

May 2011

eDoG

The electronic newsletter of
the School of Geography,
Queen Mary, University of London



Queen Mary
University of London

issue four www.geog.qmul.ac.uk

Research in the School of Geography

High quality research is what distinguishes top universities. This issue of eDoG highlights the diverse ways in which the School of Geography* at QMUL sustains its role as the leader in geographical research amongst UK universities.

* from the academic year 2010 – 2011, the name of the Department of Geography has been changed to School of Geography so bringing it into line with changes elsewhere in QMUL. A short description of the School follows later in this edition of eDoG.

ESRC Doctoral Training Centre

Queen Mary has, together with Goldsmiths College - its consortium partner - been awarded an Economic and Social Research Council Doctoral Training Centre. This is a major achievement. It is the first outcome of the ESRC's new national Postgraduate Training Framework involving a national network of institutional or consortia level Doctoral Training Centres (DTC) and Doctoral Training Units (DTU) intended to provide the very best training provision in the social sciences. Only those institutions recognized by ESRC as DTCs or DTUs are eligible to receive ESRC postgraduate research grants. Without such recognition, this most prestigious stream of funding for postgraduate work would be cut off.

The primary purpose of the new framework is further to enhance provision for postgraduate training in the UK by building upon the considerable strengths that already exist across the social science research base. The QMUL/Goldsmiths DTC will

provide training in 13 disciplines: Anthropology, Business Management, Cultural Studies, Economics, Educational Studies, Geography, Media and Communications, Politics, Psychology, Social Work, Socio-Legal Studies, Sociolinguistics and Sociology spread across the two institutions.

The new framework introduces a higher degree of selectivity as fewer centres are recognized for the receipt of ESRC postgraduate studentships. Each application was assessed by six peer reviewers and two internal assessors as well as in the exhaustive discussions within the relevant committee's of the ESRC. Unsurprisingly, only just over one third of all applications from the UK were approved. It is especially pleasing that the School of Geography was highlighted as one of the strongest pathways for research training in the bid from QMUL/Goldsmiths in which QMUL was the lead applicant

The new DTC has an allocation of 10 research studentships per year for five years. This is an increase on the previous combined allocations to QMUL and Goldsmiths and, in the context of the current cuts to ESRC budgets and the HE sector in general consequent upon the UK government's Comprehensive Spending Review, this is an excellent outcome.

New Research Centre

Centre for Studies of the Home

QMUL and the Geffrye Museum

Alison Blunt and Alastair Owens

The Centre for Studies of Home – a major new research centre led by the School of Geography – was launched in February 2011 as a partnership between QMUL and The Geffrye Museum. Home has become a key site and subject of study across a range of academic disciplines and across the arts and cultural sectors. The new research centre aims to be a leading centre for international research on the home, fostering dialogue and collaboration between those in the academy and in the arts and cultural sectors and bringing together the expertise of the museum and university sectors so to provide innovative opportunities to disseminate knowledge and understanding to a diverse range of audiences. Building on existing

teaching and research links between QMUL and the Geffrye, the Centre will bring both organizations together in a long term partnership. It is the outcome of a feasibility study funded by the Queen Mary Prospects Fund.

The significance of home as a research theme is reflected in the 30 or so scholars working at QMUL across a range of disciplines including Geography, History, English and Psychology. Within Geography, Alison Blunt works on home, empire and

diaspora and ideas about the city as home, Alastair Owens studies nineteenth century households, communities, material cultures and everyday life, and Isabel Dyck works on the home, health and migration. A wide range of current and recently completed PhD students within Geography have focused on home in their research, including Akile Ahmet (home and identity for young men of mixed descent), Jayani Bonnerjee (the city as home for Anglo-Indian and Chinese Calcuttans), Mary Guyatt (children, home and empire, c1870–1950), Lesley Hoskins (household goods, domestic cultures and difference in England and Wales, 1841–81), Joanna Long (home, family and identity for Palestinians in Britain), Subhadra Roy (home for Indian students



Centre for Studies of the Home (cont)

studying in Britain) and Imogen Wallace (home from the geopolitical to the everyday for Muslim women in London and Bristol).

The Geffrye Museum specialises in middle-class English domestic interiors from 1600 to the present, attracting around 100,000 visitors a year. Whilst the Museum's permanent galleries focus mainly on the material culture of middle-class Londoners' living rooms, its wider collections, library and archives, temporary exhibitions and learning programmes take a less socially and geographically bounded view of home and engage with wider debates about the significance of home and domestic life in contemporary as well as historical societies.

Reflecting the broad scope of research on the home, the Centre spans interests ranging from domesticity and home (including everyday domestic life, domestic architecture, interior design and domestic material cultures) to the significance of home beyond the domestic (including broader ideas about dwelling, belonging and security). Key themes of interest include material and emotional home spaces, relationships between home, household and identity, and home-making on domestic to global scales.

The Centre will be co-directed by Alison Blunt (School of Geography) and Eleanor John (Head of Collections and Exhibitions at the Geffrye). A programme of activities for the first year includes a launch workshop held on 16 February, a public seminar series, an annual lecture and a number of applications for collaborative doctoral studentships, research fellowships and research grants. The Centre will develop links with other research centres at QMUL, including the Centre for the History of the Emotions, the City Centre, the Centre for the Study of Global Security and Development and the Centre for the Study of Migration. Awarded a joint PhD studentship with the Centre for the History of the Emotions to begin in October 2011, the Centre invites applicants to submit proposals for PhD research on *Emotions and the home in modern Britain* (see www.geog.qmul.ac.uk/admissions/phdadmissions/funding/42244.html for more information).

Stop press: Professor Alison Blunt, Dr Cathy McIlwaine and Dr Jayani Bonnerjee have been awarded a research grant from the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) for a scoping study associated with the AHRC's new 'Connected Communities' initiative.

The research involves a review of relevant literatures and four workshops organized in partnership with the RGS-IBG and with the Geffrye Museum. The overall theme of the scoping study is *Connected communities: diaspora and transnationality*, and the workshops will be on Community histories (at RGSIBG), Home, migration and community

(at Centre for Studies of Home), Cities, communities and connections (at The City Centre, School of Geography) and Faith communities and religious diasporas (at RGS-IBG). For further details of these workshops please check the School website <http://www.geog.qmul.ac.uk/>

For further information about the Centre, please email Alison Blunt (A.Blunt@qmul.ac.uk) or visit www.studiesofhome.qmul.ac.uk/.



Research profile: Professor Catherine Nash

Who do we think we are?

The question of 'who do we think we are?' probably evokes the more familiar one of 'Who do you think you are?', the title of the enormously popular BBC television series and its international offshoots. The success of this series tracing the family trees of celebrities is one example of the current surge of interest in genealogy. Many thousands of people are working to reconstruct their family trees and find out about the lives of their ancestors.

This is often based on a sense that a knowledge of ancestry will say something about who you are, thereby enriching your sense of identity. But family trees are not just about an individual's sense of identity but also about ideas of connections and shared ancestry and links with others. Making connections to others who share your ancestors is often an important element in people's family history projects. At the same time, the idea of sharing descent from a particular group of ancestors is also an important part of traditional ideas of ethnicity and national identity.

