

# HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF GEOGRAPHY RESEARCH GROUP

*Royal Geographical Society  
with the Institute of British Geographers*

## Newsletter July 2002

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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 May 1<sup>st</sup> and November 1<sup>st</sup>.

**HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF GEOGRAPHY  
RESEARCH GROUP**

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2001**

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**Royal Geographical Society with the Institute of British Geographers**

**HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF GEOGRAPHY  
RESEARCH GROUP**

**Annual Report for 2001**

**1. Constitution and Statement of Purpose**

HPGRG activities continued to operate successfully under the revised Constitution, which was agreed at the AGM in 2000. The concise Statement of Purpose continued to be a useful way of publicising the Group's activities.

**2. Conferences**

HPGRG maintained its high profile at a number of international conferences during 2001. At the 2001 Annual Conference in Plymouth, HPGRG co-convened a day-long session on 'Time/space and society' with SCGRG. HPGRG successfully nominated two Research Group Guests: Celia Lury (Goldsmiths) and John Urry (Lancaster).

HPGRG supported a two-day conference on *Geography and Revolution*, which was convened by David Livingstone and Charles Withers and held at the University of Edinburgh from 18-21 July 2001. HPGRG was awarded £500 by RGS-IBG towards the travel and subsistence costs of one plenary speaker from the USA, and HPGRG also awarded a grant of £100 towards subsidising the postgraduate registration fee. In the event, there were sufficient funds to enable the conference convenors to return £100 to HPGRG. The conference was a great success. It was organised around three key themes: scientific revolutions, technical revolutions and political revolutions. A plenary paper was given by Peter Dear (Cornell), and 11 further papers of 40-45 minutes were presented. The conference followed the highly successful conference on *Geography and Enlightenment* that was held in 1996 at the University of Edinburgh, and also supported by HPGRG.

In 2001, HPGRG was awarded £700 towards an international conference on *Tropical Views and Visions: Images of the Tropical World*. The grant will subsidise postgraduate registration fees and will fund part of the travel and subsistence costs of one plenary speaker from the USA. The conference is being convened by Felix Driver and Luciana Martins, and will be held on 12-13 July 2002 at the National Maritime Museum in London. The conference will address the various ways in which the tropics have been imagined and experienced by British travellers, with particular reference to the global circulation of images, commodities and exotic species over the last three centuries. Keynote speakers will include Michael Dettelbach and Nicholas Thomas. HPGRG has awarded a grant of £100 towards a reduced postgraduate registration fee. As with the *Geography and Revolution* conference, this grant will be returned to HPGRG if there are sufficient funds available after the conference.

### 3. Publications and Communications

During 2001, Alison Blunt and Cheryl McEwan secured a contract with Continuum for an edited volume on *Postcolonial Geographies*, to be published as part of the 'Writing past colonialism' series edited by the Institute for Postcolonial Studies, Melbourne. A number of chapters in this volume were originally presented at the 1998 HPGRG *Postcolonial Geographies* conference at the University of Southampton. The manuscript will be submitted to Continuum in January 2002, and the book will be published in October 2002.

In 2001 Alison Blunt and Ann Varley developed a proposal for an edited volume on *Geographies of Home* to be submitted to the RGS-IBG Blackwell Book Series in January 2002. Many of the chapters in the proposed book were originally presented as papers at the 2000 conference on *Geographies of Home* at UCL. The conference was supported by HPGRG, DARG, SCGRG and WGSF.

The biannual HPGRG Newsletter is edited by John Wylie and sent to all members in May and December. 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.

### 4. Finance

The Group ended the year with a balance of £1717.49 (see attached Financial Statement). At the 2001 AGM it was agreed that when HPGRG applied to RGS-IBG for grants to support conferences, it would also award a grant of £100 on the understanding that it would be returned after the conference if there were sufficient funds available to do so (as in the case of *Geography and Revolution*).

### 5. Postgraduate Awards

At the 2001 AGM it was agreed that there were now sufficient funds for HPGRG to be able to offer two postgraduate bursaries of £50 towards travel and other costs of attending the Annual Conference. These awards are open to postgraduates presenting papers in a session sponsored or co-sponsored by HPGRG. Applications are assessed by the Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Postgraduate Liaison Officer. Successful applicants will be asked to write a report of their session to be published in the HPGRG Newsletter.

