

Geography Department News

Monthly Newsletter
Royal Holloway, University of London

April to August 2012
Number 195

STAFF AND STUDENTS

Scott Elias and **Nicki Whitehouse** (Queens College, Belfast) organized a day-long symposium to commemorate the life and research of **Russell Coope**, who died last November. The symposium took place on 19 June, and we had over 50 participants, including Russell's wife **Beryl**, and all of their children. The day included 20 lectures by speakers from across the UK and Scandinavia, followed by a wine reception.



Participants in the Coope day symposium, from left to right: Rupert Housley (RHUL), Eva Panagiotakopulu (University of Edinburgh), Eileen Reilly (archaeological consultant, Dublin), David Smith (university of Birmingham).



Coope family members: at back, left to right: Bernard and Robert; seated, left to right: Kathy, Beryl and James Coope.

Scott Elias spent the day of 14 June with a BBC film crew and presenter **Alice Roberts**, at the Upton Warren fossil insect site in Worcestershire. The BBC are filming a series on biotic response to climate change in the last Ice Age, and they invited Scott to come share his knowledge of the fossil insect contribution to this story at Upton Warren, where **Russell Coope** first discovered insect fossil assemblages representing a warm stage during the last glaciation. The series is still in production, and will be aired on BBC 2 next summer.

Welcome to **Prof. Phil Steinberg** who joined the department as a Marie Curie International Incoming Fellow to pursue his Global Alternatives for an Interconnected Arctic (GAIA) project.

Welcome to **Lawrence Byrne**, who is working with Jay Mistry and Celine on the Cobra Project.

Good luck to **John Abraham** who left the Department at the end of July.

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NOTICES

Start of Autumn Term - 24th September 2012

Msc Geopolitics & Security Lecture - 'Welcoming Strangers: Conditional Will, Conditional Hospitality' - 24.10.12 at 5:30pm, Queens Lecture Theatre.

Geography Department Seminar - Rachel Hughes, Melbourne University - 'Ordinary Theatre & Extraordinary Law: Geopolitics & the Khmer Rouge Tribunal' - 27.9.12 at 1pm, Room Q170.

Good luck to **Alex Loftus** who left the Department at the end of this academic year to take up an appointment in the Geography Department at King's College London.

Congratulations to **Francisco Ferreira** who has been awarded his PhD, subject to very minor revisions. His thesis was entitled 'Back to the village? An ethnographic study of an Andean community in the early Twenty-first Century.'. His examiners were Dr Bill Sillar, Institute of Archaeology, UCL and Dr Maggie Bolton, Department of Anthropology, University of Aberdeen. Francisco's research was funded as part of the AHRC 'Inca Ushnu' project. His supervisor was **Katie Willis**, and his advisor was Dr Henry Stobart from the RHUL Department of Music. Dr Colin McEwan (British Museum) and Dr Frank Meddens (RHUL HRA) were also part of the supervisory team, as members of the Ushnu project.

Congratulations to **Alison Hess** who has been awarded her PhD, subject to minor amendments. Her Thesis was entitled 'From Hidden Technology to Exhibition Showpiece: The journey of 2LO, the BBC's First Radio Transmitter, 1922-2011'. Her examiners were Dr. Simon Naylor from Exeter University and Dr. Alastair Owens, QMUL. **Klaus Dodds** and **David Gilbert** were joint supervisors and her project was funded by the AHRC (a Collaborative Doctoral Award with the Science Museum and in particular John Liffen and Tim Boon).

Congratulations to **Harg Luh Sin** who has been awarded her PhD, subject to minor amendments. Her Thesis was entitled 'Corporate Responsibility in Tourism'. Her examiners were Prof. Paul Cloke from Exeter University and Prof. Michael Crang from Durham University. Her supervisor was **Claudio Minca** and Advisor was **Katie Willis**.

