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HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF GEOGRAPHY RESEARCH GROUP

*Royal Geographical Society
with the Institute of British Geographers*

Newsletter

June 2000

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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 1st and October 1st.

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Annual Report of the HPGRG for 1999

1. Statement of Purpose

It was agreed at the AGM on 6 January 1999 to replace the Strategic Plan with a more concise Statement of Purpose. The three-year Strategic Plan had been adopted in 1995, and marked the development of a more strategic approach to the Group's activities, providing directions and targets for their longer-term development. Given that many of the initial objectives of the Plan had been achieved, as well as the need for a simpler and less bureaucratic statement of the Group's activities, a more concise Statement of Purpose was drafted in its place. This provides a broad framework for the Group's activities and can be easily included in documents submitted to external bodies and in other publicity. The Statement of Purpose was printed in the Newsletter, and thus circulated to all members (see inside back cover).

2. Constitution

A draft Constitution was prepared during 1999 to be tabled at the AGM in 2000. The proposed Constitution codifies existing practice and procedures relating to the Group's activities, incorporating its aims and objectives and its structure and working practice (Committee, meetings, Committee functions, finance, and constitutional changes).

3. Conferences

The HPGRG maintained its high profile at a number of international conferences during 1999. At the 1999 Annual Conference in Leicester, the HPGRG convened two successful and well-attended sessions: *Feminisms and Geographies: Theoretical Orientations and Future Directions* (with the WGSG) and *Prometheus and the Pastoral* (with the ERG). Cheryl Gowar from Rutgers attended the conference as a Young Research Worker, and presented a paper in *Feminisms and Geographies*.

The HPGRG supported a one-day conference on *Field-Work in Geography: Cultures, Practices, Traditions*, at Royal Holloway on 5 May 1999, convened by Felix Driver. The RGS-IBG awarded £700 to enable Professor Dorinda Outram (University of Rochester, New York) to present a plenary paper. The conference brought together many geographers, historians of science and anthropologists, and also included an installation on the conference theme by the artist Perdita Phillips. The day was very successful and was reported in the *Times Higher Education Supplement* and the newsletters of the HPGRG and HGRG. A conference report is also forthcoming in *Ecumene*.

During 1999 the HPGRG, jointly with the WGSG, SCGRG and DARG, was awarded £1000 by the RGS-IBG to fund a conference on *Geographies of Home*, which will be held at UCL on 8-9 November 2000. This international and interdisciplinary conference will provide an important forum to foster intellectual exchange between, as well as within, different research groups of the RGS-IBG. The conference is convened by Alison Blunt and Ann Varley, who have applied for a further £8000 from the UCL Friends Programme, the British Association of Canadian Studies, and the British Academy, to invite sixteen speakers from the UK and overseas. To date, Geraldine Pratt (UBC), Jenny Hockey (Hull), Wendy Webster (Central Lancashire), and James Duncan (Cambridge) have accepted invitations to speak, and will be funded by the RGS-IBG award.

4. Publications and Communications

The Group continues to play a leading role in publishing research on the history and philosophy of geography. *Geography and Enlightenment*, edited by David Livingstone and Charles Withers, was 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.

A proposal for a volume on *Postcolonial Geographies*, edited by Alison Blunt and Cheryl McEwan, is under consideration by referees for the University of Edinburgh Press. This volume includes a number of papers originally presented at the 1998 HPGRG conference on this theme at the University of Southampton.

Felix Driver is preparing a proposal for an edited volume on field-work in geography, developing from the 1999 HPGRG conference on this theme at Royal Holloway.

The biannual HPGRG Newsletter is edited by Pyrs Gruffudd and sent to all members in June and November. The Newsletter includes conference reports, occasional items articles by our Corresponding Members, information about forthcoming conferences and funding bodies, the AGM minutes, and contact details of Committee members.

5. Finance

The Group ended 1999 with a balance of £1069.90. This was almost £900 less than the Group's closing balance in 1998 because the RGS-IBG grant of £700 was spent by May 1999 to fund Professor Dorinda Outram's attendance at the *Field-Work in Geography* conference. The Group continues to maintain its desired minimum balance of £1000.

