

# **Historical Geography Research Group**

(ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY with THE INSTITUTE OF BRITISH GEOGRAPHERS)



<http://hgrg.nuigalway.ie>

## **HGRG Newsletter, Autumn 2005**

In this issue:

- ◆ New HGRG committee, 2005/2006
- ◆ Call for sessions for RGS-IBG 2006
- ◆ Other upcoming conferences and events
- ◆ HGRG AGM 2005 minutes

Copy for the HGRG newsletter should be sent to:

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Copy should be submitted either on floppy disc (PC, MS Word files preferred) or via e-mail to [p.merriman@aber.ac.uk](mailto:p.merriman@aber.ac.uk)

**Copy deadlines** are: **25 January** for the spring edition, **25 May** for the summer edition, and **25 September** for the autumn edition.

*HGRG Electronic Mailing List*: if you would you like to be added to the list, please contact Peter Merriman, [p.merriman@aber.ac.uk](mailto:p.merriman@aber.ac.uk)

# Historical Geography Research Group Officers

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## HGRG Postgraduate Conference:

**HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY RESEARCH GROUP  
PRACTISING HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY  
10<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL POSTGRADUATE & UNDERGRADUATE  
ONE-DAY CONFERENCE**

**WEDNESDAY, 2<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER 2005  
10.00AM-4.30PM**

**Venue:** School of Geographical Sciences, University of Bristol, University Road, Bristol, BS8 1SS.

This one-day conference is organised by the Historical Geography Research Group, a study group of the RGS/IBG. Designed for postgraduate students and senior-level undergraduates, the conference is free to attend, and refreshments are provided. To register at no cost, please send your name and affiliation to Dr Yvonne Whelan at [yvonne.whelan@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:yvonne.whelan@bristol.ac.uk)

### **PROGRAMME**

- 10.15 Conference Welcome and Introduction  
10.30 Keynote Lecture, **Dr Avril Maddrell** (Oxford Brookes University)  
**Complex locations and a complex blend: women geographers in the archives, oral history and historiography**
- 11.30 Historical Geography Workshops  
I. **Dr Robert Mayhew** (University of Bristol)  
**Print Cultures and Practising Historical Geography**  
*or*  
II. **Dr Elizabeth Gagen** (University of Hull)  
**Pictures, problems and evidence: reflecting on photographic archives**
- 12.30 *Lunch*  
1.30 Historical geography Workshops  
I. **Dr Elizabeth Gagen** (University of Hull)  
**Pictures, problems and evidence: reflecting on photographic archives**  
*or*  
II. **Dr Robert Mayhew** (University of Bristol)  
**Print Cultures and Practising Historical Geography**
- 2.30 Postgraduate Voice  
3.00 HGRG Undergraduate Dissertation Prize Winner 2005  
3.15 *Refreshments*  
3.30 Keynote Lecture, **Dr Simon Naylor** (University of Bristol)  
**Researching Historical Geographies of Knowledge: A Reflection on Sources.**
- 4.30 Closing Comments

## RGS-IBG Annual Conference 2006:

**RGS-IBG Annual International Conference 2006**  
**'Global social justice and environmental sustainability'**  
**30 August - 1st September 2006**  
**at the Royal Geographical Society with IBG, London**  
**Call for Sessions**

Chair of Conference: Linda McDowell, University of Oxford.

The RGS-IBG encourage a call for sessions for the following types of papers/abstracts/submissions for any of the listed areas:

- Research papers - Completed papers
- Abstracts of completed or proposed research
- Student papers - research by students
- Poster sessions (informal presentations)
- Work in progress reports - proposals for future projects
- Panel discussions
- Practitioner forums

Each Research Group can submit proposals for up to three sessions. Additionally you can submit a proposal for up to two joint sessions. (e.g. joint with another research group or joint with the postgraduate community).

We also invite submissions for proposals for one session from individuals or groups of individuals within the community who can provide good justification for their session.

Sessions can be convened in various ways. We are encouraging the use of 15 minute blocks to allow delegates to transfer sessions should they so wish. This means that eight papers could be presented within one session, leaving 15 minutes for general questions/discussion/poster presentations. Panel discussions are also welcomed. Whatever the structure of the session, the convenor must make their intentions clear with the RGS-IBG from the outset.