Congratulations to **Rory Rowan** who has been awarded, subject to minor amendments, his PhD. His Thesis was entitled 'Carl Schmitt's Spatialities: Ontology, Space & Geopolitics'. His examiners were Prof. Matt Hannah from Aberystwyth University and Dr. Alan Ingram from UCL. His supervisor was **Claudio Minca** and his advisor was **Klaus Dodds**.

Congratulations to **Chao-Yuan Chen** who has been awarded his PhD, subject to minor amendments. His Thesis was entitled 'Digital Terrain Modelling of Glacial and Ice-Dammed Lake Landforms in Glen Roy area, Scotland' and his examiners were Dr. Mike Smith, Kingston University and Prof. Jaap Van Der Meer of QMUL. His supervisors were **Jim Rose** and **John Lowe** and his advisor was **Xingmin Meng**.

Congratulations to **Dan Whittall** who was awarded his PhD in June 2012. The title of his Thesis was 'Creolising London: Black West Indian activism and the politics of race and empire in Britain, 1931-1948. His examiners were Prof. Alastair Bonnett from Newcastle University and Dr. Bill Schwarz of QMUL. His supervisor was **David Lambert**

and **David Gilbert** was his advisor.

Congratulations to **Maria Brightwell** who has been awarded her PhD in May. The title of her Thesis was 'A taste of home? Food, identity and belonging among Brazilians in London'. Her examiners were Prof. Peter Jackson from Sheffield University and Dr. Ayona Datta from LSE. Her supervisor was **Phil Crang** and her advisor was **Felix Driver**.

David Simon was intercollegiate examiner of the PhD thesis by Vincent Rich (supervisor Carlos Oya) at SOAS on 20th April. His co-examiner was Dr Joe Hanlon (emeritus at OU). The thesis, entitled 'Carving a Life: the political economy of woodcarver livelihoods in Cabo Delgado, northern Mozambique', is a pathbreaking combination of political economy and cultural analysis.

Thomas Stevens became a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy.

Jay Mistry and **Celine Tschirhart** presented a paper at the one day politics conference hosted by the Department of Politics and International Relations celebrating the study of politics and the political at Royal Holloway at the end of May. The title of their paper was 'The Governance of forest resources in the Guiana Shield, South America – the impact of climate change policies'.

Welcome **Dr Alison MacLeod**, who has been appointed to the

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post in Physical Geography and will be joining us in mid-September. She brings her specialist expertise in sedimentology, thin-section micromorphology, sediment chemistry, and key chronological techniques to the Department. Alison is rejoining us from Plymouth University where she taught an outstanding course in Glaciology, which is being adapted to be offered as a new 3rd year option.

Welcome **Dr Noam Leshem**, who has been appointed to a post in Human Geography. Noam's research is about cities and conflict, with a particular emphasis on the transformation of Arab urban space in Israel/Palestine. He will be a familiar figure to many in the Department as he taught the first term of our Cities course last year.

Welcome **Dr Oli Mould**, who has been appointed to a post in Human Geography. Oli comes to us from Salford University and his work centres on cities, creativity and the creative economy. He will be working with Noam on the second year Cities course, and contributing to the Year 2 Cultural course and MA/MSc teaching.

Welcome **Dr Gwilym Eades** from McGill University, who has been appointed to the post in Critical GIS. Gwilym has been doing fascinating participatory GIS and mapping work with the Cree peoples of northern Quebec, and will bring substantial experience of creative and innovative teaching of GIS.

David Simon was interviewed by Al Jazeera English about the second-hand clothing trade in

Africa and its impact on local clothing industries. This arises out of an article written with Andy Brooks (PhD 2012). The Al Jazeera article, entitled 'Contraband clothes dominate Nigeria's market' was published on their website on 25 August at <http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2012/08/2012824143154573858.html>

OUTSIDE ENGAGEMENTS

Tim Unwin gave a seminar entitled "ICT4D: contradiction or tautology?" to the Centre for Sustainable International Development at the University of Aberdeen on 4th April 2012.