6. Personnel

The following new officers and committee members were elected in January 1999: Alison Blunt (reelected Secretary until 2002); John Wylie (Postgraduate Liaison Officer until 2002); Neil Smith (nominated as Corresponding Member until 2002); and Michael Bravo (nominated as coopted member to foster links with the history of science and anthropology; until 2002).

7. RGS-IBG Liaison

The HPGRG successfully nominated candidates for the RAE 2001 Assessment Panel and as founding academicians of the Academy of Social Sciences (including Ron Johnston, HPGRG Committee Member). The main focus of liaison with the RGS-IBG in 1999 concerned the AHRB and ESRC consultations. The HPGRG supports the RGS-IBG in its application for lottery funding, and is particularly keen that further funding should become available to make the archives more accessible. The Group also recognises that the archives at the RGS-IBG represent a unique and invaluable collection relating to the history and philosophy of geography.

Dr Alison Blunt
Honorary Secretary, HPGRG

January 2000

HPGRG ACCOUNTS FOR 1999

INCOME	(£)	EXPENDITURE	(£)
Balance of 1998 account	1909.39	RHED Grant for 'Fieldwork' Conference	700.00
RGS-IBG Subvention	237.00	Newsletter Postage and Production	347.90
Interest	85.41	RGS-IBG Conference, Guest Speaker's Expenses	114.00
TOTAL INCOME	2231.80	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	1161.90
CLOSING BALANCE	1069.90		

*Professor Michael Heffernan
Honorary Treasurer, HPGRG*

January 2000

AWARDS FOR RESEARCH GROUP MEMBERS

We are delighted to announce the following awards made to HPGRG members:

FELIX DRIVER has been awarded the Murchison Award (created in Sir Roderick Murchison's will in 1882) offered by the RGS-IBG "for publication judged to contribute most to geographical science in preceding recent years" in recognition of publications on the historical Geography of imperialism and imperial cities.

FELIX DRIVER and Luciana Martins (Royal Holloway) have recently begun a three-year research project entitled *Tropical Visions* on British visions of the tropical world, funded by the AHRB. The project is concerned with images of the tropics in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, a period when British navigators, naturalists and travelling artists were faced with the problem of making sense of profoundly unfamiliar sights and experiences. A brief description is available on the website at <http://www.gg.rhbnc.ac.uk/ahrb>.

RON JOHNSTON has been nominated as a Founding Fellow of the newly-inaugurated Academy of Social Sciences.

CHARLES WITHERS has recently been elected to membership of the Academia Europaea, an organisation founded in 1988 as an independent organisation of European scholars, covering the whole range of disciplines across Europe. It has a membership of 1800 leading scholars from 35 European and 7 non-European countries. A small number of geographers are currently members, including Peter Haggett, Alan Wilson, Peter Hall, Ian Simmons and Colin Blakemore.

RESEARCH GRANTS AND LOANS

1. RGS-IBG Grants/Loans

The RGS-IBG is again running its annual grant/loan scheme. These 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 (eg assistance with the costs of materials, research assistance, travel costs) can also be considered. Given the limited funds available (approx. £5000 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."

As applications must be made via Research Groups any HPGRG members interested in applying should contact the Secretary, Alison Blunt, in the first instance. The deadline for submitting applications to the RGS-IBG is July 31st 2000 but potential applicants should contact the HPGRG well before that date.

2. Historical Geography Research Group grants

The Historical Geography Research Group of the RGS-IBG is making funds available over the next three years to support an annual major conference in historical geography. The award of £1000 is to support a high profile conference that will make a significant contribution to Historical Geography, raise the profile of the sub-discipline, and develop links with scholars working in cognate subject areas. It is open to members of the HGRG and the deadline is 1 September 2000. For further details please contact the HGRG Secretary, Cheryl McEwan; email: C.McEwan@bham.ac.uk

REPORTS ON HPGRG SESSIONS AT THE RGS-IBG ANNUAL CONFERENCE, UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX, JANUARY 4th - 7th 2000

ENACTING GEOGRAPHIES

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

While the role of the body as a site of cultural signification has occasioned much interest within contemporary human geographies, perhaps less has been said regarding the body's generative and expressive capacities. The aim of this half-day session was to index the 'enactment' and production of geographies through embodiment, and so to foreground the materialities of everyday practices, the poetics of lived bodies and the sensualities of perception and affection. Seven papers were presented, touching upon a wide range of theoretical and substantive linkages between the corporeal and the geographical.