Submissions may be made directly to the RHED at the RGS-IBG by completing the online proforma. Submissions must be made electronically. These can be sent to [rhed@rgs.org](mailto:rhed@rgs.org) or [AC2006@rgs.org](mailto:AC2006@rgs.org)

Key dates:

Call for sessions deadline – 1 November 2005

Abstract submission deadline – 31 January 2006

Early registration deadline – 5 May 2006

Final running order deadline – 26 June 2006

For further information visit [www.rgs.org](http://www.rgs.org) or e-mail [AC2006@rgs.org](mailto:AC2006@rgs.org)

## Postgraduate Conference funding:

### **Postgraduate funding to attend 13<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Historical Geographers, Hamburg, August 2006**

The Historical Geography Research Group would like to invite its postgraduate members to apply for funding to attend the 13<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Historical Geography, Hamburg, Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2006 – Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2006. The application forms for funding are available on the HGRG's website, <http://hgrg.nuigalway.ie> and the **closing date** for submission of applications is **31<sup>st</sup> January 2006**. Completed applications should be sent to Dr Catherine Brace, Honorary Secretary HGRG, University of Exeter.

The conference theme is "Transformation of cultural landscapes", and the conference is being held at the Geomatikum, Universität Hamburg. The ICHG's deadline for paper or session proposals is 31<sup>st</sup> January 2006. The conference website is advertised as [www.geowiss.uni-hamburg.de/i-geogr/ICHG.2006.html](http://www.geowiss.uni-hamburg.de/i-geogr/ICHG.2006.html) or you can e-mail [ICHG2006@geowiss-uni-hamburg.de](mailto:ICHG2006@geowiss-uni-hamburg.de)

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## **HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY RESEARCH GROUP**

### **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 1<sup>st</sup> September, RGS/IBG Annual Conference, London 2005**

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Dr John Stobart, Dr Peter Merriman, Dr John Morrissey.

2. Minutes of last meeting

Minutes were published in the October 2004 newsletter and were accepted as an accurate reflection of the last meeting.

3. Matters arising not on the agenda  
There were none.

4. Chair's Business

- a. Report on activities (September 2004 – August 2005)

Dr Lorimer presented the following report to the AGM:

Over the past 12 months the HGRG committee and members continued to be active in a number of different areas, organising meetings and supporting research in historical geography. This includes the work of the committee and members in organising the ninth annual undergraduate and postgraduate conference in historical geography, Practising Historical Geography, which was held at the Institute of Historical Research, Senate House, UCL in November 2004. The conference was funded by HGRG and a £200 grant from the Research and Higher Education Division of RGS-IBG. The venue for the event had to be changed at a relatively late stage due

to the AUT's decision to "greylist" University of Nottingham. Unfortunately, moving venue meant incurring more costs.

HGRG was able to maintain a policy of keeping the conference (including lunch and refreshments) free of charge to those in attendance. There were 45 delegates, and students and staff participating commented positively on the success and usefulness of the conference. A report, written by Innes Keighren (University of Edinburgh), was included in the February Newsletter.

The committee has been actively involved in the organization of the RGS-IBG Annual Conference 2005 meeting, and the research of the membership will be strongly represented. In addition to our usual Postgraduate Research sessions organised by the Committee, sessions sponsored by HGRG are:

- Spaces of Exploration convened by Simon Naylor and James Ryan (with HPGRG)
- Geographical Archives convened by Alison Blunt, Cheryl McEwan and Avril Maddrell (with HPGRG)
- Nature and Health convened by Hester Parr, Christine Milligan and Hayden Lorimer (with SCGRG & HealthGRG)
- Re-materialising Historical Geography convened by Nicola Thomas, Jude Hill and Divya Tolia-Kelly
- Spaces of Knowledge convened by Hilary Geoghegan and Pippa Biltcliffe
- GIS and Historical Research convened by Ian Gregory (with GIScRG)
- Life Course Transitions in Space and Time convened by Colin Pooley (with PopGRG)

The Committee was not successful in its joint application with HPGRG to RGS-IBG Research and HE Division for a scheme to support archival research at the RGS combined with attendance at this year's conference, and participation in the session on Geographical Archives.