This question of the relationship between ideas of shared ancestry and descent and collective identity – who we think we are – as members of social and cultural groups is central to the work of Professor Catherine Nash. Catherine joined the School of Geography in 2004 initially undertaking a three year Economic and Social Research Council Research Fellowship on a project entitled *Genealogy and Genetics: cultural geographies of relatedness*. Building on that work, her current research explores the ways ideas of Britishness are shaped by studies genetic variation in Britain undertaken by population geneticists. One of the key dimensions of this research has been to think of ideas of ancestry geographically and to explore the ways geography is already a fundamental part of both popular genealogy and population genetics.

Media accounts of family history and on-line genealogical sites as well as personal accounts often feature another question alongside 'who do you think you are?' - the question of 'where do you or I come from?' Ideas of knowing where your ancestors came from is a very significant dimension of genealogy especially for those whose ancestors or living relatives have migrated over long distances. The powerful idea of 'finding roots' is about finding a location that is home in some fundamental sense. It motivates many people whose ancestors left countries in Europe in and after the mass migrations of the nineteenth century to search for their 'roots'. In addition, the practice of human population genetics is fundamentally geographical in its study of human genetic variation over space and in its efforts to reconstruct the pathways of early human migration in the distant past. The idea of geographical and genealogical origins links together the practice of family history and the study of human origins and migration in evolutionary and population genetics.

But popular practice and scientific pursuit are also linked by the development of genetic tests that use the methods and findings of population genetics to offer information about an individual's 'deep ancestry'. These are the tests that feature in some well-known television documentaries such as *Motherland: A Genetic*



Journey in 2003 in the UK, and *African-American lives* in 2005 in the US. In her research, Catherine Nash has been exploring the ways in which people are encouraged to think of themselves in terms of very distant ancestry and the ways in which ideas of human relatedness – who is related to whom and how through genealogical and genetic connection - are being shaped in new accounts of genetic descent. A central issue is the degree to which the idea of the significance of genetic similarity based on shared descent brings with it the idea that genetic difference or very distant genetic connection underpins a 'natural' sense of difference or lack of empathy and understanding between people or groups.

Catherine's research traces the ways ideas of a global humanity sharing origins and ancient African ancestors coexists with an emphasis on particular lines of descent and thus difference between people. These accounts

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TTACTGCCAG	CCACCATGAA	TATTGTACGG	TACCATAAAT	ACTTGACCAC	CTGTASTACA	TAAVAAOCCA	ATCCACATCA	AAACCCOCTC	CCCATGCITA
CARGCAAGTA	CAGCAATCAA	CCCTCAACTA	TCACACATCA	ACTGCACCTC	CARAGCCACC	OCTCACOCCAC	TAGGATACCA	ACAAACCTAC	CCACCCITAA
CAGTACATAG	TACATAAAGC	CATTTACCGT	ACATAGCACA	TTACAGTCAA	ATCCCTTCTC	GTCCOCCATGG	ATGACOCCCC	TCAGATAGGG	GTCCCTTGAC
CACCATOCTC	CGTGAATCA	ATATCCCGCA	CARGAGTGCT	ACTCTOCTOG	CTCCGGGCCC	ATAACACTTG	GGGGATAGCTA	AAGTGAAGCTG	TATCCGACAT
CTGGITCCTA	CTTCAGGGTC	ATAAAGCCTA	AATAGCCAC	ACGTTCCOCT	TAAATAGAC	ATCACGATG			

Printed results of a DNA test

Research profile: Professor Catherine Nash (cont)

of unity and differentiation have a very complex relationship to ideas of ethnicity, nationhood and race. A person's individual choice to undertake a new genetic test to find out about 'deep ancestry' is entangled with the wider science, culture and politics of categorising and differentiating between people on the basis of genetic evidence of ancestry. In most cases, these tests are not incorporated into the formal ways in which group membership is assigned, through citizenship in a state for example. But they have profound implications for the ways in which belonging and identity are culturally configured – the ways people consider themselves and others as belonging or not belonging in a particular society.

Another question. 'What does being British mean to a scientist?' This is the opening line of the text that accompanies a video featuring the work of a project entitled *People of the British Isles* on the website of the biomedical charity The Wellcome Trust. In its first phase, the project aimed to produce a 'genetic map of the British Isles' by taking a total of 3500 blood samples from selected volunteers in 30 locations across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The idea for this rested on the biomedical value of knowledge of regional genetic diversity in the UK and the wider cultural and historical significance of studying the 'genetic heritage of our present day UK population' or 'modern Britons' in terms of the ancient history of the peopling of Britain by Celts, Saxons, Normans and Danes.

Catherine is currently responding to this arresting question of what Britishness may mean to scientists – how population geneticists understand and address a complicated category of identity like this - by considering the ways in which recent studies of genetic variation in Britain define and represent 'our present day UK population'. Her research focuses on the *People of British Isles* project along with a series of scientific and popular accounts of how studies of genetic variation may inform understandings of ancient history, ancestry and identity in Britain. It considers their relation to the long history of efforts to construct a collective British national origin story, and to debates about British multiculturalism. Stories of ancient arrivals need to be considered in relation to the

complex and continued patterns of migration that shape the country. To do so prompts important political questions such as who counts as a 'modern Briton' in these genetic studies; what is meant by the 'we' in 'who do we think we are' or by the 'our' in 'our common

genetic heritage'; are these inclusive or, more troublingly, exclusive categories; and what are the effects – not least political effects - of making them genetic? These are the vital questions driving Catherine's research.

15 How would you describe your national identity?

- English
- Welsh
- Scottish
- Northern Irish
- British
- Other, write in

16 What is your ethnic group?

- A. White
- English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British
 - Irish
 - Gypsy or Irish Traveller
 - Any other White background, write in
- B. Mixed / multiple ethnic groups
- White and Black Caribbean
 - White and Black African
 - White and Asian
 - Any other Mixed / multiple ethnic background, write in
- C. Asian / Asian British
- Indian
 - Pakistani
 - Bangladeshi
 - Chinese
 - Any other Asian background, write in
- D. Black / African / Caribbean / Black British
- African
 - Caribbean
 - Any other Black / African / Caribbean background, write in
- E. Other ethnic group
- Arab
 - Any other ethnic group, write in

Questions on national identity and ethnicity in the 2011 census
Source: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2011-census/2011-census-questionnaire-content/index.html>

Recent research grants in the School of Geography



Professor Angela Gurnell

Along with colleagues in the University of Trento and the Free University of Berlin, Angela has been awarded an *Erasmus Mundus Joint*

Doctorate in Science for Management of Rivers and their Tidal Systems. This will provide nine new funded PhD places in River Science in 2011-12, with similar sized annual intakes over the next five years. SMART is a laboratory-based EMJD that aims to develop a reference approach in the area of River Science and to train scientists to develop and adopt integrated multidisciplinary approaches to the sustainable rehabilitation and maintenance of river corridor ecosystems, particularly in alpine, humid temperate and Mediterranean environments. The SMART EMJD couples an international, multidisciplinary and attractive research environment with the transversal and specific skills training necessary to develop the abilities of doctoral candidates to think globally and co-work in multidisciplinary research teams and so deliver "new skills for new jobs".

For more information see:
<http://www.riverscience.eu/>



Dr Steve Cummins

(see eDoG2)

Steve has been awarded a highly prestigious five year National Institute of Health Research Senior Research

Fellowship further to develop his Healthy Environments Research Programme at QMUL. This programme has been strengthened by the award of a grant of £426,312 from the NIHR Public Health Research Programme to Steve and colleagues at University College, London for a population-level evaluation of family-based community interventions in childhood overweight and obesity. Steve will be responsible for work on how neighbourhood opportunities for physical activity and diet mediate the success of these interventions.

