



Please send conference reports, photos & book news to editor: bruce.scholten@btopenworld.com



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Summer holidays or not, RGRG geographers are usually up to some mix of teaching and research. But it's good to gather in Kensington Gore. The annual RGS-IBG conference returns to its headquarters in London 28-30 August 2013. Don't forget our RGRG AGM & election for 9 positions, in the Drayson Room 13:10-14:25 Friday.

Below please find info for London, publication notes, fieldwork and more.

Cheers – Bruce
Editor, *RGRG Newsletter*
<http://durham.academia.edu/BruceScholten>

1. RGRG sessions & AGM, RGS-IBG London 28-30 Aug. 2013.

1a. RGS-IBG London Annual Conference 28-30 August 2013

Chaired by Prof. Jonathan Rigg, who is leaving Durham for Singapore. The theme is New Geographical Frontiers, at RGS-IBG Headquarters in London:

<http://www.rgs.org/WhatsOn/ConferencesAndSeminars/Annual+International+Conference/Programme/Programme.htm>

- **List of participants in AC2013 - search by surname or other keyword:**
<http://www.rgs.org/WhatsOn/ConferencesAndSeminars/Annual+International+Conference/Programme/Programme+search++people.htm>
- **Mobile device friendly format - view the conference programme at:**
<http://conference.rgs.org/AC2013>. If you know the unique number of the session you are looking for, add it to the end of the URL, for example <http://conference.rgs.org/AC2013/169>
- **List of building and room names and their codes (PDF) - an explanation of the codes used in the programme. Session times are listed at the bottom of this page:**
<http://www.rgs.org/NR/rdonlyres/A812761D-D0CC-48B0-8B6D-F580055C1089/0/AC2013sessioncodesexplained.pdf>



☞ Try this overview: '[Summary grid-view' of the conference programme \(PDF\)](#), with clickable session titles linking to online paper abstracts (updated 17 July 2013):

http://www.rgs.org/NR/rdonlyres/CCBAAC86-5114-420C-8353-07D063740D9A/0/AC2013_finalprogrammegrid_17July.pdf



List of RGRG sessions for AC2013 - browse titles or by keyword or Research Group for info on content, incl. session abstracts & paper titles, abstracts & authors: http://www.rgs.org/WhatsOn/ConferencesAndSeminars/Annual+International+Conference/Programme/Programme+search++sessions.htm			
Session Title	Affiliation	Day	Time/Room
Modernising and Commercialising Agricultures and Livelihoods. Convenor & Chair: Imogen Bellwood-Howard (University for Development Studies, Ghana / King's College London).	RGRG	Wed 28 Aug	Session 4. Electrical Eng. Bldg. EEB-406
New and Emerging Rural Researchers (1): Policy & Community. Convenors Andrew Grayson (University of Sheffield) & Sonja Rewhorn (Uni-Chester). Chair, Rewhorn.	RGRG	Wed 28 Aug	Session 2. EEB-406
New and Emerging Rural Researchers (2): Countryside & Farming. Convenors Andrew Grayson (University of Sheffield) & Sonja Rewhorn (University of Chester). Chair, Grayson.	RGRG	Wed 28 Aug	Session 3. EEB-406
Rural Geography Research Group (RGRG) - AGM. Convenor Keith Halfacree. Info: k.h.halfacree@swansea.ac.uk & Carol.Morris@nottingham.ac.uk Come & vote!	RGRG AGM	Wed 28 Aug	13:10-14:25 RGS-IBG Drayson Rm
Rural in the New Dawn. Convenor & Chair Sonja Rewhorn (University of Chester).	RGRG	Wed 28 Aug	Session 1. EEB-406
The Rural Beyond Rurality (1): Borders of Representations. Convenor & Chair Keith Halfacree (Swansea University).	RGRG	Thu 29 Aug	Session 3. Skempton Building SKE-060c
The Rural Beyond Rurality (2): Practices Across and Within Borders. Convenor Keith Halfacree (Swansea University). Chair Damian Maye (Countryside and Community Research Institute).	RGRG	Thu 29 Aug	Session 4. SKE-060c
Transgression proliferations: geographies of creative process-theory-practice boundary transition (nature-culture) (1). No1 – Practicing Landscapes. Convenors Owain Jones (Countryside and Community Research Institute), Daniel B. Kramer (Michigan State University, United States), Kaisa Schmidt-Thomé (Aalto University, Finland). Chair Damian Maye (CCRI).	RGRG	Fri 30 Aug	Session 1. Sheffield Building, Room 6 SHE-6
Transgression proliferations: geographies of creative process-theory-practice boundary transition (nature-culture) (2). No.2 – Animals. Convenors Owain Jones (CCRI), Daniel Keech (University of Gloucestershire), Kaisa Schmidt-Thomé (Aalto Univ., Finland). Chair Emma Roe (University of Southampton).	RGRG	Fri 30 Aug	Session 2. SHE-6
Transgression proliferations: geographies of creative process-theory-practice boundary transition (nature-culture) (3). No.3 – Production Landscapes. Convenors Owain Jones (Countryside and Community Research Institute), Daniel Keech (University of Gloucestershire) & Kaisa Schmidt-Thomé (Aalto University, Finland). Chair, Schmidt-Thomé. Chair Kaisa Schmidt-Thomé.	RGRG	Fri 30 Aug	Session 3. SHE-6