Two applications were received for the Small Conference and Seminar Funding scheme in 2005. One from Professor Miles Ogborn to support postgraduate attendance at the London Group of Historical Geographers Seminars and one from Dr Harold Fox to support a conference on "W.G. Hoskins and the Making of the British Landscape". Each was awarded £250.

As always, much of the work of the committee this year has been in administering postgraduate support and supporting undergraduate and postgraduate work in historical geography. The committee made available funds to postgraduates to support attendance at the RGS/IBG and the annual conference of the Society of Caribbean Studies.

The awards made are as follows:

- Bertie Mandelblatt Holloway £50 Conference for the Society of Caribbean Studies
- Merle Patchett Glasgow £50 RGS-IBG
- Hilary Geoghegan Holloway £70 RGS-IBG
- Marion Parish Plymouth £75 RGS-IBG

We hope to be able to publish their conference reports in forthcoming issues of the newsletter.

With support from RGS-IBG, HGRG also plans to make monies available to fund postgraduate attendance at the 13<sup>th</sup> IGU in 2006.

The Historical Geography Research Series continues. Number 39 appeared and was entitled 'Home and Colonial: essays in celebration of Robin Butlin's contribution to historical geography'.

The Cambridge University Press and HGRG annual Undergraduate Dissertation Prize in Historical Geography is being judged. Five entries were received. HGRG is grateful to Dr Richard Dennis for chairing the adjudication again in 2005; the Committee judges were Dr Catherine Brace and Dr Yvonne Whelan.

Unfortunately the Chair and Secretary of HGRG were both unable to be present at any of the Research Group Sub Committee meetings of the RGS-IBG but the work of the Committee has proceeded as usual without interruption. Three newsletters were circulated to members in March, June and October; hard copy is still essential for non-academic and independent members. The HGRG web-site continues to work effectively from Galway (<http://hgrg.nuigalway.ie/events.html>) and is an excellent source of information for members and other interested parties. The Committee also makes regular use of its email distribution list to consult members, particularly regarding matters arising from RGS-IBG.

b. Committee positions

The following nominations were approved by the AGM:

- Honorary Editor: Dr Elizabeth Gagen (nominated by Dr Catherine Brace, seconded by Dr Peter Merriman)
- Ordinary Member (Web): Dr John Morrissey (nominated by Dr Yvonne Whelan, seconded by Dr Hayden Lorimer)
- Ordinary Member: Dr Diarmid Finnegan (nominated by Dr Jon Stobart, seconded by Dr Catherine Brace)
- Honorary Publicity Secretary: Dr Peter Merriman (nominated by Dr David Lambert, seconded by Dr Nicola Thomas)
- Postgraduate Officer: Merle Patchett: Nominated by Diarmid Finnegan, seconded by Hayden Lorimer.

The handover of posts will be on September 1<sup>st</sup> 2005 and full contact details will be recorded in the October newsletter and on the HGRG website.

5. Forthcoming meetings

a. HGRG conference, November 2005

Dr Whelan reported that HGRG annual Practicing Historical Geography Conference would be held on 2nd November 2005 in the School of Geographical Sciences, University of Bristol. Progress is well underway in putting together a program of speakers.

b. RGS-IBG Annual Conference 2006

The RGS-IBG Annual Conference will be held at the RGS in London (30<sup>th</sup> August to 1<sup>st</sup> September 2006). An email request has been sent to HGRG members requesting suggestions for session bids. The deadline for these to be sent to the Hon Secretary is October 15<sup>th</sup>.

The following sessions were proposed:

- Landscape and Mobility (George Revill, Peter Merriman)
- Counterfactual Geographies: worlds that might have been (David Lambert and David Gilbert with HPGSG)
- "Archaeological Geographies" (Bryonny McDowell)
- "HGRG Research Series Session" (Liz Gagen)
- "Postgraduate Research in Historical Geography" (Merle Patchett)

## 6. Reports

### a. Hon Sec

Nothing to report.

### b. Hon Publicity Sec

Nothing to report.

