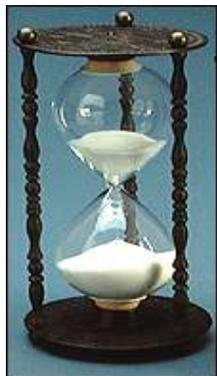


# ***Historical Geography Research Group***

(ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY with THE INSTITUTE OF BRITISH GEOGRAPHERS)



<http://hgrg.nuigalway.ie>

## **HGRG Newsletter, Summer 2005**

In this issue:

- ◆ HGRG/CUP undergraduate dissertation prize 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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HGRG Honorary Publicity Officer  
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National University of Ireland, Galway  
University Road  
Galway  
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Copy should be submitted either on floppy disc (PC or Mac, MS Word files preferred) or via e-mail to [john.morrissey@nuigalway.ie](mailto:john.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](mailto:d.lambert@rhul.ac.uk).

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## HGRG/CUP Undergraduate Dissertation Prize 2005

Every year the Historical Geography Research Group in association with Cambridge University Press offers a prize of £50 to the best undergraduate dissertation based on original research and showing conceptual sophistication in any area of historical geography. The successful prizewinner will also receive three books of their choice from the Cambridge Studies in Historical Geography book series, and will be invited to submit an article based on their dissertation for publication in the Journal of Historical Geography (subject to the standard refereeing procedures of the journal). The winner will also be invited to present their work at the annual HGRG Practising Historical Geography Conference in November.

### 2004 winner:

Jennifer Scott (University of Oxford) *Edinburgh's Lower East Side: evaluating the rhetoric of sanitary reform, 1861-1881*

### 'Highly Commended':

Alistair Gates (UCL) *Assessing the generality of J.L. Stein's findings for Hampstead: examining the social reception and diffusion of the telephone in Camden Town, 1890-1911*

### **Deadline for submissions in 2005: 8 July.**

For further information, contact the Hon. Secretary, Kate Brace,  
[c.brace@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:c.brace@exeter.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](http://www.rgs.org/AC2005) or e-mail [AC2005@rgs.org](mailto:AC2005@rgs.org).

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## *Conference Reports:*

### **3rd International Conference of the European Society for Environmental History, Florence, 16-19 February 2005**

*Denis Shaw, University of Birmingham, reports:*

The third (biennial) international conference of the European Society for Environmental History was held in Florence, Italy, on 16-19 February, 2005, when some 250 or more delegates from most European countries (especially western and central European countries) plus others from the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and some African and Asian countries gathered in the Palazzo degli Affari conference centre close to the centre of the city. A number of the characteristic features of the conference quickly became evident. The first was its pan-European character, with numerous languages being overheard at coffee and meal breaks, but English being the sole language permitted for business purposes including paper presentations and succeeding discussions. The second was the relative youthfulness of the participants, with many postgraduates and academics at an early point in their careers making presentations and taking part in the discussions. The third was the conference's interdisciplinary character, with a predominance of historians but also many environmental scientists and other scholars with a variety of disciplinary backgrounds. For this participant a distinctly disappointing aspect was the very poor turnout by historical geographers.

Apart from plenary sessions, business meetings, and a plenary poster session, the main business of the conference was conducted at thematic panels, usually consisting of three short papers each plus discussion, organised into five parallel sessions. Panel themes varied across the spectrum of environmental interest and

included forest studies, urban themes, zoogeographical issues, natural hazards, pollution and waste, agriculture, maritime studies and resources, agriculture, climatic change, conservation, mentalities, landscapes and other issues. Chronologically the papers ranged from prehistory to the contemporary, and geographically, whilst most papers focused on Europe, some examined colonial and extra-European regions. Striking for the geographer was the relative dearth of purely conceptual papers, including those devoted to environmental thought (with the exception of the issue of sustainability, which was the conference theme). Indeed in some ways the sessions reminded one of historical geography conferences of twenty years or so ago, which means that there is much scope here for geographers to share their more recent interests with the historians. It is clear that the Society has its origins in the growing concern among historians about the state of the global environment and in how history can aid our understanding of and approach towards environmental issues. This is clearly an area where historical geographers should have much to contribute.

The conference was extremely well organised and the hospitality was of the best: the conference fee included three lunches (featuring foods of the region), two rather splendid conference dinners, and a choice of Saturday afternoon excursions which were of architectural, cartographic, scientific, historical-cultural (heritage) or straightforwardly environmental interest. Needless to say, some (many?) found time to visit some of the city's splendours, such as the celebrated cathedral and the Uffizi Gallery.

Conference abstracts have been published, and many of the full papers appear in the conference's published proceedings.

The next ESEH conference will be held in Amsterdam in June, 2007. Those interested in the Society may access the ESEH website on [www.eseh.org](http://www.eseh.org) or contact the Britain and

Ireland regional representative, Dr Fiona Watson of the University of Stirling, on [f.j.watson@stir.ac.uk](mailto:f.j.watson@stir.ac.uk).

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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 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](mailto:john.morrissey@nuigalway.ie).

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Diarmid Finnegan, **Natural history societies in Victorian Scotland: towards a historical geography of civic science**. Abstract of PhD thesis submitted to the Institute of Geography, University of Edinburgh, 2004.

This thesis examines the historical geography of Scottish natural history societies active during the period 1831-1900. It argues that the work of the societies described and constituted an important set of relations between science and nineteenth-century Scottish civil society. The institutional practices of natural history are regarded as encounters between scientific and cultural expectations played out in relation to different audiences and in a variety of sites and spaces. This foregrounds the efforts of Scottish associational naturalists to transpose science into the language of civic pride and progress alongside their sometimes conflicting attempts to maintain epistemic credibility in relation to a scientific culture itself in flux.