In collaboration with colleagues at Bristol, UEA, and Cardiff, Steve is also part of a successful project team which has been awarded a Medical Research Council grant for a project called MEAD (Measurement of Environment, Activity and Diet). The project will use GPS technology amongst large samples of children objectively to measure young people's use of the environment. The project extends this methodology to investigate access to food outlets and aims to determine the relationship between characteristics of the environment (e.g. safety, green space, fast food outlets) in relation to location specific physical activity and dietary behaviours as well as obesity and stress in adolescents. The project is funded for three years at a cost of £770,000.

Steve has also been successful in a grant application to the Canadian Institute of Health Research which is the equivalent of the UK Medical Research Council. The project, entitled *Conceptualisation and Measurement of People-Place Interactions to Tackle Spatial Determinants of Chronic Health Outcomes*, involves collaboration with colleagues in Canada and France. One practical output will be the creation of a web-based tool box to collect spatial and environmental data in large-scale epidemiological studies. The project is worth C\$200,000 and will run for two years.

Along with colleagues in the University of East London and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Steve has also been awarded a major NIHR -funded project to evaluate the social and health impact of urban regeneration associated with the 2012 London Olympics in East London. This project runs for 5 years and follows a number of adolescents and their parents living in the Olympic Host Boroughs. It will involve a qualitative longitudinal study to capture experiences of regeneration in 20 households in Newham. The project addresses some critically important issues concerning the 'legacy' of the Olympics. The grant, worth almost £2 million, will fund three posts at QMUL – two in Geography and one in St Bartholomew's Department of Psychiatry.



Dr Tim Brown

Along with Dr Sarah Wakefield from the University of Toronto, Tim has been awarded C\$38,499 by the Canadian Social Science

and Humanities Research Council to develop a project examining contemporary food security discourses in Canada and the UK. This is a project which arose out of discussions during Sarah's recent visit to the School.



Dr Alastair Owens

Alastair has been awarded a grant from The British Academy and the Association of

Commonwealth Universities for a project entitled *Common Wealth? Wealth-Holding and Investment in Britain and its Settler Colonies, c. 1850-1914*. This is a further development of Alastair's work on wealth and investment in Britain. He will be Principal Investigator on the project, in conjunction with Professor Martin Shanahan at the University of South Australia. The grant of £5,000 will cover the costs of a workshop in London bringing together colleagues working in Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the UK to develop a larger research project on wealth, investment and empire.

Research studentships

Professors Alison Blunt, Miles Ogborn and Dr Alastair Owens, together with Kiera

Vaclavik from QMUL's Department of French, have secured three prestigious Arts and Humanities Research Council studentships. Starting from 2010–12 and running annually, the studentships are held in partnership with the Victoria and Albert Museum of Childhood. The programme of research to which the studentships are attached is entitled *The child in the world: empire, diaspora and global citizenship*. It aims to understand the changing ways in which children in Britain have understood their relationship to the wider world through their everyday lives.

Bodies Across Borders: Health Geographers organise workshop in Geneva



Tim, Bron, Isabel and Beth



Beth Greenhough, Tim Brown, Isabel Dyck, Bronwyn Parry

On the 16th and 17th December 2010 members of the School of Geography's Health, Place and Society research theme (**Tim Brown, Isabel Dyck, Beth Greenough and Bron Parry**) organised a workshop in Hermance, near Geneva sponsored and hosted by the Brocher Foundation (www.brocher.ch).

The workshop explored how the fields of medicine and healthcare are being transformed by new communications and biomedical technologies which have facilitated marked increases in the global circulation of body parts, patients and medical professionals. It explored how these movements often echo other movements of capital and resources, travelling from rural to urban areas, from poor to rich, and from the Global South to the Global North.

Despite the challenging weather, speakers and participants came from a wide range of countries (including Australia, the Philippines, East Africa, UK, US, Canada, Belgium, Denmark and Bangladesh).

The workshop explored the challenges of conducting research which often involve working with hard to reach and hidden populations (for example organ traffickers and illegal kidney donors) and with a lack of data and information (for example few countries have a database of patients who travel abroad for treatment). Presentations highlighted the role of middle-men in facilitating the sale of organs, the international migration of medical personnel and the outsourcing of clinical trials from the UK and US to sites in India. The challenge of regulating these movements, for example how to manage the 'brain drain' of skilled healthcare workers from the Global

South to the Global North, was also addressed and a speaker from the WHO introduced new guidelines on the international recruitment of healthcare workers. The workshop also highlighted the diverse and contradictory ways in which bodies became valuable in the context of medical research: as sources of valuable bodily commodities (e.g. kidneys), as test sites for new drugs, as skilled healthcare workers and as a potentially lucrative clientele for an emerging medical tourism market. We are currently putting together a book proposal based on the workshop.

Research visitors to the School of Geography



From left: Professor Adrian Smith, Professor Morag Shiach QMUL vice principal, Professor Ash Amin, Professor Simon Gaskell QMUL principal

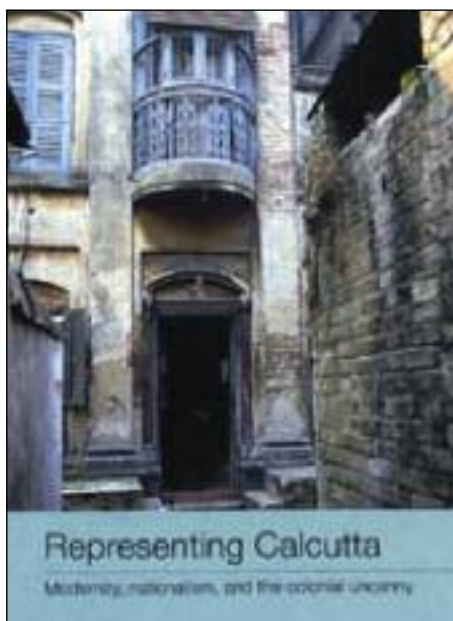
Professor Ash Amin, Professor of Geography at Durham University and the Executive Director of the Institute of Advanced Study, presented a public lecture entitled *Cities and the Ethic of Care Among Strangers* as part of his wider involvement as the School of Geography **Visiting Fellow** 2010. In his lecture Professor Amin looked at the politics of integration in plural and diverse societies and the ways in which public infrastructure may be suited to the creation of cultures of shared concerns and attachments. A podcast of the lecture is available from the Geography website.



Professor Johannes Oerlemans, Professor of Meteorology at Utrecht University, Academy Professor at the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, and recipient of the Louis Agassiz Medal 2008 will be the School's 2011 Visiting Fellow.

Professor Oerlemans is recognised as the foremost expert on the role of ice sheets in global climate and sea-level change. He was lead author on the first three IPCC Assessment Reports (1990, 1996 and 2001) and a major contributor to the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment 2005. Prof Oerlemans will present a public lecture during his visit to Queen Mary.

The **QMUL Distinguished Visiting Fellow** to the School in the Spring Semester is **Dr Swati Chattopadhyay**, Associate Professor in the History of Art and Architecture at University of California Santa Barbara, USA. Professor Chattopadhyay is author of *Representing Calcutta: Modernity, Nationalism, and the Colonial Uncanny* (Routledge, 2005), and co-editor of a special issue of *PostColonial Studies* (Nov 2005) focusing on 'the subaltern and the popular.' Dr Chattopadhyay specializes in the cultural landscape of British colonialism, and the spatial aspects of race, gender, and ethnicity in modern cities.