### c. Hon Treasurer

Although the accounts and a commentary were available, Dr Stobart was not available to speak to them. It was agreed that the accounts and commentary would be made available on the website for members to view. If members wish to comment on the accounts they should contact Dr Stobart at [jon.stobart@northampton.ac.uk](mailto:jon.stobart@northampton.ac.uk).

### d. Hon Editor

Dr Gagen reported that a new manuscript had been submitted from Dr Jessica Dubow, University of Sheffield.

### e. Hon Conference Sec

Dr Whelan remind the AGM about the Practicing Historical Geography conference on November 2<sup>nd</sup> to be held at the School of Geographical Sciences, University of Bristol.

### f. Postgrad Committee Member

Nothing to report.

### g. Membership Sec

Dr Lambert reported that the membership stands at 392, with 10 new members in the last year or so and 3 have left. Nearly 33% of members are postgraduates.

### h. Ordinary Member (Newsletter)

Nothing to report.



- i. Ordinary Member

Nothing to report.

- j. Ordinary Member

Nothing to report.

7. Any other business

8. Date of next AGM

Some time between 30<sup>th</sup> August and 1st September 2006.

Dr Hayden Lorimer  
Chair HGRG

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### **Conference Reports:**

#### **RGS-IBG Conference in London, September 2005**

*Hilary Geoghegan, Royal Holloway  
(University of London), reports:*

As is the case for many delegates, preparations often start long before the conference actually begins. There are calls for papers, liaising with research groups and organizers, registration and the tiny matter of writing your paper, with the conference acting as a culmination of a lot of hard work for all parties. This was the first international geography conference at which I have presented a paper and this year's RGS-IBG was definitely worth all the hard work.

Hosted at the headquarters of the Royal Geographical Society with IBG at Lowther Lodge, London, the conference attracted over 1300 delegates from around the world and featured over 15 plenary and almost 100 individual sessions over the course of the three days. If geography in 2005 is, as the conference title suggests, about *flows and spaces in a globalised world*, then this conference certainly lived up to its name; acting as a show-case for new and continuing international research taking place in all sub-

disciplines of geography and from speakers at all stages in their careers.

With the joint support of the HGRG and SCGRG, I co-convened a session with a fellow Royal Holloway postgraduate, Pippa Biltcliffe, entitled *Spaces of Knowledge, Communities of Knowing*. Our session explored the cultures, practices and spaces associated with the development and negotiation of expert ways of knowing and it included speakers from across human geography. Based on historical and contemporary research, papers considered communities of collectors, connoisseurs, curators, fans, geographers and scientists. Drawing on my doctoral research exploring the geography of enthusiasm, my paper entitled *Woolly Hats, Rivet Counters and Curators* reflected on the spaces occupied, materials consumed and knowledges produced by enthusiasts of science and technology and questioned how amateur and expert knowledges are constructed in the museum context.

This year's conference illuminated the rich, diverse, exciting, challenging and stimulating research that makes geography such a great discipline to be working in today. So the preparations for 2005 have come full circle. Writing this report a few weeks on, with grey skies and showers spelling the end of

summer, I can already hear the wheels being put in motion for 2006.

*Marion Parish, University of Plymouth, reports:*

This was my first RGS-IBG conference and it turned out to be much more than I'd anticipated. Both the content of the papers and the social aspects of the conference (run by the postgraduate forum) were interesting and enjoyable. The range of subjects covered in HGRG sessions spanned periods and places from contemporary Australia (Nicholas Gill, Alistair Patterson and Murphy Japanangka Kennedy) to late medieval Yorkshire, where "the use of space, the ways space was conceived, utilised and given meaning" (Briony McDonagh), was explored in a truly international context, in answer to a call to 're-materialise historical geography'. The following day I attended a wide-ranging, interdisciplinary session convened by Hilary Geoghegan and Pippa Biltcliff, entitled 'Spaces of knowledge, communities of knowing'. After this I went to one of two postgraduate HGRG sessions. An exciting range of subjects were presented to the audience, who responded with constructive and positive questions. Focusing on 'landscape and nature', five papers centred on British and Irish historical geographies, from 'improvement' on Irish estates (Sarah Ann Johnston) to practices of creative writing and correspondence in 19<sup>th</sup> century Ireland (Gary Prenderville), demonstrating how the circulation of knowledge, both in the past and present, is vibrant and active. From a biography of a 19<sup>th</sup> Scottish taxidermist (Merle Patchett) to the life history of a mid 20<sup>th</sup> century Cornish artist (Marion Parish), up to 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century mountaineering (Dave Potter), the depth and breadth of research being carried out by postgraduates shows promising things for the future of historical geography. This was echoed in the second postgraduate session, where a more international focus linked the papers given by students from British universities and beyond. The imaginative and creative substance of all

of these papers was testament to their success and future development.

