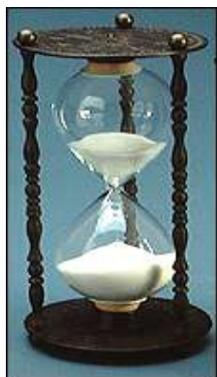


Historical Geography Research Group

(ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY with THE INSTITUTE OF BRITISH GEOGRAPHERS)



<http://hgrg.nuigalway.ie>

HGRG Newsletter, Spring 2005

In this issue:

- ◆ New HGRG committee, 2004/2005
- ◆ HGRG postgrad funding for RGS-IBG 2005
- ◆ Other upcoming conferences and events
- ◆ Conference reports and thesis abstracts

Copy for the HGRG newsletter should be sent to:

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Copy should be submitted either on floppy disc (PC or Mac, MS Word files preferred) or via e-mail to j.morrissey@nuigalway.ie.

Copy deadlines are: **1 February** for the spring edition, **1 June** for the summer edition, and **1 October** for the autumn edition.

HGRG Electronic Mailing List: if you would you like to be added to this list, please contact the Membership Secretary, David Lambert, d.lambert@rhul.ac.uk.

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Forthcoming Conferences:

RGS-IBG Annual Conference 2005

**31 August - 2 September 2005
at the RGS-IBG, London**

"Flows and spaces in a globalised world"

Chair of Conference: Allan Williams, University of Exeter

Deadline for early registration: **5 May 2005**

For further information, visit www.rgs.org/AC2005 or e-mail AC2005@rgs.org.

HGRG postgrad funding for RGS-IBG 2005

Guidelines

Postgraduates may apply to HGRG for support up to a max. of £100 for travel to research sources or conferences. Priority may be given to those whose grants do not include provision for conference fees or travel .

Funding regulations

- (i) those applying for financial support are HGRG members;
- (ii) that alternative sources of funding should be investigated;
- (iii) those who have received HGRG support are not eligible to make further applications.

Application procedures

Application forms are available from the Secretary and on the HGRG website in the 'grants and prizes' section.

Deadline: 1 April

'Geographies of Trans-National Political Networks'

**Department of Geography
University of Liverpool
May 26-27, 2005**

Call for Papers

This two-day conference explores trans-national political networks drawing together perspectives from geography and cognate disciplines. It will address the ways in which trans-national networks are generative of new politics of culture and cultures of politics and the challenges of movements such as trans-Atlantic political radicalisms and contemporary counter-globalisation politics. The

conference seeks to encourage rich and theoretically inventive work grounded in empirical research on particular places/ networks and forms of political activity.

Themes include:

- How the trans-national challenges existing ways of thinking about space and politics.
- The relations between trans-national political networks and understandings of nations & nationalisms.
- The forms of agency and identity crafted through trans-national political networks.
- The commonalities and differences between contemporary and historical forms of the trans-national.
- The relations between place and the trans-national.
- How trans-national political networks are produced and reproduced.

Speakers include:

- John Urry
- Jane Wills
- Noel Castree
- Alison Blunt

Invitation to participate

Abstracts for 30 minute presentations should be sent by Friday 4th March. If you would like to submit an abstract or request further information on the conference, please contact either Dave Featherstone (djfeath@liverpool.ac.uk) or Richard Phillips (Richard.Phillips@liv.ac.uk) at: Department of Geography, Roxby Building, University of Liverpool, Liverpool L69 7ZT, UK.

Three bursaries, funded by the Social and Cultural Geography Research Group of the RGS-IBG, will be awarded to postgraduate students to attend this conference. Application details on request from Dave Featherstone or Richard Phillips (as above).

design: sites and histories research group convenes

LOCATING DESIGN 2005

the design history society annual conference

call for papers

deadline - 25th February 2005

Design: Sites and Histories Research Group at Sir John Cass Department of Art, Media and Design at London Metropolitan University invite submissions for the annual, international Design History Society conference to be held 7-9 September 2005.

'locating design' is concerned with a consideration of design in/and place. It is also seeks to maintain an interdisciplinary approach to thinking about design and its place in cultural history. For, design and place are both material and imagined and both design and place are co-constitutive. The East End of London - where this conference is to be held - is instructive of these ideas, demonstrating the immense investment of design /material culture in the construction of place. We

invite participants to think of design as contingent upon place and of the networks and linkages between design in/and place as a complex that is affiliative and layered. In its inter-disciplinarity, 'locating design' invites papers from all areas of study or practice that engage with the inter-connection of design in/and place.