The first half of the session opened with a paper by David Crouch (Anglia University) which presented a timely overview of recent research on embodiment that drew upon both a general phenomenological perspective upon the body subject and the particularities of his previous work on 'lay geographies'. Following from this, Peter Gray (University of Stirling) examined the specific use of Heidegger's conceptions of 'Being-in-the-world' within the space of pedagogy, with specific reference to the everyday learning practices of student nurses. Utilizing notions of proximity, Gray discussed Heideggerian 'involvement' in relation to the tasks and objects of the clinical lifeworld. The third paper presented by Nina Morris (University of Hull) moved towards a more substantive account of cultures of embodiment, through a focus upon naturalist discourses, practices and practitioners in Britain between 1920's-1960's. Morris outlined the modalities of sensuality (fresh air, sunshine and healthy exercise) which exercised a moral economy of subjectification which wove together debates on the role of nature and culture. The final paper in the first half of the session, presented by Derek McCormack, (University of Bristol) posed the question 'what is the place of rhythm, how is this place inhabited, and can we think, talk, and write about the rhythmic enactment of embodiment?' McCormack sought to implicitly gesture towards some answers through the rhythmic movement of his presentation, guiding the audience into a different way of thinking their own current spacing within the seminar room.

Three papers were presented in the second half of the session. Opening, Mitch Rose (University of Cambridge) theoretically exposed the power relations implicit within geographical understandings of the 'field'. In thinking through the conceptual place of enactment he attempted to show how these fixed relationalities can be sidestepped via consideration of John Caputo's notion of radical hermeneutics, a notion which emphasises the processual constitution of the geographical world. The next paper by Mark Paterson (University of Bristol) gave a theoretical history of the interface between tactility and technology, demonstrating in particular that our ways of seeing are forever incarnate. Discarding bodily essentialism, Paterson explored a number of ways in which this interface is played out in contemporary art and digital media. Finally, Marcus Doel (University of Loughborough) concluded with a reading of Kafka's 'In the Penal Colony' which sought to displace the humanist inclinations of phenomenological descriptions of the lived body. Doel's reading emphasised by contrast an immanent and

immaterial matrix wherein it is possible no resolution can be hoped for: the entire machinery of signification collapses.

Taken together the seven papers presented by the session constituted a space of experimentation in which the sensualities of embodiment were shown to be pregnant with possibilities for the production of alternative geographical understandings. In particular the session was characterised by the presenters' willingness to embrace and develop theoretical lineages often overlooked by mainstream human geographies. The organisers would like to thank all those who presented and attended.

John Wylie, Paul Harrison, JD Dewsbury,
School of Geographical Sciences, University of Bristol

EUROCENTRISM

Convenor: Mike Hefferman, University of Nottingham

This half day session was designed to raise, and if possible answer, some fundamental questions about how intellectual exchange take place across the global 'north-south' divide. That this is an unequal exchange which intensifies the social and economic divisions between rich countries and poor is scarcely a novel or unexamined observation. The desire to unravel the roots and consequences of modern Eurocentrism is, of course, an essential starting point for most 'post-colonial' writing across the humanities and social sciences. As the members of the HPGRG know better than most, geographers have made an important contribution to this general questioning of long-established assumptions about the nature of world's intellectual landscape. While most of this work has understandably focused on particular periods and places, we now have a few attempts to analysis these questions on a much more expansive historical and geographical canvas. Jim Blaut's 1993 book *The Colonizer's Model of the World: Geographical Diffusionism and Eurocentric History* is perhaps the most obvious example: a sustained and resolutely geographical attempt to explain both the uneven nature of global development and the resulting contortions in our narratives of world history. It is, from a purely sectarian disciplinary perspective, gratifying to find eminent non-geographers such as Jared Diamond developing similar arguments in his sweeping 1998 text *Guns, Germs and Steel: The Fate of Human Societies*.