### **"W.G. Hoskins and the Making of the English Landscape", Fiftieth Anniversary Conference, Leicester**

*Harold Fox reports:*

This conference was an outstanding success. Over 250 people attended to hear a selection of 60 papers in 10 sessions with the following titles: 'Britain before the English', 'Towns and hinterlands', 'Rural settlement', 'Industry and communications', 'Status and designed landscapes', 'Buildings in the landscape', 'Environments and the landscape', 'Ritual and spiritual landscapes', 'Perceptions of landscapes' and 'Mapping the landscape'.

Field excursions saw huge coaches gliding along the rolling lanes of Leicestershire, one on provincial boundaries, another on the religious significance of the village of Hallaton with its votive coin hoard, unique saint and impressive Norman/Decorated church, and another on the rural settlements in east Leicestershire, taking in the deserted villages of Cold Newton and Quenby, both 'discovered' by W.G. Hoskins; we heard some classic Hoskins quotations such as – 'It is a landscape which, after so long an acquaintance, I look back upon with almost unclouded affection ... where I first walked in Leicestershire as a young man, ignorant of what I was looking at.'

Those attending included veterans of landscape history such as Arthur Owen, luminaries of the subject such as Chris Taylor, visitors from France, Holland and Russia, and younger scholars engaged on Ph.D. theses. Keynote addresses were given by Chris Taylor, Elizabeth Zandora-Rio (CNRS) and Fiona Reynolds (Director-General of the National Trust). Receptions were hosted by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Leicester, English Heritage and Oxbow Books with speeches by Professor Burgess (Vice-Chancellor), the Chairman of English Heritage and the Mayor of Wigston and Oadby, for Hoskins lived in Wigston and wrote *The Midland Peasant* about its rural

landscape and culture. There were plenty of other opportunities for socializing and conviviality. In addition to the Historical Geography Research Group and English Heritage, the conference was supported by the Royal Historical Society, the Society for Landscape Studies, the Medieval Settlement Research Group and the Friends of the Centre for English Local History.

In spirit, W.G. Hoskins was represented by Mrs Susie Hewitt, his daughter. Had he been spirited into the conference he would have recognised some recurring themes such as continued interest in the morphology of rural and urban settlements, on which he wrote in a pioneering way, but also some topics and techniques which would have been entirely unfamiliar to him, such as the absence of a primordial forest in the Anglo-Saxon Midlands and the digging of multiple test pits to investigate village origins and growth.

**Society for Caribbean Studies 29<sup>th</sup> annual conference, June 29-July 1, 2005, Newcastle-upon-Tyne**

*Bertie Mandelblatt, Royal Holloway, University of London, reports:*

The conference was remarkable for bringing together an international group of scholars whose work has a focus on the Caribbean, across many disciplines (including history, literary studies, geography, sociology, and education) and several linguistic areas (French, English and Spanish). The conference also included a number of practitioners such as archivists, librarians, activists and performers. However, the real blessing of this conference is its size – with

approximately 80 delegates including 55 presenters, there were between 2 and 3 sessions running concurrently, allowing a choice of sessions to attend but allowing the atmosphere of the conference itself to be both personal and friendly.

