

HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF GEOGRAPHY RESEARCH GROUP

*Royal Geographical Society
with the Institute of British Geographers*

Newsletter June 2001

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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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Hard copies are fine, but a version on disc (Word files please), or by email as an attachment would be preferable. The Newsletter is published twice yearly; copy deadlines are April 1st and October 1st.

HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF GEOGRAPHY RESEARCH GROUP

Committee 2001

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HPGRG Annual General Meeting, Plymouth, January 2001 Chair's Report

The activities of the Group over the last year, as in previous years, have focussed on three areas: (1) conference organisation, (2) communication (via the newsletter), and (3) liaison (mainly with the RGS-IBG).

- (1) This year as last the Group supported a major conference – on this occasion a very successful one on Geographies of Home, convened by Alison Blunt and Ann Varley at UCL. The internationalism of the conference was striking and this is something the Group should take note of. In addition, the committee sponsored a successful application to the RGS-IBG Research Division for conference funds by the convenors of the Geography & Revolution conference in Edinburgh. The Group has been notably successful in such applications over the last five years. Finally, the Group was responsible for two sessions at the 2000 RGS-IBG conference on 'Eurocentrism' and 'Enacting Geographies.'
- (2) The Group's newsletter appeared twice during the year, under the editorship of Pyrs Gruffudd. This is an important means of communicating news, especially advance notice of conferences, conference reports, details of publications, and so on. It has also to some extent served as a vehicle for communications about overseas events and publications in the history and philosophy of geography.
- (3) The Group's committee has been consulted by the Research Division of the RGS-IBG on a large number of issues relating to research, teaching and higher education generally. Consultation on AHRB and ESRC matters has been especially notable (see for example the new AHRB guidelines on its subject coverage).

As this is my last report as Chair, I want to thank colleagues on the committee for their hard work for the Group, especially Pyrs Gruffudd who has done a great job as editor of the newsletter for the past 3 years, and Alison Blunt who has served the group outstandingly well as secretary over the same period. In a small Research Group like ours, it is essential to have committed and dynamic people working on the committee, and we are fortunate that Alison and Pyrs have been persuaded to be nominated for the positions of chair and secretary from January 2001.

Felix Driver

Royal Geographical Society with the Institute of British Geographers

HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF GEOGRAPHY
RESEARCH GROUP

Annual Report for 2000

1. **Constitution**

A revised Constitution was agreed at the AGM in 2000. It codifies existing practice and procedures relating to the activities of the Group, incorporating its aims and objectives and its structure and working practice. HPGRG activities continued to operate successfully under the new Constitution throughout 2000.

2. **Statement of Purpose**

The Strategic Plan was replaced at the AGM in 1999 by a concise Statement of Purpose. Throughout 2000, this simpler and less bureaucratic statement has proved useful in publicising the Group's activities and has been circulated to all members via the Newsletter.

3. **Conferences**

The HPGRG maintained its high profile at a number of international conferences during 2000. At the 2000 Annual Conference in Brighton, the HPGRG convened two successful sessions: 'Eurocentrism' and 'Enacting Geographies.' Peter Gray, from the Institute of Education, University of Stirling, was a Research Group Guest and presented a paper in 'Enacting Geographies.'

The HPGRG supported a two-day conference on *Geographies of Home*, which was convened by Alison Blunt and Ann Varley and held at UCL on 8-9 November 2000. During 1999, HPGRG, jointly with WSGG, SCGRG and DARG, was awarded £1000 by the RGS-IBG to support the conference, which was also funded by the British Academy (£1900) and UCL Friends' Programme (£3000). The conference was highly successful, with 45 excellent papers and more than 100 delegates. Participants came from all parts of the UK, as well as Ireland, Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Israel, USA, Canada, Brazil, Mexico, New Zealand and Australia, and from disciplines spanning anthropology, history, cultural studies, planning, architecture, and environmental and development studies as well as geography. Conference guests included Geraldine Pratt (UBC) and Daniel Miller (UCL) as plenary speakers, and 10 other speakers: James Duncan (Cambridge), Nancy Duncan (Cambridge), Graciela de Garay (Instituto Mora, Mexico), Kate Gough (Copenhagen), Julienne Hanson (UCL), Jenny Hockey (Hull), Katharyne Mitchell (Washington), Deborah Ryan (Ulster), Ann Schlyter (Nordic Africa Institute, Sweden), and Wendy Webster (Central Lancashire). All postgraduate presenters who travelled from outside London to the conference received a contribution towards their travel and accommodation costs. The conference will be followed up by a session on 'Geographies of Home' at the AAG in New York in 2001, and a proposal is being prepared for a volume of essays to be edited by the conference convenors.

During 2000, HPGRG was awarded £500 to fund a speaker from North America to attend the 'Geography and Revolution' conference to be held at the University of Edinburgh in July 2001. This conference is being convened by David Livingstone and Charles Withers and follows their highly successful 1996 conference 'Geography and Enlightenment,' which was also supported by HPGRG.

4. **Publications and Communications**

A proposal for a volume on *Postcolonial Geographies*, edited by Alison Blunt and Cheryl McEwan, was submitted to the Cassell 'Writing Past Colonialism' series. It was favourably reviewed, and the manuscript will be submitted for further consideration in January 2001. A number of chapters in this volume were originally presented at the 1998 HPGRG 'Postcolonial Geographies' conference at the University of Southampton.