There were three applications for these awards in 2001 and, given their quality and the reimbursement of £100 from the *Geography and Revolution* conference, it was agreed that all three would be awarded £50. The successful applicants were Sarah Dyer (KCL), Richard Powell (Cambridge), and Dragos Simandan (Bristol). All three are presenting papers in the session co-sponsored with BGRG on 'Putting philosophies of geography into practice' in Belfast in 2002.

### 6. Personnel

There were a number of changes on the Committee. Felix Driver completed his term of office as Chair, and was replaced by Alison Blunt (previously Secretary). Pyrs Gruffudd was appointed Secretary to replace Alison, while John Wylie took over from Pyrs as Newsletter Editor. Mark Patterson was replaced John as Postgraduate Liaison Officer, and Laura Cameron and David Demeritt joined David Matless as new committee members (replacing Ron Johnston and Cheryl McEwan). These personnel changes reflect a commitment to continuity as well as change on the Committee. Neil Smith continued as Corresponding Member and Michael Bravo as Co-opted Member in 2001.

### 7. RGS-IBG Liaison

The Group's Committee was consulted by the Research Division of the RGS-IBG on a range of issues relating to research, teaching and higher education generally. HPGRG played an active role particularly in relation to liaison with ESRC and AHRB, and in discussing proposed changes to the Annual Conference.

**Dr Alison Blunt**  
Chair, HPGRG

January 2002

## HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF GEOGRAPHY RESEARCH GROUP

### Unconfirmed Minutes of the 2001 AGM

3 January 2001  
Plymouth

Present: Alison Blunt (Secretary), Noel Castree, David Demeritt, Hayden Lorimer, Avril Maddrell, David Matless, Mark Paterson, Richard Powell, John Wylie.

Apologies: Michael Bravo, Laura Cameron, Felix Driver, Pyrs Gruffudd, Ron Johnston, Cheryl McEwan.

1. Minutes of 1999 AGM  
Approved

2. Chair's Report  
Attached

3. Secretary's Report  
At the end of his term of office, Alison Blunt thanked Felix Driver for being an excellent Chair (and before that, Secretary) of the Group.

Alison reported that:

- i. Priority items for the RGS-IBG meeting with the ESRC included interdisciplinary coordination with other research councils and postgraduate training. HPGRG had also stressed the importance of supporting postgraduate research that was theoretical and/or philosophical as well as substantively empirical.
- ii. The new RGS-IBG book series (in conjunction with Blackwell) welcomes proposals for monographs and edited collections. The series aims to publish 5 books each year.
- iii. The deadline for nominations for RGS-IBG medals and awards is 31 January 2001.
- iv. The RGS-IBG archives and library will be closed from June 2001 for a period of 15-18 months due to refurbishment. The picture library will remain open.

4. Treasurer's Report

Mike Heffernan ended his term of office as Treasurer one year early and was replaced by Noel Castree (until 2003). The Group ended the year with a balance of £1239.07. 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.

It was agreed that there are now sufficient funds to be able to offer two postgraduate bursaries of £50 towards travel and other costs of attending the Annual Conference. These will be open to postgraduates presenting papers in a session sponsored or co-

sponsored by HPGRG. An application form will be drawn up and circulated to the committee. Applications will be assessed by the Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Postgraduate Liaison Officer. Successful applicants will be asked to write a report of their session to be published in the HPGRG Newsletter.

5. Newsletter Editor's Report

Pyrs Gruffudd sent his apologies. As detailed in the Chair's report, the Newsletter was published twice during the year. It is an important means of communicating news. At the end of his period of office, Pyrs was thanked for all of his work in editing the Newsletter for the last three years.

6. Elections

The following officers and committee members were elected until 2004:

Chair: Alison Blunt

Secretary: Pyrs Gruffudd

Newsletter Editor: John Wylie

Postgraduate Liaison Officer: Mark Paterson

Committee Members: Laura Cameron and David Demeritt.