Dr Stephen Legg Lecturer in Cultural and Historical Geography in the School of Geography, University of Nottingham is a QMUL Visiting Fellow in the School of Geography during 2011.

Steve is currently a holder of a Philip Leverhulme Fellowship. He is completing a monograph entitled *Scales of Prostitution: International Governmentalities and Interwar India*.

A concurrent project is focused on the writings of Carl Schmitt, and involves an edited book entitled *Geographies of the Nomos: Spatiality, Sovereignty and Carl Schmitt*. Steve's own chapter in the book will consider Schmitt's condemnation of the League of Nations as the harbinger of the collapse of European imperial order.



David Harvey gives the 7th David M Smith Lecture
Professor David Harvey, Distinguished Professor at the City University of New York (CUNY) and the Director of The Center for Place, Culture and Politics, presented the 7th Annual David M Smith Lecture on 18 November 2010 to a packed house in the Skeel Lecture Theatre. The podcast of his lecture entitled *The Dialectics of Social Change* is available from the School of Geography website.

Professor Doreen Massey

received a University of London honorary DSc at QMUL during the summer 2010 graduation ceremonies. What follows is an extract from the text of the presentation address given on behalf of the College by Professor Roger Lee

Some years ago the editor of *The Guardian Weekend* asked a number of prominent and well-known individuals to identify the single material thing that they liked best about their home. Doreen Massey responded to her invitation by choosing to write about the view of the sky from her flat. However *The Guardian* couldn't cope with the sky and so she wrote instead about the window through which she remains in touch with the diversity, beauty and challenge of the world beyond her flat.

But, for Doreen, this is not just a world out there, merely for observation. It is an active world which shapes, and is shaped by, the lives of all that live in and through it. Her window is, therefore, a symbol of openness to the outside world, of being outward-looking. Not for her the ivory tower, separate and aloof, but a continuous and continuing engagement with, and a strong sense of responsibility for, the complexity, politics and injustices of contemporary life.

Doreen Massey was born and grew up in Manchester. She is very much a product of the remarkable achievements of the welfare state. A council house in Wythenshawe facilitated care during child-hood fragilities and she attended Sharston primary and junior schools before winning a scholarship to Manchester High School and, from there, another scholarship to Oxford University from which she graduated in 1966 with a first class degree in Geography. After a number of influential posts researching and teaching Geography and Planning, she was appointed professor of geography at the Open University in 1982. Despite countless subsequent invitations to move to highly prestigious



Professor Doreen Massey – appropriately enough in the colours of Liverpool FC – seated next to Jocelin Harris (vice chair of the QMUL Council) and, standing from left to right, Professors Nigel Spence, Roger Lee, Simon Gaskell (principal QMUL), Philip Ogden (senior vice principal), Adrian Smith (head of School of Geography) and Jane Wills.

appointments around the world, Doreen chose always to remain and work in an institution which, like Queen Mary, very much reflects her powerful belief in democracy and equality of access to education. The Open University also reflects her recognition of, and engagement with, the complexity of a world riven by inequalities of power which cannot be segmented by academic disciplines.

This approach to her work has enabled her understanding of geographical space as being both outside and inside all that takes place in the world. She has shown just how, in her words, "geography matters" in shaping that world in powerfully formative ways. These insights have, quite literally, changed our understanding and they inform teaching and research around the world – not least here at Queen Mary.

But, of course, the significance of her work goes well beyond the academy. Doreen Massey has always recognised the power of thought for political action. She continues to engage closely in the politics of cities, regions and societies as far apart as London in the UK and Caracas in Venezuela, and in actively influencing their trajectories of development. But, crucially for her, although far apart, these places – like all others around the globe – are closely connected by ties of mutual responsibility and are, thereby, mutually formative.

The world inside and outside her window is, clearly, a big place full of possibilities for realising a better life. And it is also highly complex. Doreen Massey is a founding editor of *Soundings A journal of politics and culture* in which geography, politics, economics rub shoulders with, for example, art, poetry and photography – all speaking to the practical possibilities of change. And so her work reaches out to the arts and sciences as well as to philosophy and to politics.

Unsurprisingly, Doreen Massey is the recipient of the highest academic awards including, for example the 'Nobel de Géographie' and the Victoria Medal of the Royal Geographical Society-Institute of British Geographers. She is a fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, a fellow of the British Academy and a founding Academician of the Academy of Social Sciences.

One final comment. Part of the significance of the window through which Doreen Massey engages with the world is that it provides a constant reminder of the ordinary things of life – those that matter in a day-to-day sense and which contribute so powerfully to human well-being. Doreen Massey's work has always begun and ended with the ordinary – and hence extraordinary – lives of people and their relationships around the globe. But this sense of geography is also highly complex. How else is it possible to explain that someone born and bred in Manchester could remain a committed and active supporter of Liverpool FC?

For her remarkably creative contributions to geography and social science and, through them, for her transformative impact on the politics and development of cities and regions, and for her never ending support of all those attempting to travel the same road, I present Professor Doreen Massey for the conferment of the degree of Doctor of Science *honoris causa*.

Recent books from the School of Geography



In collaboration with Sarah Kingston at Leeds Metropolitan University and Teela Sanders at the University of Leeds, **Dr Kate Hardy** has had her edited collection entitled *New Sociologies of Sex Work* published by Ashgate.

Ronald Weitzer (George Washington University, Washington DC) writes:

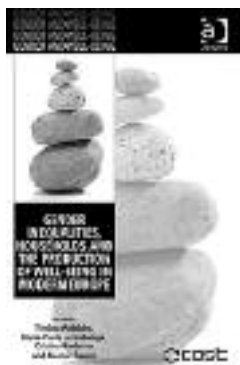
“An important contribution to our understanding of sex work, exploring several previously unexamined aspects of the sex industry in various nations. The essays richly document the complex and multifaceted nature of sexual commerce.”

Kate has only recently completed her PhD - represented by an essay in the collection - and provides a model about what can be accomplished even whilst doing a PhD. More details at <http://www.ashgate.com/isbn/9780754679868>



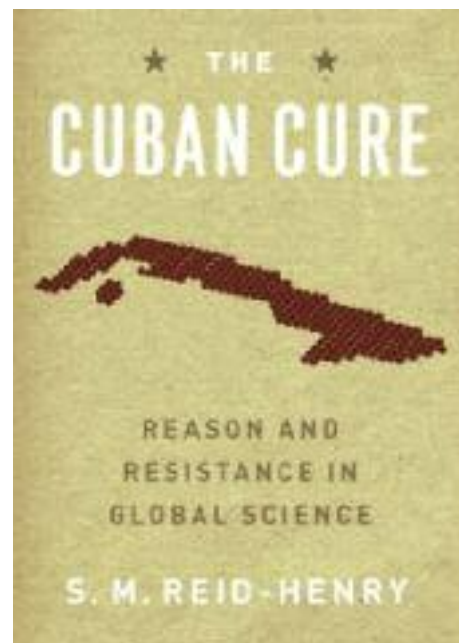
Simon Lewis is joint editor (with Nick Ashton of the British Museum and Chris Stringer of the Natural History Museum) of *The Ancient Human Occupation of Britain* which presents a series of papers related

to and emerging from his eponymous research project funded by the Leverhulme Trust. More details of the book, which is published by Elsevier, can be found at: http://www.elsevier.com/wps/find/bookdescription.cws_home/722913/description#description



Alastair Owens has co-edited a collection of essays entitled *Gender Inequalities, Households and the Production of Well-being in Modern Europe*. The book arises from Alastair's participation in a

