as: recasting technologies - democracy as theatre - art as social practice - situationism and ecology - staging science - convening the city - landscape and embodied memory - the presentation of the ecological self - dance and nature - body and dwelling - ecological rites - gift, sacrifice and patent - TECH\_gnosis - performing places - the feeling of the land - industry, design and agency - vernacular and global knowledges - timescales of technology - the politics of speech acts and silence - risk and security - institutions as theatre. We invite proposals for all types of presentation from academics, arts practitioners and performers, political and cultural activists, decision makers and citizens. Please send proposals to Janet Hamid (see address below) by 15<sup>th</sup> February 2000. We are currently seeking a publisher for a planned book based on papers and performance documents from the event.

Janet Hamid, Between Nature, CSEC, Bowland Tower East, Lancaster University, Lancaster LA1 4YT, United Kingdom; E-mail: [j.hamid@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:j.hamid@lancaster.ac.uk); Phone: + 44 (0) 1524 592674 Fax: + 44 (0) 1524 846339; Web: [www.lancs.ac.uk/users/csec/betweennature](http://www.lancs.ac.uk/users/csec/betweennature)

#### 3. FOR ALTERNATIVE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY GEOGRAPHIES: 2<sup>ND</sup> INTERNATIONAL CRITICAL GEOGRAPHY CONFERENCE

Following the successful inaugural International Critical Geography (ICG) conference in Vancouver in August 1997, attended by 300 people from 30 countries, the 2nd ICG Conference is a major international conference which will take place at the University of Taegu, South Korea, from 9 to 13 August 2000. The Conference has been organized to precede the International Geographical Conference in Seoul, 14-18 August, 2000. The theme - "For Alternative 21st Century Geographies" - in many ways defines the mission of the International Critical Geography Group which attempts to build a 'critical' geographically informed practice as a political tool for remaking local and global geographies into a more egalitarian world. As geographical concepts become increasingly central to an understanding of world politics, from global warming to resurgent nationalisms, globalization to assertions of local autonomy, there has never been a more important time to fashion a geographically smart politics.

Proposed Topics: The following topics are suggestive:  
Technology and the corporatizing of university geography  
*Geografia contra neo-liberalismo*  
Why is geography so conservative?

Updates on specific struggles  
Economic crises: Asia, Latin America, Africa  
Space and theory  
Nature and Society  
Beyond the Mantra: the POLITICS of class, race, gender, sexuality  
Justice and Environment  
Africa in and out of the global economy  
Post Cold War Political Geography: Korea  
Multiculturalism  
Scale as Political Strategy  
Space/Territory  
Silent war: the New Global Geography of Poverty and Inequality  
Cultural Politics, Global Capital

Sessions: The conference will have four kinds of sessions:  
plenary sessions/regular paper sessions/symposia on specific themes/alternative format sessions

E-List and Website: Participants who would like to correspond with others concerning sessions, papers and any other aspect of the conference can subscribe to the ICG e-mail list:  
[icgg-ml@econgeog.misc.hit-u.ac.jp](mailto:icgg-ml@econgeog.misc.hit-u.ac.jp)

To subscribe to this list, send an e-mail to: [listserv@econgeog.misc.hit-u.ac.jp](mailto:listserv@econgeog.misc.hit-u.ac.jp)

Put nothing in the subject' line

In the message write: subscribe icgg-ml <Your Name>

Do not put anything in the 'subject' line nor write anything else in the mail.

Periodic updates and more general information can be found at the ICG website  
<http://econgeog.misc.hit-u.ac.jp/icgg/>

**Pre-published papers:** Given our desire to communicate across various languages in this major international conference, we strongly encourage participants to submit their papers ahead of time. Papers submitted by the deadline (see below) will be posted on the website and published on paper at the conference. This will have the added advantage of allowing us to organize sessions around discussion of pre-read papers. We also encourage you to make these papers short, 10 to 15 pages, as a way of encouraging reading and discussion of papers.

#### Schedules and Deadlines:

November 30 1999:	2nd Announcement
January 15 2000:	Abstract (100 words) and Conference Fees deadline
March 1 2000:	Draft program
April 30 2000:	Paper Deadline
May 31 2000:	Final Program

#### Conference Fees:

Full Fees (includes shared accommodation and meals): Faculty \$US 200/Students \$US 100

Fees without accommodation (includes meals): Faculty \$US 170/Students \$US 70

Reduced fees are available for participants from non-hard currency countries.

Send abstract, fees, and registration form (copy from organiser) by January 15 2000 to:

Neil Smith (ICG Conference), CCACC, 8 Bishop Place, Rutgers University, New Brunswick NJ 08903,USA

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## OTHER FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

### 1. DISCIPLINARY DIAGRAMS, POLITICAL FIELDS: MEDIATIONS OF IDENTITY AND SPACE IN THE LATE 20TH CENTURY

Duke University, March 30<sup>th</sup> to April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2000.