The four papers in this session moved from the general to the specific but each emphasised how deeply entrenched are Eurocentric assumptions and values. The first two papers, by historian Michael Wintle (Hull, UK) and geographer Per Lindskog (Linköping, Sweden) were pitched at a general level. Wintle's lavishly illustrated discussion reviewed his on-going work on the representation of Europe in maps, icons and other images from the Renaissance to the mid 20th century. This demonstrated, *inter alia*, that Eurocentric ideals did not emerge ready-made but were literally manufactured over the long and by no means seamless evolution of European economic and political hegemony. Although Lindskog's tightly argued presentation 'Why people stay poor' shifted the register of the discussion by focusing more on the Eurocentrism at the heart of many development programmes imposed upon, and emerging from, the poorer parts of the world, his analysis reaffirmed Wintle's theme of the intractability of established world views. As Lindskog pointed out, the very language of development and the belief in material economic, social and political progress is itself arguably based on Enlightenment European intellectual

foundations. His concluding question, which was discussed in the ensuing debate, was whether it was possible, or indeed necessary, to escape these intellectual 'restrictions'.

The two papers in the second half of this session provided well researched case studies of Eurocentrism in action while never losing sight of the wider themes explored in the opening presentations. The first paper by geographer Satish Kumar (then of New Delhi, now of Queen's Belfast) considered the problems created by an unthinking reliance of Western models of urban planning in the less developed world, particularly India. But Kumar also offered a carefully argued warning against an equally uncritical rejection of such ideas in favour of what he called 'Asiacentric' models. The final paper, by geographer Jane Jacobs (Melbourne), examined 'Highrises and other modernities' and dovetailed neatly with Kumar's urban and Asian theme and also echoed his conclusion about the dangers of swinging from one form of analysis to another. In an imaginative exposition of the chequered history of the high rise apartment block in the discourse of urban planning in the developing world, Jacobs skilfully demonstrated how a generally welcomed solution to urban problems gradually came to be seen as itself a problem in all contexts even though the rejection of high-rise living was articulated most strongly in the developed rather than developing world. Speakers in most of the other sessions in this conference were offered no more than 20 minutes, sometimes less. This short but lively session was a welcome break from this relentless academic conveyor belt. Here were four excellent 30-minute papers that were each discussed for a further 10 minutes. Could this be a model for future RGS-IBG conference sessions?

Mike Heffernan (Nottingham University)

HPGRG SESSION AT RGS-IBG 2001

The joint HPGRG / SCGRG session at next year's IBG is on **Time, Space and Society** and is convened by Mike Crang (m.a.crang@durham.ac.uk) and Nigel Thrift (N.J.Thrift@bris.ac.uk) from whom further details may be obtained.

CALLS FOR PAPERS

1. RGS-IBG ANNUAL CONFERENCE, UNIVERSITY OF PLYMOUTH, JANUARY 2001

A) POSTCOLONIAL ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHIES?

Economic Geography Research Group)

Convenors: Ian Cook and Nick Henry (School of Geography and Environmental Sciences, University of Birmingham) and Parvati Raghuram (Department of International Studies, Nottingham Trent University)

The 'cultural turn' in economic geography has generated significant new research on diverse economic activities. This session aims to highlight work on economic life that has been

particularly influenced by postcolonial debates. Postcolonial studies has worked to destabilise dominant discourses in metropolitan Europe/US, to challenge inherent assumptions, and to critique the material and discursive legacies of colonialism. Economic geographies have paid increasing attention to ethnic entrepreneurship, diasporic trading networks, hybrid economies, and commodifications of ethnicity and multicultural. These bodies of work obviously have a lot in common, but how can they be more explicitly engaged? What might economic geographies look like after postcolonial critique? What might postcolonial studies look like with colonialism's material legacies and contemporary economic relations made more prominent?