European Science Foundation COST (Cooperation in Science and Technology) network. It examines the significance of gender relations in how households secure their well-being and the roles of men and women in providing and receiving welfare in both contemporary and historical contexts. This interdisciplinary book explores the growing importance of women within investment markets. Understanding the extent to which global financial processes shaped the economic lives of those on the 'periphery' as well as at the 'heart' of empire will offer new insights into the social and geographical diffusion of financial markets. More details from https://www.ashgate.com/default.aspx?page=637&calcTitle=1&pageSubject=413&title_id=9688&edition_id=12750

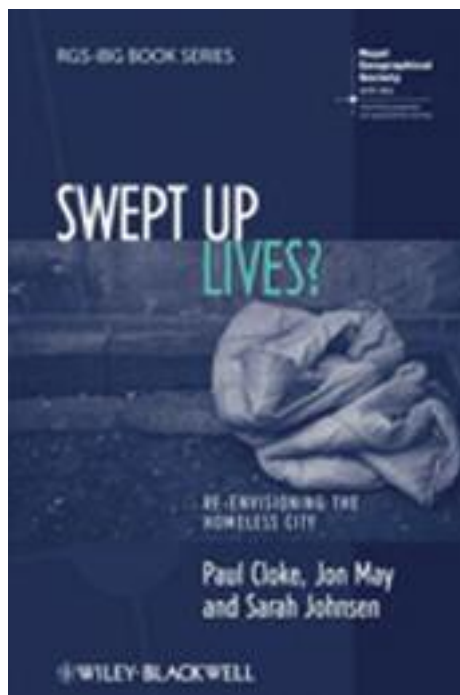


The Cuban Cure: Reason and Resistance in Global Science by **Simon Reid-Henry** has recently been published by Chicago University Press

After Fidel Castro came to power in 1959, his second declaration, after socialism, was that Cuba would become a leader in international science. In biotechnology he would be proven right and, today, Cuba counts a meningitis B vaccine and cutting-edge cancer therapies to its name. But how did this politically and geographically isolated country make such impressive advances? *The Cuban Cure* shows how, despite a trade embargo and crippling national debt, Cuba came to compete with US pharmaceutical giants and, thereby, examines the forms of resistance that biotechnology research in Cuba presents to the globalization of western models of scientific culture and practice.

David Livingstone (Professor of Geography and Intellectual History) at the Queen's University Belfast writes that this is a "stunning interrogation of the making of a scientific culture in an altogether unlikely spot on the fringes of the West's technological consciousness"; and Andrew Barry (University of Oxford) calls it a "remarkable book ... rich in critical insight". Further details at: <http://www.press.uchicago.edu/presssite/metadata.epl?mode=synopsis&bookkey=9733558>

Recent books from the School of Geography (cont)



Swept-Up Lives? Re-envisioning the Homeless City by Paul Cloke, **Jon May** and **Sarah Johnson** Wiley-Blackwell

Utilizing innovative ethnographic research, *Swept Up Lives?* challenges conventional accounts of urban homelessness to trace the complex and varied attempts to care for homeless people. The book marks a further contribution by authors from the School of Geography to the prestigious RGS-IBG book series. More details from <http://eu.wiley.com/WileyCDA/WileyTitle/productCd-1405153865.html>



Geographies of the Book edited by **Miles Ogborn** and **Charles W.J. Withers** Ashgate

The geography of the book is as old as the history of the book, though far less thoroughly explored. Yet research has

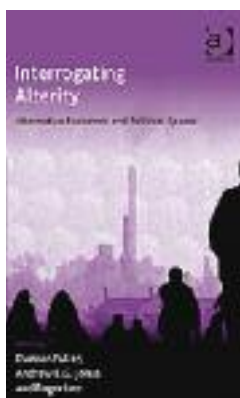
increasingly pointed to the spatial dimensions of book history, to the transformation of texts as they are made and moved from place to place, from authors to readers and within

different communities and cultures of reception. *Geographies of the Book* explores the complex relationships between the making of books in certain geographical contexts, the movement of books (epistemologically as well as geographically) and the ways in which they are received.



Along with colleagues **Alison Stenning**, **Alena Rochovská** and **Dariusz Świąte**, Professor **Adrian Smith's** book *Domesticating Neo-Liberalism* adds to the School's contributions to the prestigious

RGS-IBG book series. Based on in-depth research in Poland and Slovakia, the book addresses how processes of neo-liberalization in post-socialist cities may be understood. Details at <http://eu.wiley.com/WileyCDA/WileyTitle/productCd-1405169907.html>



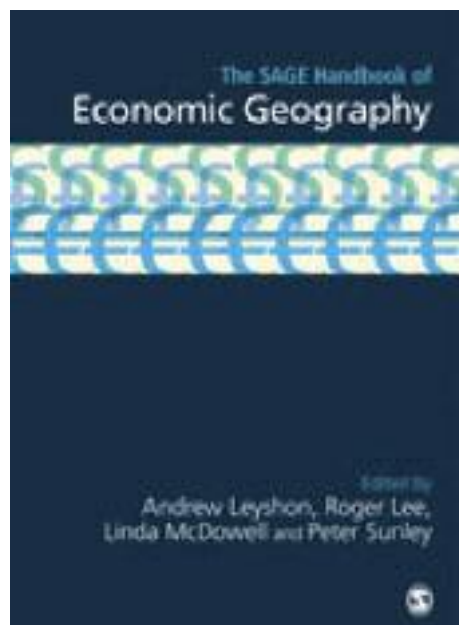
With Andy Jonas (Hull) and the late Duncan Fuller (Northumbria), Professor **Roger Lee** has published an edited collection of essays entitled *Interrogating Alterity: Alternative Economic and Political Spaces* (Ashgate).

Alternative ways of thinking, analysing and performing economic geographies have become increasingly significant in recent years, partly due to the recent financial crisis, which has had social and political consequences throughout the world. Yet there is a danger that the debate about alternatives may become simply a way of fixing global capitalism in its present crisis-ridden form. Instead, the analysis of alternative economic spaces must continue

to offer a critique of the very notion of capitalism as a universal, if variable, set of social relations.

As JK Gibson-Graham notes in the cover blurb, this "rich and inspiring collection samples an exciting new scholarly tradition, one that draws upon and feeds into the social movements that are transforming economies worldwide. ... [It] is a must-read for anyone interested in the 'other economies' currently taking shape on the ground".

Further details at <http://www.ashgate.com/isbn/9780754673415>



Edited by Andrew Leyshon, **Roger Lee**, Linda McDowell and Peter Sunley, *The SAGE Handbook of Economic Geography* was published in February 2011 by Sage Publications London

What difference does it make to think about the economy in geographical terms? *The SAGE Handbook of Economic Geography* illustrates the significance of thinking the 'economy' and the 'economic' geographically. It identifies significant stages in the discipline's development, and focuses on the key themes and ideas that inform present thinking in economic geography.

Further details at <http://www.uk.sagepub.com/books/Book233293>

Staff and undergraduate achievements



Dr Marta Timoncini (2nd from left) along with other winners of awards presented by the principal. Professor Simon Gaskell (3rd from right)

In November 2010 the Principal of QMUL, Professor Simon Gaskell, presented Dr Marta Timoncini (Head of Administration in the School of Geography) with the Institute for Learning and Management's *Leadership and Management for Administrators* award.