The biannual HPGRG Newsletter is edited by Pyrs Gruffudd and sent to all members in May and November. It includes conference reports, information about forthcoming conferences and funding opportunities, the AGM minutes, and contact details of Committee members. It has also to some extent served as a vehicle for communications about overseas events and publications in the history and philosophy of geography.

5. **Finance**

The Group ended the year with a balance of £1239.07 (see attached Financial Statement). The RGS-IBG grant of £500 towards the 'Geography and Revolution' conference was paid directly to the conference convenors, and HPGRG also contributed £100 of its own funds to support this conference.

6. **Personnel**

Mike Heffernan ended his term of office as Treasurer one year early and was replaced by Noel Castree (until 2003). David Matless was elected as a new Committee Member to serve until 2003. The HPGRG Committee continues to include Neil Smith as Corresponding Member and Michael Bravo as Co-opted Member, both until 2002.

7. **RGS-IBG Liaison**

The Group's Committee was consulted by the Research Division of the RGS-IBG on a large number of issues relating to research, teaching and higher education generally. Consultation on AHRB and ESRC matters was especially notable during 2000, including correspondence on the new AHRB guidelines on its subject coverage. Recognising that the archives at the RGS-IBG represent a unique and invaluable resource relating to the history and philosophy of geography, the Group continues to stress the importance of making them more accessible.

Dr Alison Blunt
Honorary Secretary, HPGRG

January 2001

HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF GEOGRAPHY RESEARCH GROUP

Minutes of the 2000 AGM
7 January 2000
Brighton

1. Minutes of the 1999 AGM
Approved.
2. Matters arising
Item 4.i: HPGRG made successful nominations for the RAE 2001 Assessment Panel and for founding Academicians of the Academy for Learned Societies in the Social Sciences (including Ron Johnston, HPGRG Committee member).
3. Chair's Report: Felix Driver
 - i. Conference activity
January 1999: two HPGRG sessions were convened at the Annual Conference of the RGS-IBG in Leicester: 'Feminisms and Geographies' (with WGSG) and 'Prometheus and the Pastoral' (with ERG).
May 1999: a one-day conference on 'Field-Work in Geography: Cultures, Practices, Tradition' was held at Royal Holloway and was convened by Felix Driver. The RGS-IBG awarded £700 to enable Prof. Dorinda Outram to present a plenary paper. It was attended by geographers, historians of science, and anthropologists, and included an art installation by Perdita Phillips. It was reported in the THES, and in the newsletters of HPGRG and HGRG.
January 2000: two HPGRG sessions were convened at the Annual Conference of the RGS-IBG: 'Eurocentrism' and 'Enacting Geographies.'
 - ii. Publications
Geography and Enlightenment, edited by David Livingstone and Charles Withers, had been published by Chicago University Press in 1999. This volume is based on papers presented at the 1996 HPGRG-supported conference on this theme in Edinburgh.
Newsletter: Pyrs Gruffudd was congratulated on two excellent HPGRG newsletters.
 - iii. RGS-IBG matters
The main focus of liaison concerned the AHRB and ESRC consultations, and a joint response about the AHRB was submitted with SCGRG. The HPGRG supports the RGS-IBG in its application for lottery funding, and hoped that this could in part be used to make the archives more accessible.
4. Secretary's Report: Alison Blunt
RGS-IBG is reinvigorating its book series and reviewing its journals. There was some discussion about why the journals are not produced in-house, and concern was expressed that all three journals appear to have stopped printing obituaries.
RGS-IBG is maintaining its ongoing dialogue with ESRC (particularly about thematic priorities) and AHRB.

5. Treasurer's Report: Mike Heffernan
HPGRG 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 to fund Prof. Outram's attendance at the 'Field-Work in Geography' conference. HPGRG continues to maintain its desired minimum balance of £1000.
6. Newsletter Editor's Report: Pyrs Gruffudd
Two newsletters had been circulated to all HPGRG members this year. Pyrs was thanked for the excellent standard of the newsletter. He would like to include a wider range of content, and thought that it would be possible to include obituaries if other outlets are no longer available.
7. Nomination of new Treasurer: Noel Castree
Noel Castree agreed to take on the office of Treasurer in place of Mike Heffernan. Felix thanked Mike for his sterling work on the HPGRG Committee for several years, and particularly as Treasurer.
8. Election of one Committee Member
David Matless was elected as a new Committee Member in place of Mike Heffernan.
9. Conference Planning
 - i. *2001 Annual Conference of the RGS-IBG, Plymouth*
Mike Crang and Nigel Thrift proposed a one-day session on 'Time and Geography,' to be jointly sponsored by SCGRG. This proposal was supported. Other possibilities included sessions on geopolitics, the history of physical geography, cultures of transport and maritime geographies.
 - ii. *Geographies of Home, November 2000, UCL*
HPGRG, jointly with WGSG, SCGRG and DARG, was awarded £1000 by the RGS-IBG to fund a conference on 'Geographies of Home,' to be convened by Alison Blunt and Ann Varley, and to be held at UCL in November 2000. Further applications for funds will be made to the British Academy, the UCL Friends Programme, and the British Association of Canadian Studies. The joint application for a grant to be shared by different research groups was the first of its kind to the RGS-IBG, and is an initiative that would be welcomed in future grant competitions.
10. Constitution
The HPGRG Constitution had been drafted in May and submitted to the RGS-IBG. It fulfilled the criteria of a subsequent template that was produced by the RGS-IBG.