7. Conference Planning

- i. Two sessions were proposed for the Annual Conference in Belfast, 2002: 'Excavating geography's hidden spaces' (convened by Hayden Lorimer and Nick Spedding) and 'Senses and sensibilities' (convened by Mark Paterson and John Wylie). These were supported by the meeting.
- ii. *Geography and Revolution*: HPGRG was awarded £500 to fund a speaker from North America to attend this conference at the University of Edinburgh in July 2001. It 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.
- iii. *Knowing the Tropics: British Views and Visions*: Felix Driver and Luciana Martins are convening a conference to be held at the National Maritime Museum in July 2002. It was agreed that HPGRG would apply for a grant from RGS-IBG to support this conference, and contribute £100 of its funds. It was agreed as a general principle that when HPGRG applies to RGS-IBG to fund a conference, it will contribute £100 on the understanding that this will be reimbursed if there are sufficient funds to do so after the conference.
- iv. *IGU 2004*: this will be held in Glasgow. It was agreed that HPGRG will liaise with conference convenors to support sessions on the history and philosophy of geography.

8. Oral History of Twentieth Century British Geography

David Matless introduced his ideas for an oral history of twentieth century British Geography, particularly in the post-1945 period. There was considerable support for this idea, and it was suggested that it could perhaps lead to an international oral history of Geography via workshops or a session at the IGU in 2004. David will circulate more details to the Committee.

9. HPGRG Website

John Wylie agreed to work on developing the HPGRG website.

**HPGRG Accounts 2001**

Name: Dr. Noel Castree (Treasurer)  
 Period 1<sup>st</sup> January – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2001  
 Receipt and Payments Account

**INCOME**

RGS-IBG subvention	£700
RGS-IBG grant(s)	
Other grants	
Subscriptions	
Conference income	
Meetings income	
Advertising income	
Royalties	
Interest	£0.91
Other income	£30.00 from Ashgate publishers £100.00 (transfer from savings account)
Total receipts	£830.91

**EXPENDITURE**

Committee expenses	
Conference costs	
Meetings costs	
Newsletter costs	£73.99 + £90.00
Grants and Awards	
Prizes	£100 postgraduate awards
Other costs	
Total payments	<u>£263.99</u>
Net surplus/deficit	<u>+£566.92</u>
Opening balance(s) – 1 <sup>st</sup> January	<u>£237.02</u>
Closing balances – 31 <sup>st</sup> December	<u>£803.94</u>
HSBC Bank –current a/c	<u>£803.94</u>
HSBC Bank –deposit a/c	<u>£913.55</u>
	<u>£1717.49</u>

**History and Philosophy of Geography Research Group****Proposal for a Plenary Theme at the Annual Conference of the RGS-IBG  
London, September 2003****GEOGRAPHY AND THE HUMANITIES**

HPGRG, together with HGRG and UGRG, propose a plenary theme on 'Geography and the Humanities' for the next RGS-IBG Conference to be held in London in September 2003. We propose this theme for the following reasons:

- To reflect the rich diversity of geographical research in relation to the humanities (including research on writing, the visual arts and performativity).
- To showcase geographical research in this area at a time when there are discussions about establishing an Arts and Humanities Research Council. A day on this plenary theme would hopefully include at least one paper presented by a board member of AHRB / the new research council.
- To foster links between geographers and other organizations in London (and particularly those located near to the RGS), including the Royal College of Art, the Royal College of Music, and the Victoria and Albert Museum.

In terms of the structure of the day, we would like to include sessions on:

- What counts as 'humanity' and what this means in relation to 'geography'
- Methodological issues
- Geography and humanitarianism
- Geography and the proposed Arts and Humanities Research Council

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

### Reports on HPGRG-Sponsored Sessions.

#### Senses and Sensibilities

**Convenors:** Mark Paterson (University of Bristol), John Wylie (University of Sheffield).

The aim of the 'Senses and Sensibilities' half-day session was to showcase and explore a growing interest in the role of the senses in the production and consumption of geographical knowledges. This interest indexes broader shifts across the branches of human geography, in particular a move away from a conception of bodies, spaces and landscapes as signifiers of cultural and historical meaning, and towards a recognition of the material, sensuous role of bodies, spaces and landscapes in the configuration and enactment of such meaning. Hence the session aimed to explore the senses as loci of practice and performance, rather than as already-determined mediators of discourse. At the same time, however, we were concerned, in these papers, to avoid any suggestion that a focus upon the sensuous necessarily involves any wilful abdication of interest in the wider cultural and historical forces which undeniably play a part in the production and experiences of corporeal mobilities, percepts and affects. The aim, therefore, was to explore the interfaces between immediacy and longitude in which sensibilities are routinised, traduced and transformed.