Abstracts of not more than 200 words (to arrive by 2 June 2000) should be addressed to: Nick Henry, School of Geography and Environmental Sciences, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT, Fax: +44 (0)121 414 5528, email: N.D.henry@Bham.ac.uk

B) GENDER INTO THE FUTURE

(Women and Geography Study Group and Post-Socialist Geographers Research Group)

This session seeks to explore the consequences of recent theoretical, political and socio-economic developments for 'gender'. The need for a thorough re-conceptualisation of 'gender' in feminist thought and practice has arisen due to a number of challenges: the problematisation of binary sex/gender divides, the unsettling of feminist assumptions about the 'nature' of gender through the emergence of a politics of difference, changing gender roles in (allegedly) post-industrial, post-colonial and post-socialist societies, as well as the increasing significance of electronic communication for the (re)negotiation of personal and group identities, to name a few. The session will respond to current debates about the adequacy of "gender", "gender roles" and "gender relations" as explicatory concepts and as targets for political change. It will ask whether, and if so how, "gender" can be (re)defined for future feminist politics and research from a wide range of perspectives and in a variety of contexts.

Possible themes include:

- * Performance, sexuality and gender
- * Theories of embodiment and gender
- * Gender identities in cyberspace
- * Societies of transformation and the (re)negotiation of gender relations
- * De/gendering the future?

Other related topics will also be considered.

Please send an abstract (200 words) via post or email to Kathrin Hoerschelmann by 30 June. Dr Kathrin Hoerschelmann, Department of Geographical Sciences, University of Plymouth, Drake Circus, Plymouth PL4 8AA; Tel: 01752-233068; e-mail: k.horschelmann@plymouth.ac.uk

C) PSYCHOANALYTIC GEOGRAPHIES

(Social and Cultural Geography Research Group)

Convenors: Hester Parr (Dundee University) and Chris Philo (Glasgow University)

In recent years human geography has seen something of a 'psychoanalytic turn'. It is perhaps now appropriate to reflect upon what has been achieved by this development, and in so doing to explore further the differing traditions and practices within psychoanalysis which have been, and

which could be, drawn upon by geographers. This session aims to provide a setting for such a reflection. Papers which deal with psychoanalytic thought and writing in both conceptual and more substantive, empirical terms are welcomed. Any focus within these parameters would be considered, but examining the implications of thinking 'psychoanalytically' in human geography could include attention to: psycho-social-spatial relations; identity, self and other; desire, gender and sexuality; the mind-body continuum; spatial scale, agency and structure; methods, reflexivity and autobiography. We encourage both established academics and postgraduates to submit an abstract.

Submit abstracts to c.philo@geog.gla.ac.uk by 31st of May, 2000.

D) SPACES OF DIALOGISM

(Social and Cultural Geography Research Group)

Convenors: Julian Holloway (Manchester Metropolitan University) and James Kneale (University of Exeter)

Since his 'discovery' by Western theorists like Todorov and Kristeva, and the translation of many of his works into English in the 1980s, Mikhail Bakhtin has become one of the most influential thinkers of the twentieth century. His writings on the philosophy of language, the ethics and aesthetics of literature, and cultural history have proved immensely attractive to academics across the humanities and social sciences. While geographers have drawn on aspects Bakhtin's work, notably the carnivalesque, a fuller and more sustained dialogue is possible. This session aims to offer a chance for geographers and others to engage more fully with the spatial elements of Bakhtin's dialogical thinking, whether as theoretical explorations or as empirical studies informed by his ideas. Though we welcome any ideas, a wide range of topics suggest themselves: historical studies of spaces of carnival and the disciplining of the modern self; contemporary enactments of the carnivalesque and languages of the marketplace; the chronotopic representation of time and space in literature; spatial readings of Bakhtin's 'anti-linguistics'; his take on the notion of 'position' with regard to the mutual constitution of Self and Other; polyphony in geographical research, writing, and teaching; spatialities of 'eventness' and becoming; and dialogism in hybrid and diasporic geographies.

