

Historical Geography Research Group



IN THIS ISSUE:

- ◆ HGRG-sponsored sessions at the RGS-IBG Annual International Conference
- ◆ Recently completed thesis abstracts
- ◆ Undergraduate Dissertation Prize
- ◆ Geography short film

COPY FOR NEXT ISSUE

Date for new copy:

30th September 2012

Please send to:

Oliver Dunnett:

O_Dunnett@live.co.uk

Letter from the Chair

Welcome to this summer edition of the HGRG newsletter. The Annual Conference of the RGS-IBG in Edinburgh is fast approaching. You can find details of HGRG sponsored sessions in the newsletter. I'd particularly like to invite you to support the 'New and Emerging Research in Historical Geography' sessions on Thursday (Sessions 1 and 2) and then stay on in Session 3 to attend the HGRG AGM.

My term of office as Chair is coming to a close and I will be delighted to propose Carl Griffin (Queen's, Belfast) as the next HGRG Chair at the AGM. It has been a great honour to be Chair of HGRG and I have had the fortune to be well supported by super committee members over the last three years. If you would like to join the committee please let me know. We are always keen to have new committee members (or an early indication of future interest in serving on the committee).

There are also some outgoing committee members who have given long service to HGRG. Catherine Leyshon (née Brace) is stepping down having been a member of the HGRG committee since the 1990s. I recall attending the PG Practising Historical Geography workshop in 1996 where Kate marshalled proceedings with great enthusiasm. Her vigour and intellectual engagement has energized HGRG over the years and I, with Hayden before me, have greatly appreciated her active participation. Lowri Jones, e-circulation officer, will be having a short pause from HGRG committee involvement. Lowri: thank you for your efficiency with the e-list and engagement with HGRG matters!

Looking ahead to 2013 we are planning to spend time at the AGM thinking about the best way to mark the 40th Anniversary of HGRG. If you have any ideas to share, but cannot be at the AGM, please let me know.

To close this letter I would like to pay tribute to the staff of the Research and Higher Education Division of the RGS-IBG, in particular Catherine Souch and Stephanie Wyse. While I have been Chair the level of support and practical assistance that HGRG has gained from the RHED team has grown each year and has been a tremendous boost. Thank you.

All best wishes,

Nicola Thomas

Chair HGRG



RGS-IBG Annual International Conference (3rd-5th July 2012, University of Edinburgh)

The following sessions are to be sponsored by HGRG. More information is available on the RGS website: www.rgs.org/AC2012

1) New and Emerging Research in Historical Geography (Sessions 1+2, Thursday, APT-2.05)

Organisers: Kim Ross (University of Glasgow) and Jake Hodder (University of Nottingham)

2) Historical Geographies of Creative Economies (Sessions 1+2, Wednesday, APT-LT2)

Organisers: Nicola Thomas (University of Exeter) and Doreen Jakob (University of Exeter)

3) The Geography of Enthusiasm: Exploration and Fieldwork (Session 4, Wednesday, APT-LT1, plus walking tour)

Organisers: Hilary Geoghegan (Exeter), Hannah Neate (UCLan) and Ruth Craggs (St. Mary's University College)

4) Decolonisation, professionals and the geographies of expertise (Session 1, Tuesday, APT-2.05)

Organisers: Casper Andersen (University of Oxford/University of Aarhus) and Ruth Craggs (St Mary's University College)

5) Hope in a securitised world: geographies and histories of occupation (Sessions 2+3, Tuesday, APT-2.05)

Organisers: Briony McDonagh (University of Nottingham) and Carl Griffin (Queens University Belfast)

6) Creating Geographical Legacies: The Red Road Legacy Project (Sessions 4+5, Tuesday, DHT-FRN)

Organiser: Jane Jacobs (University of Edinburgh)

7) Historical Narratives of Climate Security (Session 3, Wednesday, APT-2.05)

Organisers: Lucy Veale (University of Nottingham) and Lizzie Rushton (University of Nottingham)

HGRG Committee 2011-12

Honorary Chair

Dr. Nicola Thomas
School of Geography,
University of Exeter,
Rennes Drive,
Exeter EX4 4RJ
+44(0) 1392 264449
Nicola.J.Thomas@exeter.ac.uk

Honorary Secretary

Dr. Harriet Hawkins
Institute of Geography &
Earth Sciences
Aberystwyth University
Llandinam Building
Penglais Campus
Aberystwyth SY23 3DB
+44(0) 1970 622 606
hah7@aber.ac.uk

Honorary Treasurer

Dr. Carl Griffin
School of Geography,
Archaeology and
Palaeoecology,
Elmwood Building,
Queen's University Belfast,
Belfast BT7 1NN
+44 (0)2890 973394
Carl.Griffin@qub.ac.uk

Honorary Research Series Editor

Dr. Alastair Owens
Queen Mary, University of
London, Mile End Road,
London E1 4NS
+44 (0)207882 5401
a.j.owens@qmul.ac.uk



Agenda of the Annual General Meeting

RGS-IBG Annual Conference, Thursday 4th July 2012,
Session 3, 1.10pm to 2.50pm, Appleton Tower - Room
2.05