The first paper, 'The dark, the gloom, the luminous, the exultant', presented by John Wylie (University of Sheffield), sought to introduce the phenomenological 'ficto-criticism' of Alphonso Lingis as a corrective to the assumption that notions of 'being-in-the-world' necessarily posit the emplacement of a sovereign subjectivity. Such an insistence upon the non-, or rather trans-subjective nature of forms of sensibility proved a recurrent theme of the session. Wylie's paper, in pursuing this theme via Lingis's vivid delineations of an affective world composed of elements and levels of sensibility, emphasised that spaces and landscapes possess a sensuous reality, an active materiality which guides and informs the practice of the senses. The following paper, Paul Harrison's (University of Durham) 'Taking-place and making-sense; the slight matters of embodiment', further pursued linkages between notions of being, sense and subjectivity. Focusing upon a detailed examination of the locatedness of Heidegger's understandings of being, Harrison richly illustrated what might be described as the spatial and temporal enclosure performed by that philosophy, wherein notions of 'authentic' senses of subjectivity are entwined with and circumscribed by an almost-mystic noontide rurality. The final paper in the first part of the session, Emma Roe's (University of Bristol) 'From food to thing: the

multisensory practices of organic food consumption' offered a more empirically-grounded account of the everyday strategems of sense. Based upon extensive qualitative research with dedicated consumers of organic produce in Bristol, Roe's work demonstrated that food choices involved interplay between discourses of naturalism and organicism and tactile knowledges enacted within food preparation and selection. Thus, she argued, our direct handling of food; in selecting, palpating and smelling, may be understood as a series of judgments of its freshness and wholesomeness.

After coffee, the session continued with four lively papers. The first, Mark Patterson's (University of Bristol) 'The Blind Man of Puiseaux: Touch and Spatial Awareness', explored relationships between vision, touch and knowledge, situating these in the context of Enlightenment epistemologies. Using celebrated examples, such as Molyneux's problem and the blind man of Puiseaux, Patterson sought to illustrate how debates between empiricists and rationalists concerning the senses as *loci* of knowledge production installed a sensorial hierarchy in which vision was privileged. In outlining the consequences of such an ordering, Patterson's presentation illustrated in particular its continuing impact upon contemporary understandings of visual impairment. In the paper which followed, Alex Vasudevan's (University of British Columbia), 'Sensing the modern city: performance geographies of Weimar Berlin', attention shifted from epistemology to issues of cultural and historical affect; specifically here, the experience of urban modernity in Weimar Berlin. Drawing upon a rich range of sources, including the work of Walter Benjamin, Weimar art and cinema and the psychogeographies of urban life, Vasudevan argued that Berlin at this time was characterised by a nervous and fractured performativity, an intense mode of subjectification which was reflected in and refracted through the production of modernist cultural forms and choreographies. The third paper, Steve Pile's (Open University) 'The Sixth Sense and the urbanisation of affect' also sought to locate the city as a site for the production of particular sensory formations and interchanges. Here, the affectual registers of the urban were explored through an examination of the city as a space of ghosts. Drawing upon examples from contemporary film, Pile argued that not only are cities habitually haunted spaces, the figure of the ghost serves also as a motif for our understanding of the lives of city dwellers. The haunted affects of modern urban life thus inform the sensuous vocabulary through which the city is experienced. The final paper of the session, Derek McCormack's (University of Southampton) 'Kinaesthetic sensibilities, animating architectures and transversal lines in the moving geographies of Rudolf Laban', relocated sensibility within the mobile and expressive body. Literally tying the audience in knots, McCormack described a work of performance art in which he had participated, an experiment in kinaesthetics in a confined space. This work was inspired in turn by the Austro-Hungarian movement artist Rudolf Laban, whose programme of spatial animation, McCormack argued, was not so much a geometry of the intentional subject as a means for the opening of spaces of affective apprehension.

In conclusion, the convenors would like to thank the session participants, the HPGRG and the audience, for helping to put together what was a stimulating and theoretically-rich afternoon of papers.