Enquiries to James Kneale, School of Geography and Archaeology, University of Exeter, Amory Building, Rennes Drive, Exeter, Devon, EX4 4RJ, email: J.R.Kneale@exeter.ac.uk.

Abstracts should be submitted to Julian Holloway, Department of Environmental and Geographical Sciences, Manchester Metropolitan University, John Dalton Extension, Chester Street, Manchester, M1 5GD, or email: j.j.holloway@mmu.ac.uk by May 31st 2000.

2. GEOGRAPHIES OF HOME

University College London, November 8th-9th

Supported by: The Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers); History and Philosophy of Geography Research Group, Developing Areas Research Group, Social and Cultural Geography Research Group, Women and Geography Study Group, UCL Friends' Programme

'Geographies of Home' seeks to redress the persistent neglect of the home in the history of geography, to explore the spatiality of home on a range of coexisting scales, and to contribute to

interdisciplinary debates about the home. The conference will explore the imaginative geographies and lived experiences of home on domestic, national and transnational scales. We hope that papers will be theoretically informed and substantively grounded, tracing the contours of home, their political significance, and the critical connections between home and identity. Key conference themes include the spatial politics of home, home and identity, dwelling and mobility, and belonging and exclusion. We anticipate that many papers will be located at the interfaces of feminist, postcolonial and development theories as they explore revisionings of home and the broader connections between place, space, identity and power.

Geraldine Pratt (University of British Columbia) has agreed to be the plenary speaker. She will talk about her work on transnational geographies of home for filipina domestic workers in Canada. Other invited speakers include Jenny Hockey (Anthropology, Hull) - the home, old age, and death; Wendy Webster (Women's Studies, Central Lancashire) - home, migrancy, and the West Indian diaspora; Jim Duncan (Geography, Cambridge) - masculinity, domesticity and imperialism; Julienne Hanson (Architecture, UCL) - the meaning of home for the elderly; Nancy Duncan (Geography, Cambridge); Danny Miller (Anthropology, UCL) - the material culture of the home. The following overseas speakers have also been invited; their participation is conditional on further funding being awarded: Jean Franco (Comparative Literature, Columbia); Graciela de Garay (Instituto Mora, Mexico); Roberto da Matta (Anthropology, Notre Dame University); Jane Jacobs (Geography, Melbourne); Anita Larsson (Architecture, Lund, Sweden); Ann Schlyter (Nordic Africa Institute, Uppsala, Sweden).

The conference themes are: the spatial politics of home, Home and identity, Dwelling and mobility, Belonging and exclusion.

Further offers of papers are invited. Abstracts of 300 words should be submitted by June 30th 2000 to either of the convenors at the following addresses: Dr Alison Blunt, Department of Geography, QMW, Mile End Road, London E1 4NS; email A.M.Blunt@qmw.ac.uk; Dr Ann Varley, Department of Geography, UCL, 26 Bedford Way, London WC1H 0AP; email avarley@geog.ucl.ac.uk

The registration deadline for those wishing to attend the conference is September 30th 2000. Details are available from the convenors. There are 5 postgraduate bursaries of £100 each available to those wishing to attend the conference.

2. AAG ANNUAL CONFERENCE: NEW YORK, FEBRUARY 27TH - MARCH 3RD 2001

A) Post-Marxist Human Geographies

Convenors: Dr Richard Smith (rgs10@le.ac.uk) and Dr Marcus Doel (m.a.doel@lboro.ac.uk)

Despite the enormous influence of Marxism on human geography there have been few attempts to specify and assess the innumerable departures from Marxism in recent decades. We aim to bring together human geographers interested in post-Marxist theory and practice: some of whom may envisage their work as breaking with Marxism, while others may see their work as a continuation and/or radicalization of Marxism. The sessions will explore the potential of post-Marxian human geographies in terms of theory, politics, and practice, and consider the extent to

which contemporary human geography expresses a 'Marxian political unconscious.' Possible themes for papers include:

- a. The limits, crises, and aporias of Marxism
- b. The heterogeneity and incommensurability of Marxisms
- c. Beyond class reductionism and economic determinism
- d. Feminist and post-colonial interventions
- e. Doing justice to the politics of difference and anti-essentialist Marxisms
- f. Rethinking modes of production and reproduction
- g. Political economy after the cultural turn
- h. Radical democracy
- i. Post-isms

Prospective titles and abstracts of no more than 250 words should be sent to either of the convenors by 1st June 2000.