Dr Alison Blunt
Secretary, HPGRG

HPGRG ACCOUNTS 2000

Dr. Noel Castree (Treasurer)
 Period 1st January – 31st December 2000
 Receipt and Payments Account

INCOME

RGS-IBG subvention	£237
RGS-IBG grant(s)	
Other grants	
Subscriptions	
Conference income	
Meetings income	
Advertising income	
Royalties	
Interest	£0.31
Other income	£92.84 (newsletter postage overpayment refund from Pyrs Gruffud)
	£14.48 (transfer from savings account)
Total receipts	£344.63

EXPENDITURE

Committee expenses	
Conference costs	£100 (Geog. and Revn. Conference)
Meetings costs	
Newsletter costs	£78
Grants and Awards	
Prizes	
Other costs	
Total payments	<u>£178</u>
Net surplus/deficit	<u>+£166.63</u>
Opening balance(s) – 1 st January	<u>£70.39</u>
Closing balances – 31 st December	<u>£237.02</u>
HSBC Bank –current a/c	<u>£237.02</u>
HSBC Bank –deposit a/c	<u>£1002.05</u>
	<u>£1239.07</u>

**HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF GEOGRAPHY
RESEARCH GROUP****POSTGRADUATE AWARDS
£50 to attend the Annual Conference of the RGS-IBG**

As part of the HPGRG policy to encourage postgraduate students to present papers in its sessions at the Annual Conference of the RGS-IBG, the HPGRG has two annual awards of £50 each towards costs associated with attending the conference.

Funding guidelines

- i. Applicants must be postgraduate students and must be members of the HPGRG.
- ii. They should be presenting a paper in a session sponsored or co-sponsored by the HPGRG at the Annual Conference of the RGS-IBG in the January following their application.
- iii. Applicants must write a report of their session to be published in the HPGRG Newsletter and posted on its website.
- iv. Applicants must submit their abstracts to session convenors and must register for the Annual Conference and pay the registration fee independently of their application for HPGRG funds.

Application procedure

- i. The deadline for applications is 31 July.
- ii. Two copies of the application form should be submitted, one as hard copy and one as an email attachment.
- iii. Applications should be submitted to the Chair of the HPGRG. They will be considered by the Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and Postgraduate Liaison Officer.
- iv. Application forms are available from the HPGRG Chair, HPGRG Newsletter editor, HPGRG session convenors, and on the HPGRG website. They will also be published in the May HPGRG Newsletter.
- v. All session convenors for HPGRG sponsored and co-sponsored sessions will be asked to inform postgraduate speakers about this funding opportunity.
- vi. Late applications cannot be accepted.
- vii. Applicants should normally expect to hear the result of their application by 1 September.
- viii. Awards will be sent to successful applicants by the Treasurer.

**HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF GEOGRAPHY
RESEARCH GROUP**

**POSTGRADUATE AWARDS
£50 to attend the Annual Conference of the RGS-IBG**

Application form

1. Applicant
Name:

Address for correspondence:

Postcode:

Tel.no:

Fax.no:

Email:

Department or School address if different from above:

Title of thesis:

Date of commencement of research:

PhD funding source(s):

Name of supervisor(s):

2. Alternative / supplementary sources for funding conference attendance

Please give details of any other funding sources can you access to attend the RGS-IBG Annual Conference:

3. Conference Paper
Name of session:

Convenor(s) of session:

Title of paper:

Please attach the abstract of your paper.

Inventing Tradition

A significant focus at the highly successful 2nd International Critical Geography Conference held in Taegu, South Korea, from the 9th to 13th of August, 2000, concerned the history of critical geography in different national contexts. Given the location of the conference, there was an Asian focus to this work. Papers and reports from South Korea, Japan, Taiwan and India as well as Mexico all tackled histories of geography in different national contexts. The connection between critical geography and the history of geography makes eminent sense and it is beginning to happen, but it is not happening as quickly as perhaps some of us expected in the 1980s. Geography's comparative lack of a radical tradition until the late 1960s, Kropotkin and Reclus notwithstanding, may help account for this, but so too, undoubtedly, does the fact that few if any graduate students get jobs as historians of geography. The various historical papers at the Taegu conference suggest strongly that in writing such critical histories, there are many and varied national traditions to be considered.

The history of South Korean geography can only be understood in conjunction with the wider political history of Korea. Colonized until 1945 by Japan, and wracked by war until 1953, postwar Korea was split across the cold war divide into two dictatorships, with the South Korean military only relinquishing power in 1988. Education was a central pillar of the dramatic expansion of South Korean capitalism since the 1960s. Many new universities were founded and massive capital investment was made in advanced computer facilities designed to train a highly skilled labour force.

The conference's local organizer, Byung-Doo Choi of Taegu University of Education, presented a paper on the recent history of geography in South Korea. Long squeezed between Chinese political ambitions on the one side and the Japanese on the other, it may not be surprising that postwar Korean human geography period drew heavily on the US tradition. At first they imported concepts of region and regional geography, but South Korean geographers also developed a strong economic geography that fed directly into the technocratic demands of a centrally controlled economic expansion. Until twelve years ago, the dictatorship ensured that open radical scholarship was impossible. Marx's *Capital* and the *Communist Manifesto* were officially banned, as were many other works, although underground translations circulated among the students and workers whose revolts in the 1980s challenged the dictatorship, eventually ending it.

With so much of the public discourse revolving around economic issues and questions of development, public validation of economic geography provided a cloak for more radical work in the 1980s and afterward. US and British political economy is now widely read and increasingly translated as a central vehicle for building radical geography. There is some interest, especially among graduate students, in the more cultural concerns that have emerged in English-speaking geography in the last two decades, but there is also a very clear sense that a distinctly South Korean critical geography speaking to national concerns will for the foreseeable future have a powerful political economic component. Korean debates have challenged the applicability of different imported theories, refashioning political economy in the light of recent Korean experience. A number of other papers by Korean scholars at the conference illustrated precisely this point.