John Wylie, University of Sheffield.

*Editors note: the following two reports on 'Putting Philosophies of Geography into Practice' are written by Sarah Dyer and Ricard Powell, two postgraduates to whom the HPGRG made awards of £50 each, as part of an annual award scheme for postgraduate students presenting papers at HPGRG-sponsored RGS-IBG Conference Sessions.*

**Putting Philosophies of Geography into Practice (jointly sponsored with BGRG).  
Convenors: Hayden Lorimer and Nick Spedding (University of Aberdeen).**

1. **Richard C. Powell**, Geography and Scott Polar Research Institute, Cambridge University

I received a HPGRG postgraduate award towards attendance at the Belfast meetings of the RGS/IBG, and presented my paper in the daylong 'Putting Philosophies of Geography into Practice' programme. These sessions, organized by Hayden Lorimer (historical geographer) and Nick Spedding (geomorphologist) at Aberdeen University, posed a dual mission: to put *practices* into philosophies of geography, and to initiate *dialogue* between resulting approaches. In all, eleven presenters and a discussant were involved (although one paper was not delivered).

On the one hand, then, presenters had been tasked in the original 'Call for Papers' with moving beyond orthodox accounts of the geographical academy in histories and philosophies of the discipline. This agenda seemed to be interpreted by participants in two major ways. Firstly, as requiring the deployment of novel perspectives in history and philosophy of geography, and as such some papers discussed the potential contributions of theories of dialogue (David Demeritt and Sarah Dyer), notions of performance and practice (Paul Harrison), and practical applications of environmental ethics (Martin Haigh). And second, as demanding attention to disregarded spaces of geographical endeavour, and other papers thus focused on often-neglected sites of geographical inquiry (the archive for Charles Withers, the department for Gill Valentine, and the field and body for Peter Collier and Rob Inkpen, Simon Naylor and J.D. Dewsbury, and Richard Powell), as well as marginalized geographical traditions (computational geography for Robert Abraham and Jacky Hartnett, development geography for Marcus Power and James Sidaway, and Romanian and Bristolian geography for Dragos Simandan).

At the same time, participants had been encouraged to form new audiences and reach wider constituencies. Perhaps inevitably, this desire was most evident in attempts to promote conversation between human and physical geographers. Consequently sponsorship had been arranged from BGRG to complement that of HPGRG. And certainly this drew a wide variety of submissions, as well as an audience of physical geographers in many of the sessions to supplement an already sizable crowd. The editors of *Area* were also extremely supportive, offering sponsorship and facilitating a lunchtime reception by Blackwell publishers.

The day finished with an enjoyably belligerent commentary by David Livingstone that praised the intellectual vitality displayed but warned of the dangers of reneging on orthodoxy for its own sake and asserted the importance of particular circumstances. He concluded with a plea for more attention from historians of geography to questions of *geographical* biography and geographies of reading and reception.

Although incredibly vibrant and interesting, the papers, as can be gathered from this brief summary, were also hugely diverse. At times it was evident that there was significant incommensurability between presenters when, for example, landslides and deep ecology were preceded by the recent history of geographical computing, and were followed after lunch by St. Augustine, Wittgenstein, and the difficulties of social explanation. However, as the purpose of the sessions was to stimulate reflection on the meanings of being a geographer and doing geography, such disjunctures proved to be incredibly provocative. And in question periods and after the sessions, it was obvious that those professing to be geographers quickly overcame ostensible difficulties of communication to move significantly towards Lorimer's and Spedding's goals. A theme issue of *Area* is being produced from the papers, and it will be interesting to see the degree to which the hopes of the organizers are maintained through to publication.

I am immensely grateful for the crucial support of the HPGRG towards my attendance at RGS/IBG 2002, and I would urge that that this important scheme be continued for future students. Moreover, I think the HPGRG can be satisfied that it co-sponsored an excellent day of papers in Belfast.