Tim Unwin gave a seminar entitled 'Technology and development: the contribution of OER, at the Centre for Commonwealth Education', Faculty of Education, University of Cambridge, on 9th May 2012.

Tim Unwin was an invited guest at a workshop convened on 23rd May by DFID and BIS to discuss the future shape of the Development Partnerships in Higher Education programme (DelpHE).

David Simon has been elected Chair of the Editorial Board of the Journal of Southern African Studies; he had served as Vice-Chair since 2007.

On 28th May, **David Simon** participated in a workshop on Alternative Livelihoods at the Zoological Society of London. This was convened to bring together conservation and development specialists in order to feed into the forthcoming IUCN global summit for a proposal to

request that IUCN undertake a review to assess projects and programmes providing alternatives to biodiversity conservation-threatening livelihood activities by local populations.

Leonhardt van Efferink presented his paper "Intervening in the Intervener's Self-Other Representations. Germany and Afghanistan through the eyes of two German quality newspapers" as part of the "Securing Development" panel at the Annual RGS-IBG Conference in Edinburgh.

On 29th May, **David Simon** and **Katie Willis** participated in a subdisciplinary meeting on Development Geography at the RGS/IBG as part of the ESRC's International Benchmarking review of UK Human Geography to assess the draft report and discuss it with the international panel members.

Innes M. Keighren was appointed Website Coordinator of the Historical Geography Research Group of the RGS-IBG at its AGM in Edinburgh in July.

David Simon attended the RGS/IBG Annual Conference in Edinburgh 3-4th July. He chaired the session on Urban Change in the 21st Century, and was lead convenor (with Hayley Leck and Mark Pelling (KCL)) of two sessions on Adapting to Climate/Environmental Change: the Urban Challenge, one of which he chaired. He also presented a paper in the

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session, entitled 'Urban and peri-urban agriculture: transcending poverty alleviation to mediating climate change' on behalf of the START-funded project in Kampala and Ibadan of which he is a member.

Sara Fregonese presented the paper: Hybrid sovereignties and urban governance. The 2008 conflict in Beirut. Royal Geographical Society & the Institute of British Geographers (RGS-IBG) annual Conference, Edinburgh.

In July, **Katherine Brickell** convened a session on 'Home Unmaking' with Richard Baxter at the RGS-IBG 2012. She presented her own paper too, entitled: "'Plates in a Basket Will Rattle': Marital Dissolution and 'Home Unmaking' in Contemporary Cambodia". She also chaired a separate session on "Securing homes and 'safe' spaces".

Innes M. Keighren presented a paper entitled "Forgetting ourselves: canonicity and memory in geography", to 'The Geographical Canon?' workshop at St Catherine's College, University of Oxford, on 15 June.

Innes M. Keighren attended the inaugural meeting of the Higher Education Academy's Fieldwork Special Interest Group for Geography, Earth, and Environmental Sciences at the Department of Geography, University of Sheffield, on 26 June.

In June, **Katherine Brickell** presented a paper at the "Domestic Methodologies" conference convened by the Centre for Studies of Home and held at the Geffrye Museum,

East London. The paper was titled: "Scripting and performing 'social evils' in domestic life: Using participatory video drama in Hue, Central Vietnam".

Felix Driver presented a paper entitled 'Material memories: the Pacific albums of John Linton Palmer, RN', at a symposium on Victorian Maritime, Institute of English Studies, University of London, 9 June 2012.

Felix Driver was invited to a meeting of the ESRC International Benchmarking Panel to discuss UK research in historical geography and history & philosophy of geography, 19 May 2012.

Ed Derbyshire attended the Geological Society's annual President's Day and AGM meeting at Burlington House on 13 June.