Participants are asked to consider:

design as process and object, as material and as imagined in/and **place** as material, as imagined, as discourse

Thus sub-themes might include **design** in/and:

place as material: city, home, museum, body, landscape; **place** as imagined/space: urban, rural, suburban, national, local, global, imperial, post-colonial; **place** as language and as discourse: archive, image, language, history, inter-/ disciplinary methodologies. Papers that consider **design** in/and the East End of London are especially welcomed.

Papers proposed may be single papers, or a whole panel of 3 papers. Proposals must follow strictly, all the guidelines given below.

Proposal types:

1. proposal for a 25 minute paper: title, suggested theme, no more than 350 word abstract clearly communicating structure and argument, 50-100 word biography of proposer with full professional/institutional affiliation and contact email or address.
2. proposal for a full panel of 3 x 25 minute papers: include convener's name, panel title, an abstract of no more than 150 words for the full panel clearly outlining its thematic interrogation, titles and 350 word abstracts for each paper clearly communicating structure and argument, and 50-100 word biography of each speaker with full professional/institutional affiliation and contact email or address.

All session chairs will be arranged by conference conveners. All proposals must be received by 25th February, 2005. Please send all proposals to dipti bhagat at d.bhagat@londonmet.ac.uk. See also: <http://locatingdesign2005.londonmet.ac.uk/>.

All attachments must be saved as a Word.doc, by proposer's name and be formatted in 12 point Times font.

Conference Reports:

10th HGRG Practising Historical Geography Conference, 3 November 2004

Innes M. Keighren, University of Edinburgh, sent this report:

Stephen Daniels's keynote lecture, *Exhibiting historical geography*, served not only as an excellent introduction to the day's proceedings, but also as a useful metaphor for the conference itself: an exhibition of current work in historical geography. Reflecting on

exhibitions as both objects of study, and as tools of geographical research, Daniels (University of Nottingham) considered the ways in which these distinctive modes of display act to reframe historical geography by narrowing the distance between past and present, and by redrawing the boundaries between formal and informal knowledge. Drawing on his experience as an exhibition curator, Daniels considered his own position within what Tony Bennet (1995) has described as the "exhibitionary complex".

Describing his work on *Art of the garden* for Tate Britain, Daniels revealed how the practicalities of exhibition design conspired with more abstract issues of memory, enactment, and space to influence communication of ideas, the production of knowledge, and the making of meaning.

Notions of enactment and of space were apparent too in the historical geography workshops which bookended the lunch break. In his discussion on Weimar-era Berlin, for example, Alex Vasudevan (University of Nottingham) explored the application of performative theory to the analysis of various textual and aural sources. In so doing, he pointed to novel ways of engaging with archival material, and revealed how performance and enactment might be recovered from otherwise inert historical sources. In their informative workshop on *Planning the fashion city*, David Gilbert and Bronwen Edwards (Royal Holloway, University of London) outlined a new cultural narrative for 1960s London. In describing the interaction of fashion and metropolitan cultures during this period, Gilbert and Edwards revealed how ideas of the city were differently conceived and constructed by consumers and by planners, and explained how narrowly Piccadilly Circus and Regent Street avoided the vicissitudes of 1960s urban regeneration.

Caitlin DeSilvey (Open University) began her talk with reference to a famous image: M. C. Escher's *Puddle*. For DeSilvey, the image served as a useful metaphor for her postgraduate experience: the puddle suggesting the clear, calm, intellectual reflection which she believed she ought to pursue, and the muddy, rutted track in which the puddle was located, representing the complex, negotiated, conflicted 'real' world with which she was less keen to become engaged. Detailing her time as a postgraduate, from studying the historical geography of Edinburgh's allotments as a Master's student, to her current Ph.D. studies concerned with a cultural analysis of material artefacts recovered from a Montana homestead,

DeSilvey explained that her initial aspiration to avoid the 'mud', and to focus on the 'reflection', had gradually given way to a desire to integrate the two—to combine the more active and situated aspects of research with the more overtly contemplative, and in so doing to achieve a more holistic engagement with historical geography.