Dr Richard Smith, Department of Geography, University of Leicester, University Road, Leicester, England, LE1 7RH; or Dr Marcus Doel, Department of Geography, Loughborough University, Leicestershire, England, LE11 3TU.

B) Scales of in/justice: Power, Hegemony and Resistance

Organisers: Noel Castree (University of Manchester) and Andy Herod (University of Georgia)

At a time when 90% of the world's population commands less than 20% of global wealth, when the creative destruction of nature proceeds apace and when local solidarities melt in the face of global fluidities, the geography of in/justice matters more than ever before. More specifically, as the fate of specific individuals, communities and ecologies becomes increasingly dependent on far-flung events and processes, geographical scale takes centre-stage in the perpetuation of injustice and in struggles for alternatives to existing socio-environmental orders. This session is devoted to sharpening theoretical, normative and empirical understandings of the relationship between geographical scale, on the one side, and struggles against/for social and environmental in/justice on the other. For scale is a double-edged sword whose production and contestation poses opportunities and problems for the powerful - be they global corporations or national governments - and those struggling against them - be they the Zapatistas or the Liverpool dock workers.

Over the last five years in particular, our theoretical, empirical and normative understanding of geographical scale has increased enormously (thanks to the efforts of Neil Brenner, Erik Swyngedouw, Neil Smith, David Harvey, Mark Goodwin, Bob Jessop and others). Likewise, geographers such as David M Smith, Brendan Gleeson and Nick Low have enriched understandings of the spatialities of justice. However, all too often questions of justice are left implicit in debates on geographical scale, while debates on geographical justice rarely draw explicitly on the rich insights coming from analysts of scale. If, as David Harvey avers, "The establishment of conditions at one scale ... is ... a necessary (though not sufficient) condition to create ... alternatives at another" (Harvey, 2000: 84), then it is essential that the problematics of scale and justice be brought together more directly and vigorously than heretofore. The organisers are therefore looking for papers - conceptual or empirical, explanatory or normative - which explicitly link questions of geographical scale with questions of power and resistance viz. in/justice. In particular, we would like to encourage papers which explore the following issues:

- how is scale used to perpetuate unjust social, economic and environmental situations?
- what are some of the geographical dilemmas and contradictions that attach to struggles for justice?
- how can concepts of scale and justice enrich one another as part of a broader Left geographical critique of the contemporary world?
- how can local understandings of justice be reconciled with trans-local struggles for alternative socio-natural orders?
- how do individual considerations about justice relate to a more collective conception of justice i.e. how, if at all, can principles of and struggles for justice be 'glocal' without becoming incoherent?

At this stage we're looking for expressions of interest, a notional title and a few sentences summarising what you might talk about. Even if you have only a hazy idea of what you'd like the talk about at this stage don't let this stop you getting back in touch with one of us. We hope to put together a great session with a wide range of both speakers and topics.

Replies by June 15th please to Noel Castree and/or Andy Herod, School of Geography, Mansfield Cooper Bldg, Manchester University, Manchester M13 9PL; Tel: 0161 275 3627 Fax: 0161 275 7878.

3. 11TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHERS Quebec City, August 12th-18th 2001

First call for papers. Deadline: June 30th, 2000.