Duncan Depledge was a Fellow in the inaugural Arctic Summer College, a nine week course convened virtually via online webinars between July 9 and September 4 2012. The College was convened by Ecologic Institute's Arctic Program with the aim of building a lasting, policy-oriented network of Arctic professionals to strengthen communication between peoples and nations, scientific disciplines, policy areas and across the science-policy interface to improve environmental governance in the Arctic region. For more information:

<http://arcticsummercollege.org> .

OVERSEAS -
FIELDWORK/CONFERENCE
CES

David Simon chaired the session on 'Ten Years of Peace: Achievements and Challenge', one of two comprising the Chatham House Angola Forum's half-day symposium, Angola: Celebrating 10 years of peace' at Chatham House on 17th April.

Leonhardt van Efferink stayed in Frankfurt to continue his research into the Afghanistan reporting by Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung and Süddeutsche Zeitung. His visit was funded by the Vereinigung von Freunden und Förderern der Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main.

Leonhardt Van Efferink gave the workshop "Global Power Assessment: a Comparison between China and the EU" at SCOPE Conference at University of Maastricht.

Leonhardt Van Efferink gave a three-hour lecture "The Role of Geopolitics in Country Risk Analysis - Indicators, Causalities and a Case Study on Brazil" during the Summer School of the International Centre for Geopolitical Studies in Geneva.

Bird, A., **Stevens, T.**, Carter, A., Watson, T.P., Vermeesch, P., Lu, H., Andò, S., Garzanti, E., Cottam, M.A., Sevastjanova, I., 2012. Genetic linkage between the Yellow River and the Chinese Loess Plateau. EGU meeting 2012, Vienna, Austria.

David Simon was in Dublin 24-27th May as guest of the Irish Geographers' Association.

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He chaired a session and contributed to a roundtable at their inaugural Africa Day at the Royal Irish Academy on 24th, and gave the opening plenary lecture at the Conference of Irish Geographers, held at Trinity College Dublin, on 25th, entitled 'Thinking beyond Rio+20: Environmental change and sustainability in an urbanising world'.

David Simon was invited to Dar es Salaam from 5-8th June to assist and provide comparative inputs to a workshop on an EU-funded research project on peri-urban climate change adaptation in the city. As part of the workshop, he gave the opening talk on 'Addressing climate/environmental change in African coastal cities and their peri-urban areas' in an open session at Ardhi University.

David Simon was in Namibia from 22-28th June as invited keynote speaker at the inaugural conference on Strategic Spatial Planning for Urbanisation, held in Windhoek from 26-28th June. His paper was entitled 'Development and spatial planning for 21st Century Namibia: international perspective and local appropriateness'. David also chaired a panel discussion and another speaker session. Opened by the President and Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development, the conference addressed issues researched by David in the 1990s following Namibia's independence, and was intended as the start of a process.

David Simon was in Nigeria from 15-20th July, principally for a research team workshop and field visit on his START-funded research project on urban and peri-urban agriculture in East and West African cities in the context of climate change. This was held at the Centre for Sustainable Development (CESDEV) at the University of Ibadan. This is Nigeria's oldest university, which began as an overseas college of the University of London. David and the team paid a courtesy visit to the new Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Isaac Folorunso Adewole. On 20th July, David was in Lagos as guest of Dr Sylvester Odion Akhaine (one of his former PhD students) and gave the first ever facultywide lecture to the Social Science Faculty at Lagos State University, where Sylvester teaches in the Dept of Political Science. David's lecture was on 'Thinking beyond Rio+20: the politics of environmental change and sustainability in an urbanising world'. This was reported at length in The Guardian (Nigeria's leading 'broadsheet' newspaper) on Monday 23 July.

In his capacity as Scientific Advisory Board member, **David Simon** participated in the first team workshop of the 4-year, EU-funded 'Rurban Africa' project workshop in Arusha, northern Tanzania, from 27-30th August. The project is co-ordinated by the Geography Dept, University of Copenhagen and is examining the comparative nature and dynamics of rural-urban linkages in Tanzania, Rwanda, Cameroon and Ghana.

Sara Fregonese presented the paper: Hybrid sovereignties.