Please check website for linked sessions & details!



1b. RGRG SESSION ABSTRACTS - RGS-IBG London Annual Conference 28-30 August 2013

<p><u>Modernising and Commercialising Agricultures and Livelihoods</u>. Convenor & Chair: Imogen Bellwood-Howard (University for Development Studies, Ghana / King's College London).</p>	<p>RGRG</p>	<p>Wed 28 Aug</p>	<p>Session 4. Electrical Eng. Bldg. EEB-406</p>
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This session is inspired by the parallels, linkages and differences between processes of agricultural modernisation and commercialisation currently occurring across the rural world.

Throughout the developing world, governments are making concerted efforts to promote modernised, commercialised agriculture. Using purchased inputs and linking outputs to markets, these efforts are inspired by advocacy organizations such as the Alliance for a Green Revolution for Africa. Advocates of such an approach extol the virtues of increased market access, giving farmers the financial capital necessary to enhance and sustain their livelihoods. Simultaneously, critique focuses on the increased power of agro-input companies, the potential for use of GM seeds and environmental impacts of fertilisers and agrochemicals. However, simple dichotomies misrepresent the situation. Stakeholders' nuanced relationships with the issues leave room for informed, balanced debate. Simultaneously, opposite processes are establishing in movements to self-sustenance and local food security. This is not only in the global South: food sovereignty movements are springing up in the USA and Europe. Crucially, these processes link across space, for example with questions about the comparative equity of parallel subsidy regimes in the EU and Africa, and become particularly relevant in a global environment of decreasing food security and changing climate.

This group of papers therefore expounds contrasting and nuanced perspectives on processes of change in commercial and subsistence, traditional and modern, food and fuel socio-agroecological systems. We examine interactions between farmers, states, industry and markets, and explore the effects of those transitions on the social, economic and physical sustainability and resilience of rural livelihoods and environments in situations of food in/security and technological, institutional and climatic change. We travel from the developing to the developed world, contrasting and linking the experiences in diverse situations.

The aim of the session is discussion about and comparison between both developing and developed world systems. Participants are invited to come and debate the real opportunities and challenges now arising from the modernisation of 21st century agriculture

Linking Brazil's Food-Security Policies to Agricultural Change and Deforestation in the Atlantic Forest

Johan A Oldekop (University of Sheffield), Jahi Chappell (Washington State University, Vancouver, Canada), Felipe Borges (Washington State University, Vancouver, Canada), Marina Schmoeller (Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil), Adriano Paglia (Federal University of Minas Gerais)

Making agro-export markets and new market subjectivities for the poor: An opportunity for the majority?

Johanna Herrigel (University of Zurich, Switzerland)

New power, old plants: environmental governance and the revaluing of indigenous biofuel species

Rebecca Enderby (King's College London)

Development in An Giang Province in the Mekong Delta: agriculture as a driver for development, but has it made farmers wealthier?