In English-speaking geography, we now have to confront the fact that just because specific analyses are "cultural," they are not necessarily "critical" or radical. The corollary in South Korea is that economic analysis does not guarantee a critical perspective. It will be interesting to watch not just how South Korean geography develops in coming years but how English-speaking geography also develops given these parallel predicaments. The 3rd International Critical Geography Conference is scheduled for Békéscsaba, Hungary, in 2002.

Neil Smith

Conference Review: "Geographies of Home"

A two day conference, "The Geographies of Home", was held on the 8th and 9th of November 2000 at UCL geography department. Thanks go first and foremost to the co-convenors, Alison Blunt and Ann Varley, for their organisation and UCL geography department for hosting the event. The conference benefited from the combined support of The British Academy, UCL Friends programme and the RGS-IBG. Organised into four main themes, belonging and exclusion, the spatial politics of the home, home and identity, and dwelling and mobility, the event demonstrated something of the range and relevance of current geographical work on "the home". What follows is a review of only a fraction of the forty-five papers presented, unfortunately restricted to those papers I had time to hear.

The conference began with two very different plenary lectures, both of which anticipated a number of the themes that emerged throughout the two days. Firstly Geraldine Pratt used the metaphor of gleaning to move through debates about the changing meaning of the home in a differentially globalised world. Contemporary devices to represent home include "home as mobile identity", the "transnational subject with multiple homes" and the "cosmopolitan city as inclusive home". Pratt argued that each device masks inequalities but taken together evoke a profoundly re-envisioned concept of home: as journey, as claim to public space, as a site of contest and as a repository of memory that functions as a utopic space for imagining the future. Secondly Danny Miller argued for a re-consideration of the home in work on consumption and in the literature on the "meaning of home". Rather than existing as a blank canvas for the aesthetic or cognitive expression of its inhabitants Miller introduced actor-network theory to argue that the home can instead be apprehended as an active agent, existing in a dynamic relationship with those who dwell within it.

A series of papers highlighted the links between home-space, the self and identity. Craig Gurney argued that the taken for granted relationship between privacy and the home rests upon the unacknowledged management of embodied performance. Using the work of Erving Goffman he argued that commentators therefore tend to over-exaggerate the opportunities for privacy within the home. Jenny Hockey examined the ways that home-space can contribute to definitions of competent person-hood. Using the examples of the haunted house and old people's homes as negatively perceived home-spaces, she pointed to the characteristics of self that home reinforces. Most notably the need to maintain distance between the self and various disordered others in order to sustain independent adulthood. Throughout the conference much of the work on self, identity and the home engaged with the literature on domestic consumption. Beccy Ellis, using Judith Butler's theories of performativity, attended to the links between the re-making of home in practices of DIY and the construction of subjectivities. Using one in-depth case study of a home in Norfolk she argued that in the case of home improvement subjectivities are constructed through the citation of three main fragmentary, internally inconsistent discourses, "originality", "fashion" and "art".

The next session broadened this focus on belonging and the home by specifying some of the numerous ways that domestic space is bound up with explicit practices of exclusion. Nick Fyfe, in work with Margaret Greene, focussed upon the experiences of people forced to flee their homes. The paper compared the nature of threats to people in their homes, particularly between victims of domestic violence and those suffering intimidation and harassment from members of the local community. Paula Meth discussed the links between civil violence and domestic violence in the case of South Africa. She argued for the need to rethink the location of domestic fear and violence to include homeless or insecurely housed women. A further series of papers specified the links between different forms of mobility and dwelling. Tracey Coates and Maureen Fordham evoked the disruption and devastation that occur at times of disaster. Times of disaster involve a loss of both physical dwelling place and the meanings and memories that inhere within the home-space. Hannah Avis considered the complex interweaving of continuity and loss that are involved in the narratives of home told by young women establishing home. Finally Lisa Doyle presented part of her ongoing

doctoral work with homeless women in three British cities. The women's experiences of, and feelings about, home challenged conventional understandings of homeliness in a number of ways. Several respondents attributed traits associated with "home" to their homeless states and most considered home to be a "women's place" and therefore their homelessness as a failure to perform their correct role in society.

The second day begun with a number of papers that foregrounded the material culture of the home. Adam Drazin discussed the specific roles wooden furniture plays in post-communist, urban Romania. The consumption of wood in the home, narrated by Drazin's respondents through an explicit denial of taste, produced the fragile ideal of a domestic space characterised by warmth and care. A characterisation that makes sense only in relation to the cares, problems and frustrations found within public space. Inge Daniels talked about material culture in the "untidy" Japanese house in an effort to challenge the orientalism that pervades representations of the orderly, minimalist Japanese domestic interior. Other papers that focussed upon non-western practices and meanings of home during the conference included Inga Bryden on the Haveli as home in Jaipur, capital of Rajasthan, and Renate Dohmen presenting work about the drawing practice of threshold marking in Tamil Nadu (S India).