Interpreting urban division during Beirut's May 2008 clashes at the "Borderscapes III" conference, University of Trieste, 28-30 June.

In July, **Katherine Brickell** gave two invited lectures on gender issues in Cambodia to the German equivalent of DfID in Phnom Penh – Deutsche Gesellschaft Für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

In August, **Katherine Brickell** co-organised 4 participatory video workshops with the NGO Gender and Development/Cambodia as part of her ESRC/DFID grant. Dr Bradley Garrett acted as film trainer for the month long series held across two provinces.

In collaboration with Dr Jason Dittmer (UCL), in August, **Katherine Brickell** conducted research in Cambodia on comics as advocacy tools.

Phil Steinberg presented 'The Ocean, the Region, and the Ocean Region: Putting the Indian Ocean Region in Maritime Perspective' at the Conference on Power, Politics, and Governance in the Indian Ocean, sponsored by the South Asia Institute, Universität Heidelberg, Germany.

Scott Elias attended a three-day conference on the Snowmass paleontology project, held at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science from 26-28 June. He presented a talk on his insect fossil results from the project, and participated in discussions concerning additional research and publication planning.

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Felix Driver presented a paper entitled 'Between national projection and documentary style: photography in the Geographical Magazine, 1935-1959' in a session he convened on Geographical Photography, 15th International Conference of Historical Geographers, Charles University, Prague, 6-10 August 2012. He also chaired a session on Geographies of Science and convened a meeting of the JHG editorial board.

The UK's bid to host the 16th ICHG in London in 2015, presented by Felix in the final plenary session of this year's conference in Prague, was successful.

Ed Derbyshire attended the 34th International Geological Congress (IGC), held in Brisbane, Australia from 5 to 10 August. As a UK Delegate, he attended both sessions of the Council of the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) and IGC. On 6 August he was presented with the IUGS' James M. Harrison Outstanding Achievement Award (2012) for his outstanding contribution to the Union over a considerable time span.

Leonhardt van Efferink presented his paper "Intervening in the Intervener's Self-Other Representations. Germany and Afghanistan through the eyes of two German quality newspapers" as part of the 'Geopolitical Visions and Imaginations' panel at the Critical Geopolitics 2012 conference in Frankfurt am Main.

PUBLICATIONS

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Unwin, T. (2012) Challenging educational norms: wisdom from the web, in: Sadowsky, G. (ed.) Accelerating Development Using the Web: Empowering Poor and Marginalized Populations, World Wide Web Foundation and Rockefeller Foundation, p.119-130.

Giosan, L., Clift, P.D., Macklin, M.G., Fuller, D.Q., Constantinescu, S., Durcan, J.A., Stevens, T., Duller, G.A.T., Tabrez, A., Gangal, K., Adhikari, R., Alizai, A., Filip, F., VanLaningham, S., Syvitski, J.P.M., 2012. Fluvial dynamics and the fate of Harappan civilisation. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS) 109, E1688-E1694.

Yi, S., Lu, H., Stevens, T., accepted. SAR TT-OSL dating of the loess deposits in the Horqin dunefield (northeastern China). *Quaternary Geochronology* 10, 56-61.

Schatz, A-K., Buylaert, J-P., Murray, A.S., Stevens, T., Scholten, T., 2012. Establishing a luminescence chronology for a palaeosol-loess profile at Tokaj (Hungary): a comparison of quartz OSL and polymineral IRSL signals. *Quaternary Geochronology* 10, 68-74.

David Simon (2012) Urban thermals and rural oils – a tale of contemporary Africa, *African Geographical Review* DOI:

10.1080/19376812.2012.679454. 31(1) 2012, pp. 80-87.

K. Seto, C. Boone, O. Branislav, M. Fragkias, D. Haase, T. Langanke, P. Marcotulio, D. Munroe, A. Reenberg and **D. Simon** (2012) 'Urban land teleconnections and sustainability' Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Early Edition online at www.pnas.org/cgi/doi/10.1073/pnas.1117622109 (6pp). PNAS May 15, 2012 vol. 109 no. 20 7687-7692.