The first substantive section analyses the civic rhetoric employed by society members to persuade local publics of the relevance and benefits of associational natural history. Fieldwork, civic events and built spaces were all enrolled to promote the improving effects of natural history, effects that were further demonstrated through encomia celebrating the public persona of the 'born naturalist'.

The second substantive section examines the influence of the wider culture of later-nineteenth-century science on the organisation and activities of Scottish natural history societies. Initiatives to standardise the work of local scientific societies are examined alongside the emergence and consolidation of scientific disciplines. In addition, the reception of evolutionary ideas is considered thereby highlighting how such ideas were deployed by provincial Scottish naturalists to argue for the continuing relevance of associational natural history to civic culture.

Contact details: Dr. Diarmid Finnegan, Institute of Geography, University of Edinburgh, Drummond Street, Edinburgh EH8 9XP, Scotland. Tel: +44 (0)131 6502532. Fax: +44 (0)131 6502524. E-mail: [daf@geo.ed.ac.uk](mailto:daf@geo.ed.ac.uk).

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Irene Strati, **Historical geographies of Dublin's public green spaces, from their origins to 1756**. Abstract of PhD thesis submitted to the Department of Geography, Trinity College Dublin, 2005.

The aim of this thesis is to reconstruct the changing forms and functions of public green spaces in Dublin, from the origin of the city to the year 1756, and to explore the set of different meanings that these spaces have acquired through time in the context of urban development.

The thesis has been structured so as to reflect phases of chronological development. These represent the different sets of changes occurring in public green spaces in relation to political, cultural, religious, economic and demographic changes. Five main phases have been identified in the nine hundred years under examination. Phase 1 focuses on the development of early public green spaces in Gaelic, Viking and Hiberno-Norse period; phase 2 concentrates on the forms and functions of public green spaces in the Anglo-Norman municipality; phase 3 contains an overview of the characteristics of greens and other green areas in the aftermath of the dissolution of the monastic possessions; phase 4 focuses on the creation of municipal 'squares' during the Restoration period; phase 5 encompasses an examination of the different forms of physical and cultural expressions of elements of colonialism in public green spaces.

The set of information provided for each phase is synthesised in an overview in the final conclusion. These highlight the importance of the form of municipal governance in generating a model of predictability for the survival of public green spaces in the urban environment. The theoretical statements formulated throughout the text serve finally to elaborate conceptual paradigms which may be utilised for comparative research on other cities.

Contact details: Dr. Irene Strati, Department of Geography, Trinity College Dublin, Dublin 2, Ireland. Tel: +353 (0)87 6729151 / +39 0587 630068. E-mail: [stratii@tcd.ie](mailto:stratii@tcd.ie).

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## *AHDS History*

In addition to providing researchers with advice and guidance on creating digital resources, Arts and Humanities Data Service (AHDS) 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:

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UK Data Archive  
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Tel: +44 (0) 1206 872326  
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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](mailto:t.campbell@ockendon.clara.co.uk).

Please indicate where you saw this announcement.

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## Seminars Series in the History of Gardens and Landscapes

Institute of Historical Research  
Senate House, London

### The History of Gardens and Landscapes seminars for the autumn term, 2005

All interested in researching gardens and landscapes are welcome at these seminars, which are held in the Wolfson Room of the Institute of Historical Research, Senate House, Malet Street, at 5.30 pm on alternate Fridays. Please check on the website (given below) in case there are any changes of venue, etc. The theme for the autumn term is 'Archaeology and Gardens'.

2005

- 7 October Early gardens and landscapes from the mediaeval period.  
Dr Christopher Taylor
- 21 October Late Tudor to William and Mary: gardens of the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries.  
Brian Dix
- 4 November Archaeological approaches to 18<sup>th</sup> century designed landscapes.  
Dr Tom Williamson, University of East Anglia
- 18 November Some 19<sup>th</sup> century garden archaeology.

Joe Prentice, Northamptonshire Archaeological Unit.

2 December To be confirmed.

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

## LONDON GROUP OF HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHERS

### *Seminar Programme, Autumn Term 2005*

#### CHALLENGING GEOGRAPHIES

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| 11th October 2005  | <b>Jill Fenton</b> (Royal Holloway, University of London)<br><br><i>'La révolution d'abord et toujours': Surrealist resistance in Paris</i>                         |
| 25th October 2005  | <b>TBA</b>  |
| 8th November 2005  | <b>Dave Featherstone</b> (University of Liverpool)<br><br><i>The trans-Atlantic mutinies of the 1790s and the formation of Irish subaltern political identities</i> |
| 22nd November 2005 | <b>Diana Paton</b> (University of Newcastle)<br><br><i>Title to be announced</i>  |
| 6th December 2005  | <b>TBA</b>  |

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 (+44 (0)1784 443640) or Miles Ogborn, Queen Mary (+44(0)20 78825407). 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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## Nominations for HGRG Committee Positions

HGRG AGM at RGS-IBG, London

Thursday, 13:00-14:00, 1 September 2004

The following positions are up for renewal at the forthcoming HGRG AGM in London:

- HGRG Publicity Officer (3 years)

- HGRG Web Editor (3 years)

- ◆ Please forward nominations (with details of individuals nominating and seconding) to the HGRG Chair or Secretary by **1 August 2005**.
  - ◆ HGRG would like to encourage all HGRG members going to the IBG to attend the AGM.
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