In the day's penultimate session, Sefton Lang (formerly of the University of Edinburgh) took his audience to the "highest office in the United Kingdom" for a discussion on his undergraduate study of the Ben Nevis Observatory. Lang's work, for which he was awarded the 2003 HGRG Undergraduate Dissertation Prize, was concerned with the social history of a unique site of scientific inquiry. Lang explained how the panoptic perspective of the desolate mountain summit, combined with Victorian positivist confidence, rendered the Observatory a site of heroic endeavour and of scientific novelty.

The themes of exhibition and of display were returned to by Nuala Johnson (Queen's University Belfast) in her keynote lecture, which considered two distinct aspects of her research: public memory and botanical gardens. Focusing first on the role of the Great War in Irish popular memory, Johnson noted the various ways in which the War was understood by the contemporary populace, and the extent to which these understanding came to be rehearsed and reinforced through acts of commemoration and memorialisation. Shifting focus to her work on botanical gardens in Belfast, Dublin, and Cambridge, Johnson explored the different ways in which nature was displayed, communicated, and understood. As sites of display, Johnson revealed botanical gardens to be contested spaces—at once venues of research and of display, of collection and of communication, and of scientific understanding and aesthetic contemplation. In her closing comments, Johnson reminded her audience that to practise historical geography is to practise theory, it is to engage in an inherently hermeneutic act, and, ultimately, to perform.

Thesis Abstracts:

HGRG are keen to provide a forum for disseminating abstracts of recently completed doctoral theses in historical geography. We encourage all completed doctoral postgraduates in geography and related disciplines to consider submitting for publication in our tri-annual newsletter (there are no temporal or spatial limitations). Abstracts of no more than 250 words (with relevant contact details), as set out in the submitted format below, should be sent via e-mail to the HGRG Publicity Officer, John Morrissey, john.morrissey@nuigalway.ie.

Starr Douglas, *Natural History, Improvement and Colonisation: Henry Smeathman and Sierra Leone in the Late Eighteenth Century*. Abstract of PhD thesis submitted to the Department of Geography, Royal Holloway, University of London, 2004.

The production of knowledge about natural history in the eighteenth century often went hand in hand with the elaboration of an ideology of imperial improvement. Voyages of discovery yielded an abundance of new species, which were collected, studied and classified. Natural history knowledge was accumulated through various practices of collecting undertaken at particular sites, sites that were subject to projects of 'improvement', involving the ordering of both land and people.

Through a focus on Henry Smeathman (1742-1786), this thesis aims to provide insights into the production, circulation and use of natural history knowledge in the late eighteenth century. Particular attention is paid to the connections between natural history, improvement and colonial settlement. Smeathman's dual role in the worlds of natural history and colonialism is reflected in his unpublished and published writings on entomology in Sierra Leone and the Caribbean. The research addresses aspects of eighteenth-century natural history, collecting networks, and practical aspects of the accumulation of specimens. Smeathman's entomological networks, his sponsors and his work in the field are examined, as well as his major entomological work and the significance of his pictorial representations of termites and termite colonies. The research considers how trans-Atlantic networks of trade facilitated exploration and natural history collecting at particular sites, including Sierra Leone, and shows how the sciences of natural history and slavery were linked on the African coast in the eighteenth century.

Contact details: Dr. Starr Douglas, 3 Great College Street, Brighton BN2 1HJ, UK. Tel: +44 (0)1273 698893. E-mail: starr@douglas22.fsnet.co.uk.

Andrew Law, *The Built Heritage Conservation Movement: Landscapes of Englishness and Social Class*. Abstract of PhD thesis submitted to the School of Geography, Politics and Sociology, University of Newcastle upon Tyne. May 2004.

This study will investigate the Built Heritage Conservation Movement in Britain. Including archival analysis, I build a comparative study of conservationists in York and Leeds through sixty-three semi-structured interviews, participant observation and visual research. Through history and

contemporary issues I argue that conservationists construct an organic Englishness. I suggest that the process of constructing this identity takes place in the production of 'townscape aesthetics' and 'nostalgia for a pre-intellectual spirit of creativity'. Moreover I suggest that the formation of this Englishness rests on the construction of 'inorganic others' enabling a normalisation of an organic identity. Thus, conservationists discuss 'modernist others' (landscapes and agents) as symptoms of an increasingly devolved world which lacks taste, style and is a threat to a 'natural order'. In this positioning conservationists enforce nostalgia for 'organic landscapes' and the idea of an 'organic community' aware of its own 'creativity' and 'independence'. Furthermore, I assert that an organic discourse of Englishness is established through cultural capital and symbolic violence. Thus through capitals of populism and symbolic performances of outrage, conservationists position the 'industrial' and the 'modern' with the intention of constructing an image of self-authority and patriotism. By positioning these landscapes and cultures as spaces and identities of bad taste and vandalism, conservationists enact a construction of a 'moralistic and patriotic self' which legitimises their organic vision. Furthermore, through the forging of this 'self' conservationists deliver their vision, not simply as an expression of their own views, but as the 'aesthetic tastes and identities of the people'. In this way I understand that the construction of power is forged through processes of disidentification where conservationists understand themselves simultaneously as both authorities and populists.