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of last meeting
3. Matters arising not on the agenda
4. Reports from committee members
5. Election of new committee members
 - a. Chair (Carl Griffin to be proposed by Nicola Thomas)
 - b. Treasurer (Briony McDonagh to be proposed by Carl Griffin and seconded by Nicola Thomas)
 - c. Web Officer (Innes Keighren to be proposed by Catherine Leyshon)
 - d. E-Circulation Officer (Hannah Neate to be proposed by Briony McDonagh and seconded by Lowri Jones)
 - e. Conference Officer (Lucy Veale to be proposed by Briony McDonagh and seconded by Lowri Jones)
 - f. Dissertation Officer
6. Items for discussion
 - a. 40th Anniversary of HGRG – 2013
 - b. ICHG 2015
 - c. Maintaining HGRG archives - update
 - d. Teaching Historical Geographies – next steps
7. Forthcoming meetings
 - a. HGRG Practising Historical Geography Conference, November 2012
 - b. RGS-IBG Annual Conference 2013 – call for sessions
8. Any other business
9. Date of next AGM

HGRG Committee 2011-12 (cont.)

Honorary Membership Secretary

Dr. Ruth Craggs
Department of Geography
St Mary's University College
Waldegrave Road
Strawberry Hill
Twickenham TW1 4SX
+44 (0)2082404011
craggsr@smuc.ac.uk

Honorary Conference Officer

Dr. Briony McDonagh
School of Geography,
University of Nottingham,
Nottingham NG7 2RD
+44 (0) 115 67153
briony.mcdonagh@nottingham.ac.uk

Honorary Web Editor

Prof. Catherine Brace
School of Geography,
University of Exeter in
Cornwall
Tremough Campus,
Treliever Road, Penryn,
Cornwall, TR11 9EZ
+44 (0) 1326 371810
c.brace@exeter.ac.uk

Honorary Newsletter Editor

Dr. Oliver Dunnett
School of Geography,
University of Nottingham,
Nottingham NG7 2RD
+44(0)7791 742 850
O_Dunnett@live.co.uk



Undergraduate Dissertation Prize

The Historical Geography Research Group, in association with Ashgate, is pleased to offer a prize to the best undergraduate dissertation in any area of historical geography which is based upon original research and which demonstrates conceptual and/or methodological sophistication. The successful prize winner will receive £200 of Ashgate-published books, and will be invited to submit an article based upon their dissertation for publication in the *Journal of Historical Geography* (subject to the standard refereeing procedures of that periodical). The winner will also be invited to present their work at the annual HGRG Practising Historical Geography Conference in November.

Dissertations should normally be of first-class standard and nominated by Heads of Department / Examination Boards / dissertation supervisors as appropriate. Departments should not submit more than one dissertation for consideration. Only dissertations submitted during academic year 2011/12, by students enrolled at a UK university, will be considered.

Submissions (unmarked hard copy AND accompanying PDF) should be sent to:

Dr Innes M. Keighren, Department of Geography, Royal Holloway, University of London, Egham Hill, EGHAM, TW20 0EX (innes.keighren@rhul.ac.uk).

Deadline: 13 July 2012.

Date for the diary:

This year's Practising Historical Geography conference will take place at the University of Hull on Wednesday 7th November 2012



Reminder of NEW MEMBERSHIP RATES (as of October 2011)

At the 2011 AGM the membership rates were reviewed, and an increase for ordinary members was agreed. Postgraduate rates remain unchanged. HGRG membership subs are essential for HGRG to continue to provide the range of support to members and we are grateful for the collegiate generosity of members in this regard.

Ordinary Members

Category A membership: £12.00 p.a.

You will receive the HGRG Research Series, the HGRG Newsletter and be joined to the e-circulation list. Your subs will support the grants that HGRG provide to the HGRG community and you will be eligible to apply for these. You will get a reduced rate on back issues of the HGRG Research Series.

Category B membership: £5.00 p.a.

You will receive the HGRG Newsletter and be joined to the e-circulation list. Your subs will support the grants that HGRG provide to the HGRG community and you will be eligible to apply for these. You will get a reduced rate on back issues of the HGRG Research Series. Most of our members are category A.

Postgraduate Members

Category A membership: £6.00 p.a.

You will receive the HGRG Research Series, the HGRG Newsletter and be joined to the e-circulation list. You will be eligible to apply for various grants, and you will get reduced rate on back issues of the HGRG Research Series.

Category B membership: FREE

You will receive the HGRG Newsletter and be joined to the e-circulation list. You will be eligible to apply for various grants, and you will get reduced rate on back issues of HGRG Research Series.

****ACTION TO BE TAKEN for 2011-2012****

If you have already paid your 2011-2012 fees please send HGRG Treasurer a cheque for the additional money, or electronically transfer the difference direct to the HGRG account:

Dr. Carl J. Griffin,
HGRG Treasurer, School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology, Queen's University,
Belfast, BT7 1NN

The bank details of HGRG are:

Sort code: 40 35 34

Account number: 51242296

IBAN code: GB90MIDL4035345124296

Please adjust your standing order subscription to take into account the new rates.