Undergraduate achievements

Dynamics of a marginal glacier in an actively volcanic region RGS – IBG, Gordon Foundation, QMUL Kerlingarfjöll Expedition 2010. Between July and September 2010, a team of final year undergraduate students from the School of Geography consisting of expedition leader **Ricky Stevens, Richard Bailey** and **Jonathan Wheatland**, supported by Dr Simon Carr, won a highly competitive grant from the Royal Geographical Society-Institute of British Geographers for fieldwork in Iceland.

The project aims to document the past and present behaviour of a small niche glacier located within Kerlingarfjöll, central Iceland. Ricky writes that, through the fieldwork comprising three interrelated projects, the aim is to extend "scientific knowledge on how small glaciers, which are arguably the most sensitive to climatic changes, have behaved during the past to changing environmental conditions. If we could quantify these changes, we could use this to infer how these small glaciers have fluctuated in past times and, significantly, offer inferences to how these small glaciers may behave in the future - something which has social, ecological, economical and environmental implications."

Despite experiencing seven punctures, having to be towed 270km across country and missing a ferry home due to an Atlantic storm, the expedition was a huge success.



Richard gets to grips constructing a gauging station in the glacier valley

The following article on the project which builds on Ricky's earlier success in gaining a *Learning and Leading Apprenticeship Scheme* award from RGS-IBG and his earlier visit to Iceland (see eDoG2) appeared in *Geographical Magazine* in December 2010

Further details can be found at: <http://iceland2010-dynamics-of-a-marginal-glacier-in-a-volcanic-region.wikispaces.com/>



Jonny and Ricky take a breather from drilling 2m bore holes into the ice

Glacier Travelling: Team Kerlingarfjöll pose for a group photograph

Staff and undergraduate achievements (cont)



Jack Hawkins, Niall Lehane and Michael Rooke

...

... have also been successful with the RGS-IBG grants scheme this year. They travelled to Svalbard with **Dr Sven Lukas** during the summer of 2010 to carry out fieldwork on the response of Svalbard glaciers to climate change.

Working alongside Professor Doug Benn, a leading international expert in this field, of UNIS (the University Centre in Svalbard), the world's northernmost institution for higher education and research, the team investigated different aspects of the debris cover in the marginal areas of small high-arctic glaciers. The aim was to understand the process combinations that lead to the observed pattern of glacier thinning. The undergraduate members of the team gathered data for their BSc dissertations within this project, which forms part of Sven's ongoing research into glacier and landscape response to climate change in the vulnerable high arctic, the so-called 'global fridge'.

Roshni Shah, Sakina Dossaji, Alex Friend and Rahima Begum

Four current undergraduate students in the School of Geography have passed the College's new scheme for a Draper's *Skills Award*. This is a programme for undergraduates at Queen Mary that is designed to prepare them for the challenges they will face in making the transition from university to work.

A number of recent studies confirm that – when it comes to applying for work after university – the subject students studied, the class of their degrees and even the universities they attended need to be balanced against factors like relevant work experience and possessing skills like communicating well and fitting into a team. These skills are often best developed through engagement in extra-curricular activities.

Helping the development of these skills is what the Award is set up to achieve. It aims to support engagement with all the learning opportunities available at Queen Mary: taking an active part in campus activities, reflecting on personal and professional development, undertaking work-related learning and planning for future careers.

The calving front of Borebreen on which Sven Lukas also worked during the summer of 2010. The sharp-crested mountains in the background are characteristic of the Arctic archipelago and prompted the Dutch discoverer Barentz to name it Spitsbergen (meaning 'sharp mountains' in Dutch).

Geography: A world of opportunity

Geography is, at long last, recognized as a powerful means of understanding and acting in the world.

From the doyen of financial journalists - Martin Wolf writing in the *Financial Times* (11 01 11): "... what any group of human beings is able to achieve is determined by geography" (see <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/4f590ec6-1dce-11e0-badd-00144feab49a.html#axzz1AwMHprAS> for further details); through the writer and broadcaster Christopher Somerville commenting in the *National Trust Magazine* (Spring 2011 p 15) "geography rocks - it's all geography"; to Richard Garner in *The Independent* (2 December 2010) asking "In a tough job climate, what is it about those with geography degrees that makes them so employable?" (see <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/higher/a-world-of-opportunity-2148648.html> for further details) and answering his own question by, in effect, repeating the message re jobs for geographers set out in eDoG3 and in a publication from the School of Geography first published 30 years ago, the world at large is finally catching up in recognizing the power of Geography. Better late than never.

It is, then, hardly any surprise then that applications to study Geography at the UK's leading research department are continuing to rise.

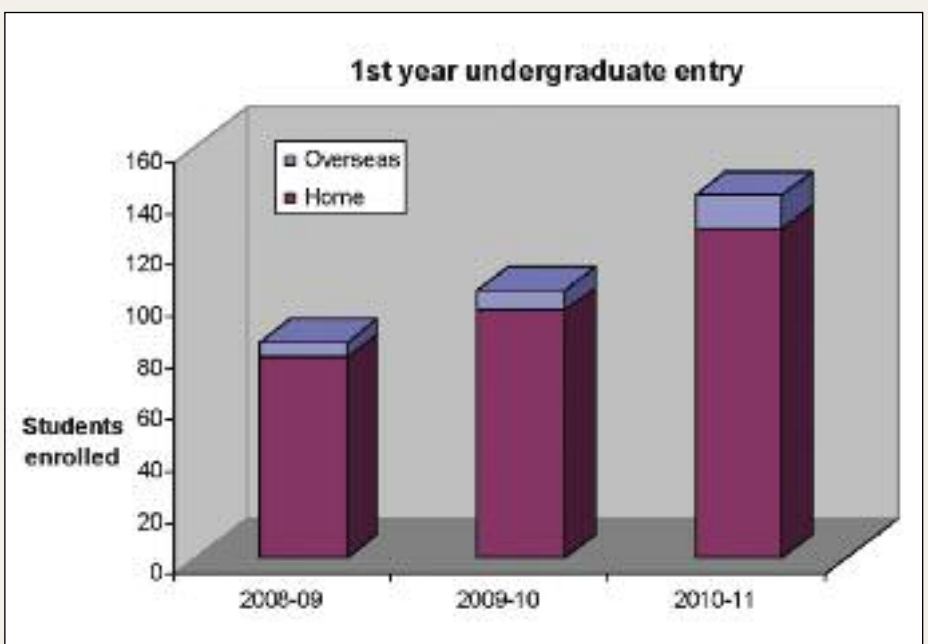
Admissions summary

The School of Geography offers a range of undergraduate degree programmes spanning Geography and Environmental Science. The most recent addition to this portfolio of degree courses is the BA degree **Global Change: Environment, Economy and Development**. This programme was launched in September 2009 and is designed to appeal to students from a wide range of humanities and social science backgrounds, who wish to engage with topics, such as globalisation and development or environmental change, that are well represented within the discipline of geography. Six students enrolled on this degree in its first year of operation.

The School has seen continued growth in applications for entry to its undergraduate programmes. The number of applications, from a wide range of schools and colleges across the UK, as well as the rest of Europe and further afield, increased for the fourth consecutive year. The first year intake to the School of Geography for 2010-11 was 128 home/EU students and 13 overseas students (see graph). At the same time the School of Geography has maintained the quality of the student experience, the level of support for individual learners and the friendly atmosphere for which it is renowned.