A welcome theme running through the conference was of home as a site of work. Emma Wainwright discussed home, philanthropy and the place of the female jute worker in Nineteenth and early Twentieth century Dundee and Kate Gough spoke on the income generating activities in urban homes in Ghana. Janet Floyd drew on feminist and post-colonial work to think through the kitchen as both a site of gender and racialised oppression and an important route through which women may intervene in the formation of national identity. Most notably through the public circulation of cookery books. Mark Llewellyn also addressed the gendering of the kitchen, focussing upon British domestic architecture in the year preceding, during and immediately after world war two. During this period the kitchen became a utilitarian, functional centre for the introduction of modernist aesthetics in the home.

The range of papers presented over the two days highlighted the multiple geographies of "home" and the diversity of research methodologies and theoretical approaches currently being employed to evoke, describe and challenge domestic life. All demonstrated emphatically that the home is no longer an unmarked absence on the geographical map, and specified the degree to which "homes" are entangled within relations of exclusion, belonging, work, self, and politics. Thanks must therefore finally go to everyone who presented and attended for an enjoyable and at times inspiring couple of days.

Ben Anderson, Department of Geography, University of Sheffield

**ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY
WITH THE
INSTITUTE OF BRITISH GEOGRAPHERS**
Annual Conference
The Queen's University of Belfast
January 2-6, 2002

Calls for Papers.

HPGRG Sponsored Sessions:

1. HPGRG/BGRG

PUTTING PHILOSOPHIES OF GEOGRAPHY INTO PRACTICE

Full-day session with the History and Philosophy of Geography Research Group and British Geomorphological Research Group.

Recently we have been struck by the rather austere and unworldly presentation of philosophy within geography. Often this approach has little appeal for students, nor does it give much sense of the historical and local development of teaching, research or fieldwork in individual geography departments. Outside of unofficial, unpublished accounts, the grass-roots stories of these institutional sites are seldom told. Given different attitudes to philosophy and practice in human and physical geography, we are also concerned with the ways in which these stories might vary - despite an ongoing sense in certain quarters that the discipline should remain as a unitary endeavour.

The 'gulfs' between grand histories and localised practices, and between different disciplinary specialisms, are ones that we hope this session will begin to bridge. We invite papers that address issues such as:

- cultures, traditions, politics and practices of teaching/learning the history and philosophy of geography
- links between (sub)disciplinary discourses, the internal practices of departments and popular geographical knowledges
- uses of space and time within, and outside, the geography department (libraries, laboratories, lecture theatres, common rooms, field courses...)
- staff or student strategies promoting or resisting integration of the discipline

- the impacts of activities such as the RAE or QAA benchmarking on departmental activities
- conflicts of interest between intellectual histories of the discipline and the market-led motivations of undergraduate 'customers'

Further details on this conference session can be accessed at:

<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/~geo337/belfast.html>

Please e-mail or post your proposed title and abstract (200 words max.) to:

Hayden Lorimer / Nick Spedding
Department of Geography and Environment
University of Aberdeen
Aberdeen AB24 3UF

Tel: 01224 272339/273838

E-mail: h.n.lorimer@abdn.ac.uk and/or n.spedding@abdn.ac.uk

Deadline for abstracts: 15th June 2001

2. HPGRG

Senses & Sensibilities

Convenors: John Wylie, University of Sheffield; Mark Paterson, University of Bristol.

The aim of this session is to explore the historical and ongoing production of geographies of senses and sensibilities. Building upon the recent and growing interest in the role of bodily practices and sensations in the production of geographical knowledges, the session seeks to address issues concerning the differentiation of the senses within specific cultural and historical arenas. This in turn raises questions regarding the ordering of human sensibilities and the persistent valorisation of certain ways of knowing the world. We are especially interested in both theoretical and empirical discussions of how places, sites and landscapes, 'real' and 'virtual', come to be configured and experienced within the terms of particular sensibilities, particular somatic and kinaesthetic regimes.

Some key themes which we hope to highlight and discuss in the session are:

- Historical constructions and contestations of the senses.
- The role of the senses in producing culturally and historically specific conceptualisations of subjectivity and space/time
- Aural, orality and tactility in the production of spaces of dwelling and inhabitation.
- 'Abilities' and 'disabilities': sensing geographical worlds.

- The scripting of sensuous geographies. How can be sensibilities be represented?
- Sensuous technologies: digital augmentation and immersion.

Please email any questions, or titles and abstracts (max 200 words), to one of the session conveners:

John Wylie
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University of Sheffield
Sheffield, S10 2TN

Mark Paterson
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School of Geographical Sciences
University of Bristol
Bristol, BS8 1SS

Deadline for abstracts: June 15th 2001

3. HPGRG/UGRG

Dialectics of Utopia/Dystopia

ORGANIZERS: Guy Baeten and Ross Loveridge (Department of Geography, University of Strathclyde)

Email: guy.baeten@strath.ac.uk or ross.loveridge@strath.ac.uk

The twentieth Century was, arguably, the utopian Century – the era when dreams of technological progress, equality, social justice and a better world materialised in fundamental restructurings of cities and societies. Extraordinary amounts of creative energy envisioned, crafted, planned, and constructed these utopian worlds, both imagined and concrete, whether through communist revolutions, social-democratic reformism, or modernist rationality. Yet on reflection the utopian Century of dreams, hopes and social reconstruction, teems with contradictions. Urban utopias have metamorphised into the ruins that are contemporary dystopian ghettos and 'sink estates'. The Holocaust and the extinction camps were underpinned by an impeccable yet devastating rationality. Communism has collapsed spectacularly throughout most of the world in a systematic destruction of socialist utopianism and the remaking of utopia in capitalist terms. Thus the capitalist dystopia that gave rise to socialist utopian projects at the dawn of the twentieth Century, has now in itself put on the clothing of utopia, in the form of the neoliberal utopian 'globalisation' project. Neoliberalism, then, can be seen as a form of revanchist utopianism, reclaiming utopia in capitalist terms. The stubborn attempts to realise the imagined free market utopia generate, in turn, new dystopias. Where is utopia in 2001? – "There is a time and place in the ceaseless human endeavour to change the world, when alternative visions, no matter how fantastic, provide the grist for shaping powerful political forces for change. I believe we are at precisely such a moment". (David Harvey, 2000: 195)

This session wants to critically reflect on the history of utopianism/dystopianism and discuss whether we still need Utopia, *what* Utopia, how utopias relate to dystopias, and what geography can contribute to the discussion.