Abstracts from Recently Completed PhDs in Historical Geography

Dorothy Ellen McGuire, University of Glasgow:

Go West for a Wife - Family Farming in West Central Scotland, 1850-1930

The historical geography of farming in the West Central Region of Scotland has been under-researched. Generalisations based on research relating to other parts of the country are misleading because the development and forms of agriculture in the West Central Region were distinctive. Traditionally this is an area of dairy farming which, during the research period (c.1850-1930) was characterised by small family labour farms. The concentration of small farms, on which the farming family and a few hired workers formed the core labour-force, and where the distinctions between employer and employed were less than on the large arable farms of the East, had consequences for rural social structure, mitigating the effects of capitalism.

Through a small set of family labour farms, and the families associated with them, the thesis takes a grassroots approach to exploring the pattern of life on the farms of the Region, with particular regard to gender relations. The survival of such farms, contrary to Marxist expectations, is investigated, along with the resilience of the farms during the period of 'The Great Agricultural Depression.'

Glasgow, the economic capital of the Region, underwent phenomenal growth during the nineteenth century, and had a massive impact upon local agriculture. Glasgow and its satellite towns were a market for agricultural produce, and a source of imported livestock feed, and fertilisers. The fashions, in the town, for consumer goods and non-traditional foodstuffs spread out to the surrounding Region, and interaction between town and country was facilitated by the development of the railways. The significance of farm location in relation to Glasgow is assessed.

Available online at: <http://theses.gla.ac.uk/3302>

Dorothy's thesis was supervised by Prof. Chris Philo (Glasgow) and Prof. John Briggs (Glasgow), and was examined by Prof. Charles Watkins (Nottingham). Her PhD was awarded in April 2012.

Louise Henderson, Royal Holloway, University of London:

Geography, Travel and Publishing in Mid-Victorian Britain

This thesis examines geographical publishing in mid-Victorian Britain. Focusing specifically on literatures of travel and exploration, it considers the role of publishers and the publishing industry more widely in shaping the geographical understandings of a range of mid-Victorian readers. Through a detailed examination of the production, circulation and reception of four publishing projects, this thesis provides insights into the challenges and opportunities associated with different forms of publishing whilst also drawing attention to the broader print culture which was implicated in bringing knowledge of these works (and the geographies within them) to various reading publics.

The first chapter offers a critical overview of recent work by historical geographers and historians of science concerning print culture, publishing and scientific knowledge. It also outlines the theoretical framework adopted within this thesis which emphasises the importance of considering production, circulation and reception simultaneously. The second chapter develops this discussion further by providing a rationale for a study of travel and exploration publishing specifically. It also explores the methodological implications of deploying an approach which simultaneously considers how particular works of geography were produced, replicated and consumed in the mid-Victorian period.

Chapters 3-6 offer detailed case studies of particular publishing projects. Chapter 3 examines David Livingstone's *Missionary Travels and Researches in South Africa* (John Murray, 1857). Chapter 4 explores Francis Galton's *The Art of Travel or, Shifts and Contrivances Available in Wild Countries* (John Murray, 1855). Chapters 5 and 6 focus on multi-authored works. Chapter five considers the series *Vacation Tourists and Notes of Travel* (Macmillan and Co., 1861-1864). Chapter 6 investigates the periodical *Geographical Magazine* (Trübner, 1874-1878). Through these case studies, as the concluding chapter 7 highlights, this thesis offers new insights into the way that print figured in shaping particular geographical imaginations during the nineteenth century.

Louise's thesis was supervised by Prof. Felix Driver (RHUL), and examined by Prof. Charles Withers (Edinburgh) and Dr. Jonathan Topham (Leeds). Her PhD was awarded in April 2012



Geography, the Arts and Humanities – A Short Film by Stephen Daniels and Lucy Veale

Imagining Change: Coastal Conversations

A film by the AHRC Landscape and Environment Programme
Written by Stephen Daniels and Lucy Veale
Produced by Nice and Serious



The coast is valued for its beauty and drama, for its historic role for a seagoing nation, as a place of nature, rocks, plants, seabirds, and a place of culture, of livelihood and of recreation and artistic inspiration. The coast is more than a line between sea and land, it is a rich landscape both on the ground and in our minds.



East Lane, Bawsey, 23rd October 2011 by Simon Read

What stories do we tell of coastal change?

The arts and humanities have a key role to play in understanding environmental change through their focus on landscape, culture and imagination. This film shows how we need both human and natural histories, artistic as well as scientific perspectives on coastal change. It showcases three kinds of creative engagements between arts and humanities scholars and coastal landscapes in contrasting parts of Britain.



*Narrating, performing, picturing...*the imagination matters as a way of understanding environmental change. These perspectives can combine constructively with the insights of science, the demands of policy and the interests of people, creative conversations to reach a wider world.

The film is available to view from our website:
www.landscape.ac.uk



Also available at: <http://vimeo.com/39651591>