David Simon (2012) 'Remembering Dani Wadada Nabudere', *Review of African Political Economy*, 39:132, 343-344. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/03056244.2012.688646>

17/05/2012 – Buttercup effect Times Higher Education. **Professor David Simon**, Geography, highlights the global consequences of people's spending habits and lifestyles such as buying cut flowers.

Nash, F (2012) Participation and Passive Revolution: The Reproduction of Neoliberal Water Governance Mechanisms in Durban, South Africa. DOI: 10.1111/j.1467-8330.2012.00994.x . newsletter <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1467-8330.2012.00994.x/abstract>

Dikeç, Mustafa 2012 'Politics is sublime', *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 30(2): 262-279

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Dikeç, Mustafa 2012 'Space as a mode of political thinking', *Geoforum* 43(4): 669-676

Dikeç, Mustafa 2012 'Space, politics, and urban futures', *Badlands of the Republic Book Forum*, Author's response to Critics, Political Geography

Dikeç, Mustafa 2012 *Beginners and equals: political subjectivity in Arendt and Rancière*, Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers

Dikeç, Mustafa 2012 'Immigrants, banlieues and dangerous things: ideology as an aesthetic affair', *Antipode*

Cornish, C., 2012, 'Useful and curious': A Totem Pole at Kew's Timber Museum *Journal of Museum Ethnography* 25

Fregonese, Sara. 2012. "Urban Geopolitics 8 Years on. Hybrid Sovereignties, the Everyday, and of Peace." *Geography Compass* 6 (5) (May): 290-303. doi:10.1111/j.1749-8198.2012.00485.x.

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2012. *AIRBORNE PARTICLES*, Chapter 10 in Plant, J.A., Voulvoulis, N and Vala Ragnarsdottir, K (eds.) *Pollutants, Human Health and the Environment: a risk-based approach*, Wiley-Blackwell, Chichester, 335pp.

Cornish, C. 2012 'Walk this way: Kew's walking-stick collection' *Kew Magazine* Autumn 2012, pp. 56-57, Kew Publishing

Van Efferink, Leonhardt (in press). *Geopolitics*. In: Warf, Barney (ed.). *Oxford Bibliographies*. <http://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/obo/page/geography>.

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Depledge, D and Dodds, K. 2012. *Testing and Northern Flank: The UK, Norway and*

BOOK REVIEWS /ABSTRACTS/ CONFERENCE REPORTS

Keighren, Innes M. "Review of a life in shadow: Aime Bonpland in southern South America, 1817-1858, by Stephen Bell". *Bulletin of Latin American Research* 31, No. 3 (2012): 415-16

Bird, A., Stevens, T., Carter, A., Watson, T.P., Vermeesch, P. Lu, H., Ando, S., Garzanti, E., Cottam, M.A., Sevastjanova, I., 2012. Genetic linkage between the Yellow River and the Chinese Loess Plateau. EGU meeting 2012, Vienna, Austria

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<http://www.bsbs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/eViewpoint-98-web.pdf>

David Simon (2012) Review of G. Myers (2011) *African Cities: Alternative visions of urban theory and practice* (London and New York: Zed Books), *Geography* 97(1), p. 52.

Keighren, Innes M. "Commentary on The passage to Cosmos: Alexander von Humboldt and the shaping of America, by Laura Dassow Walls". *H-Environment Roundtable Reviews* 2, no. 4 (2012): 17–19.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Congratulations to **Mustafa Dikec** who was awarded the Royal Geography Society's Gill Memorial Award. The Award was presented to Mustafa by the RGS President, Michael Palin at a special ceremony on 11th June 2012. The Gill Memorial Award is presented for outstanding research work in the early phase of an academic career. It has been conferred on Mustafa in recognition of his work on urban geography, space and politics.