2. **Sarah Dyer**, Department of Geography, University College London

Starting a PhD is a strange thing. Being a research student, something that you need to acclimatise to. It feels rather like someone has given you a job but not told you what that job is. For starters, there's the new and strange position you occupy in your department: not (yet) an academic, no longer a student. Then there is the job of forging alliances with other research students, whose research at first glance seem to have nothing to do with what you're interested in (like rocks and stuff!). Taking tutorials involves facing bright-eyed eighteen year olds and having at least some conception of what this thing 'geography' is. Add to that the question of how to describe to friends and strangers (and yourself) what it is you are doing. And that's before you have even started to conceive of what your research project is in concrete terms and how on earth you are going to go about doing it. In the first few months of my PhD then, I found myself often asking what putting philosophies of geography into practice might mean. I phrased it differently: What am I doing here?

The session run by the 'British Geomorphology Research Group' and the 'History and Philosophy of Geography Research Group' in Belfast offered the opportunity to reflect on and challenge, in a rather less personal way, what it means to be in the 'active, practical, political, social and embodied space' of a geography department (Hayden and Nick's words, not mine). The session arose from a perceived need to explicitly address conceptual issues that can be swept under the label of 'geography'. In effect the question becomes not, 'what am I doing here?' but 'what is it that we do here?'. I was heartened just by the title of Gill Valentine's paper: 'If you don't mind me saying you don't look like a professor' (although unfortunately we didn't get to hear what she does look like). Reflecting on what possessing an identity 'geographer' means served as the starting point for a number of papers. It was particularly interesting to hear about the very different identities of geographers in other places (Dragos Simandan) and other times (Peter Collier and Rob Inkpen, Marcus Power and James D. Sidaway), and it served to remind of the contingent and contested nature of such an identity. Although it remained implicit, an important frame of such debates has to be the continuing political considerations around the RAE and situation of British academia more generally. Being geographers we

couldn't, as Dragos pointed out, ignore space and there were reflections on some of the spaces which geographers construct, and are constructed by. There was consideration of the field (Richard C. Powell, Simon Naylor and JD Dewsbury), the archive (Charles Withers) and spaces of dissemination and representation (nothing about the pub though).

Other papers addressed philosophy more directly. Examining what epistemologies we buy into as geographers and the status we give to epistemological discussions. Our paper discussed the different epistemologies and politics implied by the term 'discourse' (David Demeritt and Sarah Dyer). Paul Harrison explained what is lost when social explanations render social practices secondary, as representations or emanations of theory. The implications, in particular the ethical implications, of different epistemologies were considered in reference to land reclamation (Martin J. Haigh). The plea for a rejection of a technocratic understanding of Nature in favour of other ways of knowing chimed with other speakers' elucidation of the political nature of knowledge, and the place of imagination and intuition in the production of knowledge. A re-thinking of the traditional organisation and understanding of geographical knowledge was argued for in terms of the potential of computational geography (Robert J Abrahart and Jacky Harnett). Something that wasn't discussed though, that is interesting to consider, is the status that those outside of geography, those who hold the purse strings and those who police the boundaries of philosophy proper, give to our epistemology debates.

However, the session as a whole illustrated the good position that geography occupies for considering moves to go beyond easy categorisations (ah...now I get the rock thing). Above all it demonstrated the richness and importance of explicit inquiry into, what it is we are doing here. One of the motivations for convening this session is the bewilderment of students in the face of history and philosophy courses in geography. The feeling being that this bewilderment arises at least partly from a disparity between how these things are taught and how they are experienced. In the second term I talked in a tutorial with first year students about philosophies of geography. A few weeks later a student came up to me and said that they had just had a lecture on epistemology. In her words: 'I still don't get it, but at least now I know how to spell it'.

## Conference Announcements/Calls for Papers.

### 1. Emotional Geographies

An interdisciplinary conference on the place of emotions in everyday life, hosted by The Institute for Health Research, Lancaster University, 23rd- 25<sup>th</sup> September 2002.

Advisory Committee: Kay Anderson, Joyce Davidson, Rosaleen Duffy, Mary Evans, Anthony Gatrell, Christine Milligan, Mick Smith, Susan Smith.