Possible themes include :

- Histories of utopianism/dystopianism
 - Modernist utopias
 - Degenerate utopias

- Urban/suburban/rural utopias and dystopias
- Theories of utopianism/dystopianism
 - The relationship between utopia and dystopia
 - Time, space, and utopias
 - Utopia and dystopia as a process
 - The scaling of utopias and dystopias
 - Materialism, utopianism and idealism
 - Religion, moral philosophy and utopias
- Building utopias
 - Urban design, planning and utopianism
 - Technological networks and utopias
 - Imaginaries, architecture and utopias
- Politics and/of utopia
 - Utopias, dystopias and Socialism
 - Utopias, dystopias and the Far Right
 - Identity politics, the celebration of difference, postmodern utopias/dystopias
 - Avant garde movements, resistance movements and utopias
 - Neo-liberal utopianism and dystopianism
 - Dialectical utopianism
- Social (in)justice, utopias and dystopias
 - Utopias : by whom, for whom ?
 - Class, gender, race and utopianism
 - Dystopian constructions of urban deprivation
 - Utopia on trial
- Why Utopia?
- *What* Utopia?

Please contact one of the session organisers, Guy Baeten or Ross Loveridge, if you would like to submit a paper proposal (consisting of a title and an abstract of 200 words or so). We would like to stress that proposals from both established staff and postgraduate students are welcome. Papers can be theoretical but could also contain case studies, drawn from whatever part of the world. We have the intention to edit a special journal issue based on a selection of papers from this session.

The deadline for submitting paper proposals is 15 June 2001.

Guy Baeten
 Ross Loveridge
 University of Strathclyde
 Department of Geography
 Graham Hills Building
 50 Richmond Street
 Glasgow G1 1XN

Tel 0044 (0)141 552 4400
 Fax 0044 (0)141 5552 7857

OTHER RESEARCH GROUPS SESSIONS AT RGS/IBG 2002

1. SCGRG

GENETIC GEOGRAPHIES

Full day session for the Annual Conference of the RGS-IBG, Belfast, January, 2002
 Sponsored by the Social and Cultural Study Group of the RGS-IBG

Organisers: Noel Castree and Catherine Nash

The gene is fast-becoming a master signifier of our time. 'Genomics', gene-testing, GM foods, 'genetic diseases', gene-hunters, gene splicing, gene banks ... these and other terms - like bioprospecting, bioaccumulation and biopiracy - are fast becoming common currency in business, politics and civil society. In late capitalist societies genes are being reconstituted physically and representationally, from the laboratories of life-science multinationals to the oppositional actions of groups like GenetiX Snowball. Ideas of genetic diversity, genetic descent and genetic determination are both being used to support and shift familiar versions of kinship, 'race', ethnicity, gender and sexuality. The language of genes spins out from the profitable world of science into the business of insurance, into the uncertain but powerful arena of DNA forensic evidence, and into the emotional economy of the family, though paternity testing, popular genealogies and new reproductive technologies. Genes, in short, have become the crucible for practices, struggles and debates over capital, nature, culture, identity and power.

Genetic Geographies is a full-day session that seeks to explore the profound implications that new genetic practices and discourses might have for geography. Conversely, the session will also highlight how geographical perspectives might factor into a wider, critical understanding of the causes and consequences of these practices and discourses. The session takes it as axiomatic that there's an important geography - or more precisely geographies, cultural, economic and political - to genes.

The papers we hope to attract will explore some of these important genetic geographies. They might consider some of the following:

- the implications of new genetic practices for the physical and discursive divides between nature and culture, humans and environment, animals and people etc.
- the spatial organisation and traffic of germplasm or specific ideas about genes
- the relations between constructions of genes and questions of the body, individual and collective identities, social institutions and relations, ideas of 'race', ethnicity, gender, sexuality and other dimensions of social difference
- the spatiality of the production, regulation and consumption of genetic-commodities at a number of scales

We welcome papers that, together, will offer a wide thematic and geographical coverage of key issues concerning contemporary genetics. We intend to divide the session up into standard paper modules, a plenary module and a roundtable module.

Those interested should contact noel.castree@man.ac.uk or c.nash@rhul.ac.uk and send or email a 300 word abstract of their paper to the convenors by 31 May 2001.

Noel Castree, School of Geography, Manchester University, Manchester, M13 9PL
 Catherine Nash, Department of Geography, Royal Holloway, University of London, Egham, Surrey, TW20 0EX

2. SCGRG/GLTRG

Seductions and Subjectivities: geographical encounters of travel and leisure.

Convenors: David Crouch, Luke Desforges, Lynda Johnston.

This Session will focus around subjectivities in their material and discursive forms, in the connections between subjectivities and the material and imaginative encounters between people, landscapes etc in the field of leisure and tourism. It develops from the Seductions session at the AAG New York 2001.