Dr Vandana Desai and co-investigator **Dr Alex Loftus**, *Geography*, have been awarded £7,767 from the Development Studies Association for the project entitled: 'Workshop on speculations in slums of the developing world'.

Dr Peter Adey, *Geography*, has been awarded £70,000 from the The Leverhulme Trust for the project entitled: 'Philip Leverhulme Prize'.

Congratulations to **Scott Elias** who was awarded an Excellence Award, one of the College's Teaching Prizes, recognizing his innovation in the use of mp3 files to give more detailed and more instructive feedback to students.

Ronda Zelezny-Green was awarded the Irene Marshall Travel Scholarship in June 2012 in support of her MSc dissertation fieldwork in Nairobi, Kenya.

Dr. Katherine Brickell has been awarded £6,000 by the World Association of Girl Guide and Girl Scouts (WAGGGs) for the project entitled 'Empowering Girls to Claim Rights? Non-Formal Education and the 'Stop the Violence' Campaign in Kenya'.

Dr. Simon Blockley has been awarded £54,866 from the University of York for the project entitled 'After the Ice: Postglacial hunter-gatherer lifeways (POSTGLACIAL) by ERC'.

Ben Lownik, MSc PSD student, was awarded the Dame Margaret Tuke travel bursary from Royal Holloway for his dissertation research.

Ben Lownik was awarded the 2012 Paul Broome award for his study on cross-border transport in Cambodia.

Katie Willis won £5K from British Academy International Partnership & Mobility Scheme for Research in Taiwan. Katie

will be working with Prof Shew-Jiuan Su (NTNU), who will receive matching funding from National Science Council of Taiwan.



Edward Derbyshire, former External Affairs Secretary of the Society and Chair of Science for the United Nations International Year of Planet Earth, has been awarded the James Harrison Award by the Executive Committee of the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS). The IUGS said it was 'expressing its gratitude to Professor Derbyshire for his outstanding contribution to the Union over a considerable time span'. The award was instituted to recognise those individuals who devote much of their time and continuous efforts to maintain the Union in fine shape.

The award is named for the first IUGS President, James (Jim) Harrison, who was greatly respected as a man, as a scientist, and as a leader of IUGS.

[From the August 2012 edition of GEOSCIENTIST, the monthly Fellowship magazine of the Geological Society, London]

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Congratulations to **Will Clark**, Year 3 BA Geography undergraduate, who was presented with his prestigious Volunteering England Gold Award by the principal.

Congratulations to **Abigail Alderson**, first year undergrad, who won a prestigious fieldwork award from the Royal Geographical Society. The 'Learning and Leading Fieldwork Apprenticeship' will allow Abigail to participate in fieldwork in China, together with Dr. Thomas Stevens and Dr. Anna Bird, researching the source of dust storms and Chinese loess sediment on the Chinese Loess Plateau in north central China.

VISITORS/MEETINGS IN THE DEPARTMENT

80 students from a wide range of sixth forms attended the departmental Taster Day on 29th June 2012. One potential applicant had travelled all the way from Hawaii to enjoy the charms of Geography at Royal Holloway. Alasdair Pinkerton, Katherine Brickell and Simon Blockley delivered lectures and Tom Stevens, Harriet Hawkins and Alex Loftus ran separate practicals. Student feedback was thoroughly positive.

Innes Keighren met with Hilary Geoghegan (UCL and ESRC Future Research Leader) to discuss plans for a co-edited volume on collaborative research in geography to be published in the Historical Geography Research Group monograph series.

ANY OTHER NEWS

Katherine Brickell and Alice Brighty organised a Staff v Student Women's Rounders Match and Cake Fest on the 28th of May. Congratulations to the students, who won the match.

The Department held its Finalist's BBQ on 24th May.

From January 2013, **Sara Fregonese** will take up the post of Researcher at the School of Geography and the Environment at the University of Oxford.