There were a number of presentations of interest to historians and historical geographers – indeed, most of the presentations were heavily informed by some kind of historical analysis, not surprisingly, given the weight that history brings to bear on all branches of study related to the Caribbean. Elzbieta Sklodowska from Washington University, St. Louis talked about the reinvention of Haiti in the Cuban literary imaginary; Gunvor Simonsen from the European University debated whether obeah, as present in the lower court records of the 18<sup>th</sup> century Danish West Indies, can be seen as conflict performance; David Lambert from Royal Holloway, University of London discussed history, memory and the role of surrogacy in creating national heroes in postcolonial Barbados. The recipient of the annual Bridget Jones Travel Bursary which is awarded to a scholar/practitioner from the Caribbean to attend the conference was Rosina Santana Castellón, a visual artist from Puerto Rico. Her outstanding presentation dealt with her public art project on Vieques Island, which was seized by the US Navy in 1941 and used as a bomb-testing site. The facilities offered by the University of Newcastle were surprisingly good; the publishers' book tables were a constant distraction (as always); and the annual rum punch reception and the subsequent conference dinner were both a success.

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### ***Thesis Abstracts:***

HGRG are keen to provide a forum for disseminating abstracts of recently completed doctoral theses in historical geography. We encourage graduates from geography and related disciplines to consider submitting abstracts for publication in our tri-annual newsletter. Abstracts of no more than 250 words (with relevant contact details, and following the format below), should be sent via e-mail to the HGRG Publicity Officer, Peter Merriman, [p.merriman@aber.ac.uk](mailto:p.merriman@aber.ac.uk)

Caitlin DeSilvey, **Salvage rites: making memory on a Montana homestead**. PhD awarded by the Open University, Geography Discipline, Social Sciences Faculty, April 2005

This study takes up the residual material culture of a homestead in Western Montana to explore how history and memory are made, and remade, through interactions between people and things. Theories of performativity and inter-subjectivity inform a move away from a broadly representational or semiotic understanding of material culture. In this study, experimental methodologies access the different ways in which material engagements animate the potential effects of a given artefact. One approach explores the potential for inclusive, artful inventory practice. Another engages in a process of associative story-telling which assembles disparate objects in constellations of meaning. A third approach observes the way in which sensory or haptic memory arises out of embodied action and practical reclamation. Finally, the thesis considers the nature of cultural memory and the processes of decay that obscure certain residues of knowledge even as they expose others. In conclusion, the thesis considers the social and political implications of such non-essentialist encounters with memory and materiality. The thesis argues that these active, creative encounters with objects open up the possibility for an ethical relation to the past—a salvage both of cultural artefacts and of overlooked histories.

Contact details: Dr. Caitlin DeSilvey, Geography Discipline, Social Sciences Faculty, Open University, Walton Hall, MK7 6AA, UK. E-mail: [c.o.desilvey@open.ac.uk](mailto:c.o.desilvey@open.ac.uk).

Aya Sakai, **Open Spaces and the Modern Metropolis: Evolution and Preservation in London and Tokyo (c.1830-c.1930)**. PhD awarded by Royal Holloway, University of London, April 2005

This thesis explores the changing role of urban open spaces in the process of modernisation. It pays specific attention to London as the earliest metropolis to experience this process, and to Edo/Tokyo as a non-western and non-colonised city that was strongly affected by western influences and which underwent a rapid transition from feudal to capitalist society. The thesis is particularly concerned with debates over the public status of open spaces in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The thesis analyses the complexity of the process of modernisation – in particular emphasising that in neither city can it be represented as a simple progression, but involved these different elements: preservation, transformation, conversion, creation and destruction. In the cities, pre-existing urban open spaces needed to be modified and developed, or else preserved to fit within a modern urban texture. London and Tokyo show different reactions to traditional open spaces in their modernisations. New discourses concerning open spaces were conveyed from West to East through contact zones in which western ideas and Japanese people encountered each other. With its specific focus on the translation of western terms and ideas into the Japanese tradition, this thesis also examines the ways in which the modern idea of open spaces circulated and was adapted in different cultural contexts. Through attention to the contextualised historical geographies of two cities, the thesis explores the development of modern discourses of urban public open spaces to develop a comparative analysis of the transformation of idea of “public space” in the two cultures.