Early indications for 2011 -12 entry are encouraging, with applications received up to the end of 2010 again up on the previous year. We continue to look at ways in which our provision of undergraduate degrees can be enhanced. The School is currently steering a new **MSci degree in Environmental Sciences** through the approval process and hopes to admit students onto this programme in September 2011. This four year degree aims to recruit well-qualified students to a programme that will equip its graduates with a high level of knowledge and skills appropriate for employment opportunities in environment, industry and research. Information on all our undergraduate degrees can be found on the School's website.

Dr Simon Lewis (Admissions Tutor)
on behalf of the admissions team



Jonathan Coulson (Human Geography 1992)

Jonathan is lead author in a recently published book: J. Coulson, P Roberts and I Taylor (2010) *University Planning and Architecture* (Routledge).

The environment of a university – what we term a campus – has long been the setting for some of history's most exciting experiments in the design of the built environment. Christopher Wren at Cambridge, Thomas Jefferson at

Virginia, Le Corbusier at Harvard, Louis Kahn at Yale and Norman Foster in Berlin: the calibre of practitioners that have worked for universities is astounding.

This book comprehensively documents the worldwide evolution of university design from the Middle Ages to the present day, uncovering the key developments which have shaken the world of campus planning. A series of detailed and highly illustrated case-studies profile universally acclaimed campuses that, through their planning, architecture and landscaping, have succeeded in making positive

contributions to the field. Drawing on these examples, the book turns to the strategies behind campus planning in today's climate.

Exploring the importance of themes such as landscape, architecture, place-making and sustainability within university development, the book consolidates the lessons learnt from the rich tradition of campus development to provide a 'good practice guide' for anyone concerned with planning environments for higher education

Neil Thomas

(Geography 1995) is a partner in KPMG.



Daniel Perrett

(see eDoG1)

extract from **Waltham Forest News**
*WALTHAMSTOW:
Greens opt for youth
in election*

A young geography graduate has been selected as the Green party's prospective parliamentary candidate for Walthamstow. Daniel Perrett will attempt to win the seat for the party, which campaigns on environmental issues.

Read the rest of this story at
http://www.guardian-series.co.uk/news/wfnews/5047929.WALTHAMSTOW_Greens_opt_for_youth_in_election/

An informal reunion of some of the class of '72 in London January 2011

How many of the class of '72 can you name?



School of Geography in the news



Amy Norman

In South Africa's orphanages, is doing good really bad?

NPR

<http://n.pr/ddSXkQ>

A combination of volunteering and travelling is a rapidly growing industry around the world and one of the most popular choices is orphanage work in Asia and Africa. Researchers argue that in South Africa, volunteers are not helping children, but are instead harming them. Amy Norman comments on those helping children with HIV and AIDS in orphanages with a high turnover.

Amy spent five years studying the social effects of HIV and AIDS in South Africa: "The psychological literature talks about attachment theory — very young children are programmed to build attachments," she says. "And so, you've got these sort of repeated abandonments — first with young children whose parents may die of AIDS. And then they go to live in an orphanage where you often have high staff turnover."

The process continues when well-meaning tourists come to volunteer their time: "And then you've got tourists that are coming as sort of the third wave of this abandonment. Children are left behind to remember a series of these foreigners who come in and then leave them there,"

Sinead Daly

Harrow Observer 28 August 2010
<http://bit.ly/d5irwL>

Achieving two As and B at A-level in the Summer Sinead Daly is now studying Geography at Queen Mary whilst, at the same time, her twin sister Kerrie is studying Modern and Medieval Languages at Cambridge University.



Professor Jane Wills

'Obama factor prompts MA in community organising'

The Independent 13 May 2010

<http://www.independent.co.uk/student/postgraduate/postgraduate-study/obama-factor-prompts-ma-in-community-organising-1971833.html>

Queen Mary has launched a new master's qualification in community organising, capitalising on the Barack Obama factor. The course follows those in the US - where President Obama began his career as an organiser on the streets of Chicago - and will offer a five-month placement with London Citizens. Course leader Professor Wills said: "The techniques you learn on this course will be useful in a whole range of jobs in the private and public sector. Whether you want to go into the voluntary sector, local government or become a politician, this experience will be valuable."

'Can Pay, Will Pay'

BBC Radio 4 16 September 2010

<http://bbc.in/a2L7iE>

Professor Wills was interviewed about Queen Mary's involvement in the 'Living Wage' campaign, which ensures cleaners receive a fair wage. She said: "The living wage is set in terms of what human beings needs to live to put food on the table and support their children." Queen Mary cleaner June Watson spoke about her experience at the College and her colleague Amin Hussain was also mentioned.

'T-Mobile's global battle gets local'

TMC News 4 October 2010

<http://bit.ly/bW8AaX>

The rise of globalisation has allowed companies to move particular types of jobs, which do not need to be done in a fixed position, from country to country. Professor

Wills comments on an example in the US where German firm T-Mobile has taken over a call centre although problems exist among unions. She says: "The Americans really need the German union to act on their behalf in order to secure their agenda. Given that the Germans have a good relationship with the company, they could exercise their influence over the top management of the company in Germany to ensure that they intervene in the US."

Vanessa Feltz Show

BBC Radio London 19 October 2010

<http://bbc.in/dy17RV>

Professor Wills was interviewed about Government plans to reduce social housing by 50 per cent. "Council housing has been in crisis for a long time now," noted Professor Wills. "We need to rethink housing and take David Cameron at his word. He talks about the 'Big Society' so now is the time for people power around housing. I have been exploring with a group called London Citizens the possibility of community land trusts. The land is held collectively but individuals can buy the properties. They sell their property back to the trust and that is really affordable housing, long term."

BBC Radio London 26 November 2010

Drive Time with Eddie Nestor

<http://bbc.in/hV4jFY>

Professor Wills was interviewed about making the most out of a salary and 'making ends meet' as well as the 'living wage' campaign implemented at Queen Mary.

The Guardian 6 July 2010

<http://bit.ly/aKcvLZ>

Guardian podcast

Professor Wills discusses the findings of her co-authored book, *Global Cities at Work*. "We met lots of people who have two or three jobs working 60 or 70 hours a week at the minimum wage to earn enough to put food on the table and that is a big thing that is never spoken about in the immigration debate." See eDoG3 for full details of the book

School of Geography in the news (cont)

Press TV

Rattansi and Ridley

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cdCbKA9WVpk>

Professor Wills speaks about her jointly-authored book, *Global Cities at Work*, on the Iranian television network. See eDoG3 for full details of the book

Kavita Datta, Jon May, Cathy McIlwaine and Jane Wills

see Youtube at:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=MdDrUDCfoCY

Research conducted for the ESRC-funded *Global Cities at Work* project (see EDoG3) features heavily in a new film from the Migrant Rights' Network called "Migrants for London, London for Migrants"

See eDoG3 for more details of *Global Cities at Work*



Ginny Bernadout and Amy Ennis

'Students prepare for the big freeze of Antarctica'

East London Advertiser 17 January 2011

<http://bit.ly/eMwUt9>

Ginny Bernadout, currently studying for her PhD, and Amy Ennis, who graduated in 2010, were selected for the 2041 Inspire Antarctic Expedition with explorer Robert Swann. Ginny said: "To be able to avoid irreversible damage to some of the most precious habitats we have, we all need to make changes in the way we lead our everyday lives. Educating the next generation and giving them the same passion we have is our way of making an impact." Ginny and Amy are looking for donations to fund their trip and can be contacted at ginnyandamyofantarctica@googlemail.com

Two adventurous geography students'