What topographies of power and representation have emerged in the wake of the profound popularity within university discourse of theories of hybridity, diasporas, border cultures, and cosmopolitanism? The new global order of intensified flows and accumulations of capital and labor—co-extensive with new forms of racism, nationalism, and hetero/sexism—has refigured the relationship between identity and space in the late 20th century. As social identities suffer spatial troubles in the wake of these flows and accumulations, new conceptualizations of this relationship seem in order. Thus, the proposed conference will offer theoretical revisions of existing geocultural histories in an effort to introduce new methodologies and conceptual tools into the disciplinary diagrams circulating around transnational cultural studies and related fields. The conference will also examine disciplinary preoccupations with the "new" as symptoms of a desire for forms of scholarship that function as praxis, through their elimination of the distance separating the historical real from its conceptualization.

Further details from: Disciplinary Diagrams/Political Fields Conference, Attn: Abdul Mustapha, Center for International Studies, Box 90404, Duke University, Durham, NC 27708-0404  
Fax: 919.684.8749, Email: [am@duke.edu](mailto:am@duke.edu) Web page: <http://www.duke.edu/~arg2/DDPF.html>

### 2. CROSSROADS IN CULTURAL STUDIES

Third International Conference, June 21<sup>st</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup>, 2000, Birmingham, U.K.

After two very successful conferences in Tampere, Finland, Crossroads in Cultural Studies has moved to Birmingham. The first and second conferences attracted over 500 participants from all continents proving how important it is to meet each other in these 'virtual' times! We have much pleasure, therefore, in inviting you to the Third International Crossroads in Cultural Studies Conference. The conference aims to be a meeting place for people within cultural studies to make contacts, exchange views and gain inspiration from each other on all topics that interest such a diverse international community. Thus, we encourage participation from different countries, disciplines and cultural backgrounds, and from a wide range of research interests.

Crossroads 2000 is organised by the Department of Cultural Studies and Sociology, School of Social Sciences, University of Birmingham, supported by a cross-disciplinary organizing committee. The Conference Home Page with several useful links to other websites is at: <http://www.bham.ac.uk/crossroads/>



Those wishing to receive information on the Conference should register on-line. Your name and e-mail address will be retained and you will receive our Invitation Program which will be published in November 1999. Please contact:

Crossroads in Cultural Studies, Department of Cultural Studies & Sociology, University of Birmingham, Birmingham B15 2TT, U.K.; e-mail: [crossroads@css.bham.ac.uk](mailto:crossroads@css.bham.ac.uk)

### 3. SEA CHANGES: HISTORICIZING THE OCEAN, C. 1500 - C. 1900 University of Greifswald, Germany, 20<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2000

The aim of this international conference is to explore material and methodological sea changes in the cultural history of oceans, ships, and mariners. Contemporary debates about globalization, transculturation, transnationality, contact zones, the multiplicity and non-synchronicity of cultures and histories invite us to regard the ocean as a historical location whose transformative power is not merely psychological or metaphorical. The sea, whether as the Black Atlantic, the quasi-arcadian Pacific, or the mediterranean omphalos, has been the site of radical changes in human lives and national histories. It has been crossed by vessels of discovery, by immigrant ships, slave ships, pirates, merchant ships, warships, and notorious pleasure steamers, many of which have left their mark on the bottom of the sea but which - more importantly - have decisively shaped human history. The conference, jointly organized by the universities of Greifswald and Dortmund, will be hosted by Greifswald. Located at the Baltic Sea near the Polish border, this small and ancient Hanse town and former haunt of the famous pirate Klaus Störtebecker offers a fascinating maritime atmosphere. Key note speakers will include Peter Hulme, Greg Denning, Marcus Rediker, and Susan Bassnett. Further details are available from:

Bernhard Klein, Institut fuer Anglistik und Amerikanistik, Fachbereich 15, Universitaet Dortmund, 44221 Dortmund, Germany.  
Fax: +49 (0231) 755 5450; email: [klein@mail.fb15.uni-dortmund.de](mailto:klein@mail.fb15.uni-dortmund.de)

### 4. EUROPEAN CITIES: NETWORKS AND CROSSROADS

Fifth International Conference on Urban History, Berlin, August 31<sup>st</sup>- September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2000  
Specialist Session: *Culture, Space and the City: Simmel at the Crossroads of Modernity* Conveners: Dr Dorothy Rowe and Dr Janet Stewart

Taking David Frisby's initial discussion of Georg Simmel's analysis of social space, the city and modernity (Frisby, 1992) as its point of departure, this session will explore the unique contribution made to a cultural history of urban modernity during the Imperial era. Simmel's analysis of the metropolis doesn't focus on the city as the national centre and place of political decision-making; instead, it is concerned with the city as the place where a new kind of consciousness and a new rhythm of 'sensual-intellectual life' emerged (Korff, 1987). The focal point of a culture of things, Simmel viewed the metropolis as a vast nexus in which both social networks and indefinite collectivities such as crowds are located. In his formal, aesthetic and social analysis of urban modernity, Simmel's aim was to reveal the forms of social interaction characteristic of the metropolis. This session will focus on mapping aspects of Simmel's thought onto wider cultural phenomena of the period, exploring interactions between Simmel and the social networks through which he circulated. The central European contexts of Berlin, Prague and Vienna and the patterns of sociability located in the metropolises will be considered as pivotal

to the functioning of cross-cultural influences and the dissemination of ideas in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. For further details please contact:

Dr Dorothy Rowe, Department of Art, Froebel College, Roehampton Institute London, Roehampton Lane, London SW15 5PJ  
Tel: 0181 392 3388 or e-mail: [d.rose@roehampton.ac.uk](mailto:d.rose@roehampton.ac.uk)

### 5. GEORGIAN GEOGRAPHIES

At the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art, London, September 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>, 2000

This two-day international and interdisciplinary conference on 'Georgian Geographies' is being organised by Professor Charles Withers (Edinburgh) and Dr Miles Ogborn (QMW). It seeks to bring together historical geographers, art historians and historians to discuss shared substantive and theoretical issues within their research on this key period. The aim is to build on and explore the widespread interest in the geographical nature of culture and society in the eighteenth century. So far, the following have agreed to participate: Chloe Chard, Dan Clayton, Stephen Daniels, John Gascoigne, Paul Glennie, Robert Mayhew, Miles Ogborn, Mark Overton, David Solkin, Charles Withers.

For further details contact either Dr Miles Ogborn, Department of Geography, Queen Mary and Westfield College, Mile End Road, London E1 4NS ([m.j.ogborn@qmw.ac.uk](mailto:m.j.ogborn@qmw.ac.uk)) or Professor Charles Withers, Department of Geography, University of Edinburgh, Drummond Street, Edinburgh EH8 9XP ([cwjw@geo.ed.ac.uk](mailto:cwjw@geo.ed.ac.uk)).

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## PUBLICATIONS

### TRAVEL, CIRCULATION & THE TRANSFER OF GEOGRAPHICAL IDEAS: SPECIAL ISSUE OF *FINISTERRA*

A special number of the Portuguese Geographical Journal (*Finisterra*, vol. 33, no. 65, 1998) contains a selection of the papers read at the meeting of the IGU Commission on the History of Geographical Thought held in Lisbon, August 1998. The 22 papers, introduced by Vincent Berdoulay and Josefina Gomez Mendoza, are arranged into four sections, devoted to 'Geographical ways of seeing'; 'Images of the other and social practice'; 'Crossing Boundaries'; and 'International flows and national schools'. Those without ready access to the journal may order copies from: *Finisterra*, Centro de Estudos Geograficos, Faculdade de Letras, Universidade de Lisboa, Alameda de Universidade, 1600-214 Lisboa Codex, Portugal (email [ceg@mail.telepac.pt](mailto:ceg@mail.telepac.pt)).

### GEOGRAPHY AND ENLIGHTENMENT

*Edited by David Livingstone and Charles Withers*

*Geography and Enlightenment* explores both the Enlightenment as a geographical phenomenon and the place of geography in the Enlightenment. From wide-ranging disciplinary and topical perspectives, contributors consider the many ways in which the world of the long eighteenth century was brought to view and shaped through map and text, exploration and argument, within and across spatial and intellectual borders. The first set of chapters charts the intellectual

and geographical contexts in which Enlightenment ideas began to form, including both the sites in which knowledge was created and discussed and the different means used to investigate the globe. Detailed explorations of maps created during this period show how these new ways of representing the world and its peoples influenced conceptions of the nature and progress of human societies, while studies of the travels of people and ideas reveal the influence of far-flung places on Enlightenment science and scientific credibility. The final set of chapters emphasizes the role of particular local contexts in Enlightenment thought.

Contributors are Michael T. Bravo, Paul Carter, Denis Cosgrove, Stephen Daniels, Matthew Edney, Anne Marie Claire Godlewska, Peter Gould, Michael Heffernan, David N. Livingstone, Dorinda Outram, Chris Philo, Roy Porter, Nicolaas Rupke, Susanne Seymour, Charles Watkins, and Charles W. J. Withers.

Published in Hardback and Paperback by University of Chicago Press, 1999.

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## RESEARCH GRANT INFORMATION

### ARTS AND HUMANITIES RESEARCH BOARD (AHRB) RESEARCH GRANTS

The latest version of the AHRB's Guide to its Research Grants scheme deserves attention from geographers in general and members of this Group in particular. For the first time, some kinds of geographical research are explicitly acknowledged to fall within the remit of the AHRB.

The detailed guidance for Panel 4 (Medieval & Modern History), for example, notes that "Applications in historical or cultural geography and in the history of geography should be directed to this panel, where there is a demonstrable historical focus" [their emphasis]. It is further stated that "Applications in the history of science and in the history of ideas should be directed to this panel". The notes for Panel 2 (Visual Arts & Media) suggest under the heading cultural geography that "Some aspects of geography, particularly cultural geography, fall within the Board's domain. Where geographers work on matters such as the representation and iconography of landscape then their applications should be directed to this panel".

The AHRB has recently introduced a variety of new funding schemes. The new Guide is a useful source for anyone working in the arts and humanities aspects of geography. A copy is available from the AHRB web-site at <http://www.ahrb.ac.uk>

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