Contact details: Dr. Andrew Law, University of Wales, Swansea, Department of Geography, Wallace Building, Singleton Park, Swansea, SA2 8PP, UK. E-mail: a.law@swansea.ac.uk.

AHDS History

In addition to providing researchers with advice and guidance on creating digital resources, Arts and Humanities Data Service (ADHS) History manages and curates digital resources to ensure their long-term preservation and dissemination. Its collection currently comprises over 600 separate data collections transcribed, scanned or compiled from original sources covering a period from the seventh to the twentieth century. Access to the collection has been facilitated by a new cross-subject catalogue.

Further details about AHDS History can be found on our new website at <http://history.ahds.ac.uk>.

Contact Details:

AHDS History
UK Data Archive
University of Essex
Colchester CO4 3SQ
UK

Tel: +44 (0) 1206 872326

Fax: +44 (0) 1206 872003

E-mail: info@history.ahds.ac.uk

J B Harley Research Fellowships

The Harley Fellowships - the only one of their kind in Europe - provide support of up to four weeks (normally at GBP 250 per week) for those, from any discipline, doing the equivalent of post-graduate level work in the map collections of the London area.

For details of past applications and awards, and comments from previous fellows see:

<http://ihr.sas.ac.uk/maps/harley.html>

The closing date for applications is **1st November 2005**.

Information about applying may be obtained from:

Tony Campbell
Hon. Sec. J B Harley Trust Fund
76 Ockendon Road
London N1 3NW
UK

Tel.: +44 (0)20 7359 6477.

E-mail:

t.campbell@ockendon.clara.co.uk.

Please indicate where you saw this announcement.

Seminars Series in the History of Gardens and Landscapes

Institute of Historical Research

Senate House, London

All are welcome at the summer term's series of seminars, which are held on Fridays at 5.30 in the Wolfson Room. The theme of this series is 'Architecture in the Garden'. Join us afterwards in the Common Room for a glass of wine (£1).

2005

6 May *Shifting Conceptions of the Italianate Garden, 1840-1914*

Patricia White, Institute of Education

20 May *'Edifices' in the Walled Kitchen Garden'*

Susan Campbell

27 May *Follies in the time of Functionalism: Garden Buildings in the Twentieth Century*

Dr Alan Powers, University of Greenwich

For further information (and about the MA Garden History at Birkbeck), contact Dr. Janet Waymark (janetwaymark@yahoo.co.uk) or Dr. Alan Powers (pasquito@aol.com). More information can be found about seminars at the IHR at: www.history.ac.uk/ihrseminars/fardens.htm.

LONDON GROUP OF HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHERS

Seminar Programme, Spring Term 2005

MAKING THE PAST PRESENT

- 18th January 2005 **Gerry Kearns** (Cambridge University)
Immigration, terrorism and the echoes of the Irish-British past
- 1st February 2005 **Alex Cook** (Cambridge University)
The use and abuse of re-enactment in television history: A survivor's guide
- 15th February 2005 **Karen Till** (Royal Holloway, University of London)
Digging in Berlin's memory district: Hauntings, hypervisibility, and hungry tourists
- 1st March 2005 **Mimi Sheller** (Lancaster University)
Measures of silence: Writing histories of gender and slavery
- 15th March 2005 **Nick Thomas** (Goldsmiths College, University of London)
The uses of Captain Cook: First encounters and public histories in Australia, Hawaii, and New Zealand

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), Miles Ogborn, Queen Mary (020 7882 5407) or Jenny Robinson, Open University (01908 654522). We are grateful to Queen Mary, Royal Holloway, Kings, UCL, the Open University, Sussex University, the Historical Geography Research Group and the IHR for supporting this series.

Change of HGRG membership details?

To all members who have recently changed institution or contact details: please let the Membership Secretary, David Lambert (d.lambert@rhul.ac.uk) know in order ensure receipt of HGRG material and notices.