In recent years some of the dominant ways in which we conceptualise encounters between people and leisure/travel spaces/landscapes have undergone something of a transformation. The emphasis on the visual suggested by metaphors of the gaze has been critiqued in favour of a more fully rounded and multi-sensual, perhaps more human-centered encounter with the world. This has had a number of consequences. Firstly there is a renewed emphasis on the neglected geographies of the body in leisure and travel. Secondly the passing of the gaze as an essential component of encounters with space leads to a more fragmented sense of what happens in the sphere of leisure and travel, opening the way to neglected leisure/tourism spheres. The contingency of space, time and human dynamics in encounters, as well as their continuities, has become important. Thirdly, there has been a search for new metaphors to construct creative spaces for writing on leisure and tourism. Consequent temporal landscapes emerge from negotiations of practice and contextual prefiguration. The metaphor of performance has become particularly well established, although it may remain undertheorised in tourism and leisure geographies.

In 'seductions' we highlight issues of agency, a term heavily used in consumption studies when consumers were thought to be seduced by advertising and glitz. Here we ask what sort of agencies are being conceptualised within leisure/tourism geography, and what this makes of the 'gaze'? 'Seductions' suggests something of the bodily encounters, the ways in which fleeting touches, glances and flirtations point towards and intimate microgeographies of encounters with place. 'Seductions' also highlights the construction of desire in the sphere of leisure/tourism.

Submissions and further information:

David Crouch, University of Derby

Luke Desforges, University of Wales Aberystwyth

Lynda Johnston, University of Edinburgh

3. HGRG

Geographies of Colonialism and Identity Formation in Britain and Ireland

Much recent debate on the experiences of colonialism within Britain and Ireland has stressed a series of complexities and ambiguities inherent to what is often uneasily referred to as the colonial project. Neat delineations of Self and Other have been shown to mask a whole set of tensions within the colonial past, which has subsequently prompted a number of important (re)presentations of its intrinsic contradictions.

This full-day session, furthermore, seeks to address the central notions of subjugation and power fundamental to the colonial project. More specifically, it aims to encourage papers that examine the

links between aspects of exclusion and inclusion and the formation and interaction of identity across the various regions of England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Given no temporal limits, we hope to attract a broad range of papers concerning the crystallisation of identities in the context of colonialism across the Atlantic Archipelago.

General themes welcomed, but not restricted to, include:

- Geographies of Resistance
- Cultural Interaction and the Contact Zone
- Hegemony, Ideology and Identity
- Geographies of Power and Exclusion

For offers of papers, please contact either of the convenors with abstracts of up to 200 words:

Dr. John Morrissey, Department of Geography, University of Exeter, Amory Building, Rennes Drive, Exeter UK EX4 4RJ. Tel.: +44 (0)1392 263306. Email: J.M.Morrissey@exeter.ac.uk

Dr. Mark Hennessy, Department of Geography, Trinity College Dublin, Dublin 2, Ireland. Tel.: +353 (0)1 6081881. Email: mhnnessy@tcd.ie

Deadline: **June 20th 2001**

4. HGRG/PGF

Postgraduate Research in Historical, Social and Cultural Geography

This session, convened by both the Historical Geography Research Group and the Postgraduate Forum of the RGS-IBS, aims to provide an informal and relaxed forum for postgraduates currently undertaking research in historical, social or cultural geography to present at a major conference. This half-day session builds on the successes of independent HGRG and PGF sessions at Plymouth 2001 and Sussex 2000. It is hoped that the friendly and supportive atmosphere of these sessions will produce stimulating debates on some of the issues raised. There will be no geographical or chronological limits and papers are welcomed from postgraduates at any stage of research.

Offers for papers, comprising author, address, title and abstract (of not more than 200 words) should be submitted by e-mail or hard copy no later than **June 20th 2001** to either:

Dan Knox, HGRG Postgraduate Committee Member, Department of Geography, University of Durham, Durham DH1 3LE. Tel: 0191 374 2442. E-mail: d.l.knox@durham.ac.uk

Mark Guy/Lucy Venn, PGF, School of Geography, University of Nottingham, NG7 2RD. Tel: 0115 846 6051. E-mail: Guy@geog.nott.ac.uk or lucy_venn2@yahoo.co.uk

5. HGRG/RGRG

Rural Migration Histories

This session aims to combine the insights of historical and rural geographers in the analysis and exploration of human migration as it impacts on rural areas. It seeks to counter a degree of

historical amnesia within rural geography and to bring more historical accounts of migration activity into the orbit of recent developments in rural geography.

Topics of interest include but are not restricted to:

- The 'drift from the land'
- Mobile groups in the countryside
- The historical legacy of counter-urbanisation
- 'Back-to-the-land' movements in historical context
- Theorising rural migration histories
- Intra-national, inter-national and longitudinal comparative studies

Offers of papers, including a title and an abstract of up to 150 words to one of the following:

Catherine Brace (for HGRG), Department of Geography, University of Exeter, Amory Building, Rennes Drive, Exeter, EX4 4RJ. Tel: 01392-263349. Email: cbrace@exeter.ac.uk

Keith Halfacree (for RGRG), Department of Geography, University of Wales Swansea, Singleton Park, Swansea, SA2 8PP. Tel: 01792-205678 x4500. Email: k.h.halfacree@swansea.ac.uk

DEADLINE: June 20th 2001

6. HGRG/DARG

Geographies of Post-war Housing

The Developing Areas Research Group and the Historical Geography Research Group will hold a session on the subject of post-war housing in the developed and the developing world jointly. The themes of modernisation and (post) colonialism will be emphasized. Those interested should contact the convenor, Richard Harris, at harris@mcmaster.ca by **20 June 2001**.