Contact details: Aya Sakai, Yokohama National University. E-mail: [Sakai.aya@nifty.ne.jp](mailto:Sakai.aya@nifty.ne.jp)

Colleen O’Grady, **The Historical Geography of Six Major River Basins in the North West of Western Australia Since Pastoral Occupation**. PhD Awarded by Curtin University of Technology, School of Social Science and Humanities, November 2004

This study is based upon research into the historical geography of the pastoral industry in the six major drainage basins in the North West of Western Australia. I outline its early development, explaining how rangeland degeneration associated with the Big Drought of 1936-1946 was

exacerbated by unrealistic official expectations of rangeland vegetation and poor rangeland management, particularly of station leases in the hands of absentee corporate owners. It discusses the failure of government agencies to appreciate the effects of overstocking in an environment characterised by climatic variability and fragile rangeland resources. The study differentiates between the grassmen as station leaseholders bent upon generating a sustainable income from the rangeland resources through conservative management, and the exploitative owners and their (often) incompetent managers. The specific characteristics of each of the basins in terms of the physical environment, the process of pastoral occupation and the resulting changing patterns of land use are identified, and the changing nature of the habitat, economy and society of the Aboriginal people, from the days prior to European penetration up to the late 20th century are included. Furthermore the future prospects of the pastoral industry in each basin, including such issues as environmental impact, Aboriginal land rights and occupation, and the mining industry are discussed.

Contact details: Colleen O’Grady, e-mail: [collog@iprimus.com.au](mailto:collog@iprimus.com.au)

Veronica Della Dora, **Geographies of the Holy Mountain. Post-Byzantine and Western Representations of the Monastic Republic of Mount Athos.** Abstract of PhD submitted to the University of California, Los Angeles, 2005

The object of analysis of this dissertation is Mount Athos, the easternmost finger of the Chalcidic Peninsula in northern Greece and the only example of monastic republic in our contemporary world. The most prominent landmark in the Aegean, Mount Athos has been a place of myth since classical antiquity. A paradise for Orthodox pilgrims, Byzantine art historians and Classical archaeologists, but also for botanists and natural scientists, Mount Athos has long represented a place of rarest cultural stratification, as well as unique crossroad of discourses and narratives. This research focuses on visual and written representations of Mount Athos from the early eighteenth century to the Second World Conflict. It seeks to shift the traditional focus from Mount Athos as a unique and yet a-priori ‘fixed’ object to the contexts in which it has been constructed as such. It does so through the critical exploration and cultural contextualization of different narratives, embodied practices, and alternative ‘gazes’ – the ‘sacred’, the ‘mythical’, the ‘scholarly’, the ‘geopolitical’, and the ‘scientific’. But instead than mere point of convergence between different discourses, Mount Athos here is revaluated as a physical ‘geographical object’ inspiring them and continuously interacting with them thanks to its dramatic physical geography. One of the most narrated places in the eastern Mediterranean and yet scarcely accessible, Athos is also considered as a ‘landscape of myth’, known in the Orthodox world and in western Europe more from representation than from direct experience; as a ‘circulating icon’, moving across the circuits of western culture through various forms of representation.

Contact details: Dr Veronica Della Dora, The Getty Research Institute, Research and Education Department, 1200 Getty Centre Drive, Suite 1100, Los Angeles, CA 90049-1688, USA. E-mail: [VDelladora@getty.edu](mailto:VDelladora@getty.edu)

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***Seminar Series:***

**LONDON GROUP OF HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHERS**  
*Seminar Programme, Autumn Term 2005*  
**CHALLENGING GEOGRAPHIES**

- 11th October 2005      **Jill Fenton** (Royal Holloway,  
University of London)  
  
*'La révolution d'abord et toujours': Surrealist resistance  
in Paris*
- 25th October 2005      **Carl Griffin** (University of Southampton)  
  
*Gesture, choreography and custom in popular protest:  
Or, the disciplining of bodies of men in eighteenth- and  
nineteenth-century England*
- 8th November 2005      **Dave Featherstone** (University of Liverpool)  
  
*The trans-Atlantic mutinies of the 1790s and the  
formation of Irish subaltern political identities*
- 22nd November 2005      **Diana Paton** (University of Newcastle)  
  
*Researching the colonial supernatural*
- 6th December 2005      **Jani Scandura** (University of Minnesota)  
  
*Harlem: Blue-penciled place*

These seminars are held on **Tuesdays at 5pm** in the Wolfson Room at the Institute of Historical Research, Senate House, University of London. For further details, contact David Lambert, Royal Holloway (01784 443640) or Miles Ogborn, Queen Mary (020 7882 5407). We are grateful to Queen Mary, Royal Holloway, Kings, UCL, the Open University, Sussex University and the IHR for supporting this series.