The 11th ICHG will be held in Quebec City (Canada) on August 12-18, 2001. This triennial conference, held recently in Ulster (1998), Perth (1995), and Vancouver (1992), is the largest meeting in the field. The 2001 conference will focus on the following themes:

1. Imperial and colonial historical geographies
2. Historical geographies of the city
3. Environmental change
4. Natural and cultural heritage
5. Landscape(s) of collective memories
6. The historical geography of leisure and recreation

This list is not exclusive and contributions on other aspects of historical geography are also welcomed. Submissions for entire sessions as for single papers are encouraged. In addition to faculty members, a special welcome is extended to graduate students and independent scholars.

For further details on the conference and on how to submit papers for consideration, contact: Marc St-Hilaire, directeur
Laboratoire de géographie historique, Centre interuniversitaire d'études québécoises,
Université Laval, Sainte-Foy (Qc), Canada G1K 7P4; Tel.: (418) 656-3770, Fax.: (418) 656-3960
Site WWW du CIEQ : <http://www.cieq.ulaval.ca/> ICHG2001@cieq.ulaval.ca

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

1. FOR ALTERNATIVE 21ST CENTURY GEOGRAPHIES: 2ND INTERNATIONAL CRITICAL GEOGRAPHY CONFERENCE, AUGUST 9TH - 13TH, 2000

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.

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

2. GEORGIAN GEOGRAPHIES

Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art, London, September 22nd-23rd, 2000

This conference brings together an international and interdisciplinary set of speakers to build upon and explore the widespread interest in the geographical nature of culture and society in the eighteenth century. In different ways the languages of 'space', 'mapping' and 'national identity' have become the subject of research for scholars of history, cultural and literary studies, and the histories of art and science as well as for geographers. This is apparent in a common concern across these disciplines with, for example, the nature of the eighteenth-century public sphere, the forms of Georgian geographical knowledge, the geographies of empire and travel, and the changing cultures of city and countryside in the period. Our intention is that speakers will debate these interdisciplinary issues through a range of detailed studies.

Full conference details including the programme and booking arrangements (full fee £40 for both days) are available online at <http://www.geog.qmw.ac.uk/gg>. The closing date for bookings is September 4th 2000.

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) or Professor Charles Withers, Department of Geography, University of Edinburgh, Drummond Street, Edinburgh EH8 9XP (cwjw@geo.ed.ac.uk).

3. GEOGRAPHY AND REVOLUTION (*Advance notice*)

David Livingstone (Queen's Belfast) and Charles Withers (Edinburgh) are organising a symposium on 'Geography and Revolution' in Edinburgh in July 2001, along similar lines to the 'Geography and Enlightenment' meeting a few years ago. Following the 'Geography and

Enlightenment' conference and book, this three day symposium will ascertain the significance of geography in intellectual, political and technical revolutions. After a plenary inaugural address (Peter Dear on 'The Idea of Revolution'), contributors will focus on Space (Graham Burnett, Steven Shapin, Charles Withers), Time (Nigel Thrift and Paul Glennie, Nicolaas Rupke and James Moore), Politics (David Livingstone, Michael Heffernan, Robert Mayhew and Mark Bassin) and Technology (Jerry Brotton and James Ryan). Further details will be available from the organisers in due course.

NEW PUBLICATION

EAST MIDLAND GEOGRAPHER : RETROSPECTIVE

The final issue of *East Midland Geographer*, edited by David Matless, is available from the School of Geography, University of Nottingham. The issue is a retrospective collection of articles from this regional journal, founded in 1954. Individual sections cover the definition of the region, the economic landscape, the historical landscape, the physical landscape, and East Midlands geography. Each is introduced by a short editorial, and the selection is biased towards the earlier decades of the journal's history. The issue will be of interest to group members in its attempt to give a sense of how and why such a regional journal emerged in a particular period, and how it reflected and gave voice to a distinctive form of geographical enquiry. The retrospective issue is in keeping with recent moves in the history of geography to bring to light some of the less prominent areas in the discipline's past, and to think about the connections between academy and locality. The issue runs to 117 pages, and is bound in a replica of the original journal cover, featuring the cross of Mercia within the university crest.

Copies may be obtained by sending a cheque for £5 payable to 'School of Geography' to David Matless, School of Geography, University of Nottingham, University Park, Nottingham NG7 2RD.

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