7. HGRG/UGSG

On Display: Exhibition and the City

Papers may address themes in the context of pre-modern, modern or post-modern cities, with contributions that consider the unfolding histories of exhibition in the city particularly welcome.

Deadline: June 20th, 2001

Please contact:

Dr Phil Hubbard
Loughborough University
Leicestershire LE11 3TU
(01509) 222747

Dr Keith Lilley

Queen's University
Belfast BT7 1NN
(028) 9127 3363

8. HGRG/SCGRG

Multisensory Memorialisations: Landscape, Ecology and Place

In this session we would like to attract papers on processes of memory in relation to landscapes of the everyday. These could include memorials which are personalised and symbolic in the landscape of the everyday, as well as the tokens and symbols which exist in the everyday that trigger memories of landscapes.

Deadline: June 20th, 2001

Please contact: Divya Tolia-Kelly, d.tolia@ucl.ac.uk

9. HGRG/EGSG

Geographies of Labour

Issues of collective action, and labour relations are neglected areas of study within geography. Though geographers have given us detailed analysis of production and consumption under a variety of regimes of accumulation, labour relations and collective action themselves have largely remained the preserve of sociologists. Recent work within sociology and geography has shown both the continued relevance of these concepts and theoretically reinvigorated our understanding of them. This session aims to bring together research on the spatiality of labour, labour relations and collective action both historical and contemporary, and at a variety of spatial scales.

We invite papers which address themes such as:

1. Contemporary and historical geographies of organised labour and labour disputes
2. Work, space and identity: cultures of work, class solidarity and trade unionism
3. The role of labour in the production of space, geographical scale(s) and uneven development
4. Labour relations: formal and informal survival strategies

Please e-mail or post your proposed title and abstract (250 words max.) by **June 20th 2001** to:

George Revill, Geography Department, School of Social Sciences and Law, Oxford Brookes University, Gipsy Lane, Headington, Oxford, OX3 0BP. Tel.: 01865 483853. E-mail: gerevill@brookes.ac.uk

Adam Swain, School of Geography, University of Nottingham, NG7 1DL. E-mail: adam.swain@nottingham.ac.uk

Conference Announcement

Geography & Revolution

An International Interdisciplinary Conference

18-21 July 2001

Department of Geography, The University of Edinburgh,
Drummond Street, Edinburgh EH8 9XP

The Conference

The importance of spaces and the situated nature of knowledge in understanding the history of intellectual and social change has been acknowledged increasingly by scholars in a variety of disciplines. This conference aims to bring together an international and interdisciplinary set of speakers to build upon and extend these interests. The connections between geography and revolution - scientific, political and technical - will be explored by scholars from geography, history and the history of science.

The conference is organised around three themes:

Scientific Revolutions. Here the sites of scientific knowledge, the geographical patterns of scientific practice and the role of cartographic thinking in evolutionary theory will be of central concern.

Political Revolutions. The role of geography in the context of political revolution in the United States, Germany, France, England and Russia at different points in time will be the focus of attention here.

Technological Revolutions. The impact on spatial thought and practice of the print revolution, the emergence of clock time, and the development of photographic techniques will be examined.

List of Speakers

The speakers are Mark Bassin (UCL), Jerry Brotton (Royal Holloway), Graham Burnett (Oklahoma), Peter Dear (Cornell), Paul Glennie (Bristol), Michael Heffernan (Nottingham), John Henry (Edinburgh), David Livingstone (Queen's, Belfast), Robert Mayhew (Aberystwyth), James Moore (Open University), Nicolaas Rupke (Göttingen), James Ryan (Queen's, Belfast), Steven Shapin (San Diego), Nigel Thrift (Bristol), Charles Withers (Edinburgh).

Conference Fee

The fee for this 4-day meeting (not including accommodation, or Conference Dinner on Friday 20 July) is £ 75.00. There is a day fee (non-residential) of £35.00. The full conference fee for the unwaged is £35.00.

For further information

Visit our website at <http://www.geo.ed.ac.uk/geogrev/> or contact either of the conference organisers below.

Professor David N. Livingstone
School of Geography
The Queen's University of Belfast
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BT7 1NN

Tel: 02890 335145
Fax: 02890 321280
E.mail: d.livingstone@queens-belfast.ac.uk

Professor Charles W. J. Withers
Department of Geography
University of Edinburgh
Drummond Street
Edinburgh
EH8 9XP

Tel: 0131 650 2559
Fax: 0131 650 2524
E.mail: cwjw@geo.ed.ac.uk

Obituary:

After months of illness, Dra. Graciela Uribe Ortega died on October 31st 2000 in Mexico City. A political geographer and geographer of Latin America, she was born in Chile in 1928 and taught geography at the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico (UNAM). She was forced to leave Chile during the 1973 coup after being targeted by Generalissimo Augusto Pinochet. After several years of political asylum in Finland she migrated to Mexico where she spent the last 21 years. Influential in Latin American geography, her books include *Geografia politica*, *Geografia y Sociedad*, and *Cuadernos de geografia Brasileña*. Her work connects the history of geography in latin America to current theoretical and methodological predicaments. She was a political activist throughout her life and was involved most recently in the large strike by students at UNAM. An interview with Ortega and a review of *Geografia y Sociedad* (by Georgina Calderón Aragón) appears in *Society and Space* volume 18(5), 2000.

Neil Smith