#### Speakers / Sessions include:

Sara Ahmed - 'Communities that Feel: Intensities, Difference and Attachment'

Liz Bondi - 'Counselling, Psychotherapy and Geographies of Care'

Erica Burman - 'Emotions in the Classroom'

Ian Craib - 'Headaches, Heartaches and Pains in the Arse'

Mike Hepworth - 'Ageing and the Emotions'

Val Plumwood - 'Sympathy and Solidarity with Nature'

Gillian Rose - 'Everybody's cuddled up and it's just really nice': talking to mums about their family photos'

Carol Thomas - 'Disability and the Emotions'

John Urry - 'The Place of Emotions within Places'

Gill Valentine and Tracy Skelton - 'I just felt different though for a long time I didn't understand why': Emotional geographies of coming out as lesbian or gay'

#### Call For Papers

Contributions to the conference will consist of 20 minute papers (15 for presentation, 5 for discussion). Potential contributors should submit abstracts of up to 300 words, highlighting 3 key words, to the conference organiser by 31st January 2002. All proposals will be reviewed by members of the advisory committee, and notification of the outcome will be given by 31st March 2002. A full conference outline can be found on the linked website -<http://www.lancs.ac.uk/depts/ihr/joyce.conference> - which will be regularly updated with information on booking, accommodation and programme details. It is intended that a selection of papers from Emotional Geographies will form the basis of an edited collection to be published in 2003.

#### Potential Themes

This list of themes and topics for discussion is intended to be suggestive rather than exhaustive, and contributions are invited on any area of relevance to Emotional Geographies.

- \* The gender(ing) of emotions
- \* Consuming emotions: The role of foods and other 'goods' in everyday life
- \* Ethnicity and emotions, cultural contrasts
- \* Therapeutic Landscapes
- \* Desire, sexuality and relationships
- \* The medicalization of emotions



- \* Emotional politics and the politics of emotion
- \* Emotions in counselling and psychoanalysis
- \* Creative passions: Emotion, aesthetics and the Arts
- \* Memory, emotion and the life-course
- \* Emotional attachment to the non-human world: Environmental protection and direct action
- \* Institutionalised emotions: The academy and beyond
- \* Class, poverty and emotional 'well-being'
- \* Embodiment and emotions
- \* Domestic bliss? Emotional geographies of 'home'
- \* Disgust and the maintenance of boundaries
- \* Geographies of women's fear
- \* Civilizing emotions
- \* Senses, emotions and metaphors
- \* Panic and postmodernity
- \* Irrationality and emotional selves
- \* The genealogy of emotions
- \* Urban stress, rural tranquillity?
- \* Agony and ecstasy: Drug and alcohol use for mood alteration

## 2. Material Geographies

### One Day Conference

Date: Thursday 5th September 2002

Venue: Department of Geography, UCL, 26, Bedford Way, London

Organisers Divya Tolia-Kelly (UCL) & Ben Anderson (John Moores University)

We would like to invite you to attend this specialist one-day conference on "material geographies". The conference emerges out of an increased research and theoretical interest into materiality/objects/things. The conference brings together substantive empirical work, and aims to foster a dialogue between different disciplinary and theoretical approaches.

Conference fees are as follows (includes lunch, tea, coffee and refreshments):

£15 Employed

£10: Postgraduate (Funded)

£5: Unemployed/Unfunded

### Preliminary Programme:

10.00-11.00

Jacobs, J: Repeated Living: Landscapes as Things

Thrift, N: A Geography of Unknown Lands

11.30-1.00 (two sessions)

Donaldson, A & Wood, D: On the Inadequacies of Social Representation: FMD, Biosecurity and Permeable Boundaries

Featherstone, D: Antagonisms, Spatial Relations and the Production of Materialities

Brown, G: The Class Warrior goes Cottaging

Lally, E: Machines for Living

Metcalfe, A: At Home with Strange Things

Tolia-Kelly, D: Textures of Nature: Inscribed environmental histories in the South Asian home.

1.00-2.00: Lunch

2.00-3.30 (two sessions)

Maycroft, N: The Objectness of Everyday Life: Disburdenment and Engagement

Bingley, A: Touching and Senses

Doel, M & Segrott, J: The Materiality of Complementary and Alternative Medicine

Lawlor, J: The Material Nature of the Domestic Garden

Elden, S: The Production of the Real: Lefebvre on the Materiality of Nature and Landscape

Hitchings, R: Why Some Things are Harder to Consume than Others

4.00-5.30

Miller, D: Should objects be termed agents

Pinney, C: Wavy meaning: material flow and networks

Kuchler, S: Cognition and materiality