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Woburn Square, London WC1H OAB

## MAPS AND SOCIETY

Lectures in the history of cartography convened by Catherine Delano Smith (Institute of Historical Research) and Tony Campbell (formerly Map Library, British Library). Meetings are held on selected Thursdays at The Warburg Institute at 5.00 pm. Admission is free. Meetings are followed by refreshments. All are welcome. Enquiries: +44 (0) 20 8346 5112 (Dr Delano Smith).

### FIFTEENTH SERIES: 2005–2006

2005

**November 3** **Dr Jacinta Prunty** (Department of Modern History, National University of Ireland, Maynooth / Research Fellow, Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences) *The Military Imperative for Town Mapping: Galway City, Ireland, 1580s to 1740s.*

**November 17** **Dr Sonja Brentjes** (Associate Professor, Aga Khan Institute, London) *A Contextual Interpretation of the World Map by Iskandar-Sultan (d.1414) in the Topkapi Saray, Istanbul.*

2006

**January 19** **Dr Alessandro Scafi** (Facoltà di Conservazione dei Beni Culturali, University of Bologna, Italy); **Professor Dan Terkla** ( Department of English, Illinois Wesley University, U.S.A.); and **Dominic Harbour** (Head of Communications, Hereford Cathedral, Hereford, U.K.) *Medieval and Modern: the Hereford Mappa Mundi (c.1290) on Display.*

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### MEETING SPONSORED BY THE HAKLUYT SOCIETY

**February 16** **Emeritus Professor Bruce Lenman** (Department of History, University of St Andrews) *Cartographic Intelligence and the French Navy in the Caribbean, c.1679-1711.*

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**March 9** **Ashley Baynton Williams** (Editor, *Map Forum*) *Coaxing the Buyer: Financing and Marketing Broadsheet Maps in 17th and 18th Century Britain.*

**April 6** **Veronica Della Dora** (Post-doctoral Fellow, Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles, U.S.A.) *Mapping Mount Athos: Renaissance and Enlightenment Visions.*

The Map in Book History

**May 4** **Anne Bush** (University of Hawaii at Manoa / University of Oxford) *Inscribing the City: Visual Itineraries in Nineteenth-Century Guidebooks to Rome.*

**May 25** **Dr Camille Serchuk** (Department of Art History, Southern Connecticut State University, U.S.A) *Picturing France in the Fifteenth Century: a New (Old) Map.*

This programme has been made possible through the generous sponsorship of The International Map Collectors' Society; Jonathan Potter of Jonathan Potter Ltd., and Laurence Worms of Ash Rare Books. Each lecture is accompanied by a display at the Royal Geographical Society, Kensington, arranged by Francis Herbert, Hon. F.R.G.S.

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## Seminars Series in the History of Gardens and Landscapes

Institute of Historical Research  
Senate House, London

All interested in researching gardens and landscapes are welcome at these seminars, which are held at 5.30 pm in the Wolfson Room of the Institute of Historical Research, Senate House, Malet Street. Please check on the website in case there are any changes in venue. The theme for the spring term is 'Medieval Landscapes'.

27 January The garden of health: an aspect of medieval therapeutics.  
Professor Carole Rawcliffe, University of East Anglia.

10 February Clarendon Palace, Park and Forest: high status pleasures and pastimes  
in medieval and early modern Wiltshire.  
Dr Amanda Richardson, University College, Chichester.

24 February Rethinking vernacular landscapes.  
Professor Matthew Johnson, University of Southampton.

17 March To be confirmed.

24 March Is the landscape part of the castle, or the castle part of the landscape?  
Differing continuities and discontinuities of the countryside.  
Giovanna Vitelli, University of Oxford Institute of Archeology.

For further information (and about the MA Garden History at Birkbeck) contact Dr Janet Waymark:  
[janetwaymark@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:janetwaymark@yahoo.co.uk)

More information can be found about seminars at the IHR at:  
[www.history.ac.uk/ihrseminars/gardens.htm/](http://www.history.ac.uk/ihrseminars/gardens.htm/).