East End Life 10 January 2011

<http://bit.ly/exswNZ>

Ginny Bernadout and Amy Ennis will be following in the footsteps of explorers Shackleton and Scott, on an expedition to the Antarctic later this year.

see eDoG3 for more on Ginny's and Amy's plans

Dr Murray Gray

Geoconservation

The Guardian 11 August 2010

<http://bit.ly/ajpaKJ>

Commenting on the importance of deserts as world heritage sites, Dr Gray says: "Only by integrating the physical and biological aspects of land management can we hope to maintain healthy and sustainable environmental systems." (see eDoG3)

Dr Simon Lewis

Simon Lewis has been undertaking research in Norfolk on the early human habitation of the area. This path-breaking work is featured in a recent paper in *Nature* as well as in a range of media outlets, including:

The Guardian's print and on-line reporting has the most extensive news coverage: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/science/2010/jul/07/first-humans-britain-stone-tools>

The *Nature* paper is at: <http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v466/n7303/full/nature09117.html>

The project website is at: http://www.britishmuseum.org/research/research_projects/featured_project_happisburgh.aspx

QMUL's news coverage is at: <http://www.qmul.ac.uk/media/news/items/hss/31479.html>

'Earliest Northern European Settlement Discovered in Britain'

Fox News 7 July 2010

<http://www.foxnews.com/scitech/2010/07/07/earliest-northern-european-settlement-discovered-britain/>

A team of researchers including Dr Simon Lewis have found that ancient humans

created the first known settlement in Britain, and the first in Northern Europe, over 800,000 years ago. The team found more than 70 flint tools in an archaeological dig at the shore of Happisburgh in Norfolk.

Digging for Britain

BBC Two 29 September 2010

<http://bbc.in/cHQOWs>

An episode of *Digging for Britain* focuses on prehistory and includes a piece about the Happisburgh dig involving Simon Lewis.

Read the Queen Mary news release via the online media centre: <http://bit.ly/cuQ0Bp>



Dr Simon Reid-Henry

'Bold Brasilia at 50'

Guardian.co.uk

Comment is free 21 April 2010

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2010/apr/21/brasilia-50th-anniversary>

Dr Reid-Henry comments on Brazil's capital city, Brasilia, celebrating its 50th anniversary and notes that its growth shows how the country is now regarded as a key global player. Brazil is part of the 'BRIC' group of nations that also includes Russia, India and China. Dr Reid-Henry said: "while often seen as the least significant member of this group, Brazil has nonetheless become the quiet choreographer of their co-ordinated actions."

Tom Chigbo

Tuition fees

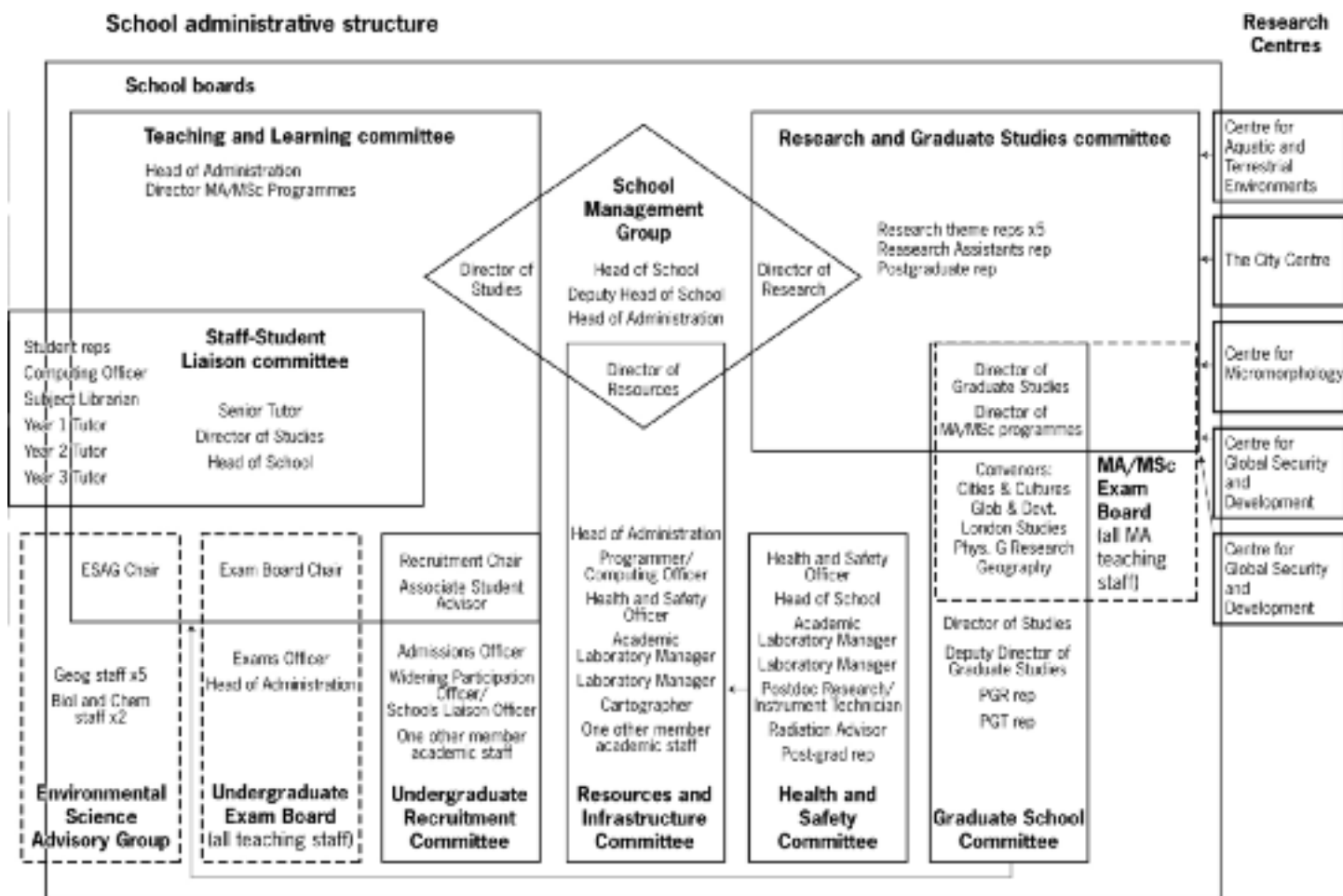
Sky News

<http://bit.ly/aDHVE3>

Tom, who is studying for his Master's degree in Community Organising in the School of Geography, was interviewed on Sky News about tuition fees. He said it would be "unfair" if students were charged up to £12,000 a year and that undergraduates would be forced to choose their degree based on its price, not from an academic perspective.

See YouTube for more

School of Geography



With around 350 undergraduate and postgraduate students and over 40 staff (technical, administrative and academic) and an annual budget of over £4 million, it is rather like running a not-so-small business but with a far more multi-faceted set of objectives to be achieved.

Some idea of this complexity may be gained from the organizational chart of the School. The structure of the School reflects the mutually formative relationships between all the individuals who work within it and the School as a collective and highly collegiate endeavour wherein lies the secret of its successes.

eDoG is edited by Roger Lee (r.lee@qmul.ac.uk) and Ed Oliver (e.s.oliver@qmul.ac.uk). Please contact Ed or Roger with any comments, suggestions and, best of all, copy with lots of illustrations.



Members of the class of '72

back row L to R
Jeff Smith, Richard Long, Bill McQueen

front row L to R
Sue Smith, Kevin Rutherford, Sue Billen