Charles Howie (Royal Agricultural University)

Whatever the Weather- Climate Change Resilience in Small Agroecological Farms in the UK

Rachel Solnick (Schumacher College)

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<u>New and Emerging Rural Researchers (1): Policy & Community.</u> Convenors Andrew Grayson (University of Sheffield) & Sonja Rewhorn (University of Chester). Chair, Sonja Rewhorn.	RGRG	Wed 28 Aug	Session 2. EEB-406
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Negotiating diverse stakeholder values and participation in remote rural landscape management

Amy Holden (University of Dundee)

Has rural proofing become effective in policy development process in England?

Sonja Rewhorn (University of Chester)

Considering Policy Approaches to Rural England

Andrew Grayson (University of Sheffield)

Beyond the thin blue line: policing responses to anti-social behaviour (ASB) in remote rural Scotland

Andrew Wooff (University of Dundee)

Urban-to-rural migration: new underpinnings from psychology

Elizabeth Brooks (Newcastle University)

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New and Emerging Rural Researchers (2): Countryside & Farming. Convenors Andrew Grayson (University of Sheffield) & Sonja Rewhorn (University of Chester). Chair, Grayson.	RGRG	Wed 28 Aug	Session 3. EEB-406
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The New and Emerging Researchers session sits extremely well with the theme of the 2013 Conference, 'New Frontiers for Geography'. The session wants to hear what is new in rural geography and offers an exciting opportunity for postgraduates and early career researchers to present their research proposals and research results in a friendly forum. This conference session each year is always very well attended, conducted in a friendly, welcoming and constructive manner, and is widely appreciated by all those attending. Papers are welcomed from any area of rural research. Last year papers looked at a wide range of themes including rural development, economy, farming and policy. For the 2013 Conference paper presentations will be the standard style, with the convenors grouping abstracts into themes.

Farmers' experiences of flooding and attitudes towards climate change – a study in the county of Gloucestershire

Alice Hamilton-Webb (Royal Agricultural University)

Winners and losers? Impacts of extreme weather events on farmers in the Welsh Marches.

Rebecca Griffiths (University of Worcester)

The Contribution of Solar PV Towards Farmers Mitigating Climate Change

Bethany Ledingham (Royal Agricultural University)

The role of social capital in influencing the resilience of farmers towards bovine tuberculosis

Rhiannon Fisher (Countryside and Community Research Institute)

Understanding the changing relationship between land and rural women in western Maharashtra, India

Girija Godbole (University of Cambridge)

Identity, tourism and inshore fishing in the English Channel and southern North Sea

Michaela Kennard (University of Greenwich)

Configuring Craft and Expertise: the contemporary rural geographies of dry-stone dyking in Scotland

Mhairi Paterson (University of Glasgow)

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<p>☞ Rural Geography Research Group AGM! Convenor Keith Halfacree Info: k.h.halfacree@swansea.ac.uk & Carol.Morris@nottingham.ac.uk</p>  <p><i>Vote on RGRG people & policies!</i></p>	<p>RGRG AGM</p>	<p>Wed 28 Aug</p>	<p>13:10-14:25 RGS-IBG Drayson Room</p>
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<p>Rural in the New Dawn. Convenor & Chair Sonja Rewhorn (University of Chester).</p>	<p>RGRG</p>	<p>Wed 28 Aug</p>	<p>Session 1.EEB-406</p>
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This session is inspired by the significant political changes that have occurred over recent years and the impacts and opportunities that these offer rural communities as we move into new dawn for rural geography or new frontier where we now live, rest and play. Over the past few years there has been significant change across the globe, for example, from the credit crunch, the 'Arab Spring' and changes in national governments. All these and many more will be impacting rural communities, both directly and as a result of policy decisions. With a focus on the latter, the impact and influence of policy decisions, it is worth asking how equitable are these impacts, what opportunities do these impacts offer rural communities and what are the current opportunities for strengthening rural communities?

Rural communities are often recognized for their innovation to address difficulties, for example accessing services, setting up micro-economies, enhancing community capacity and maintaining local governance. These successes are often described as having been achieved despite local, national and global politics. This new dawn as a result of the current period of significant local, national and global changes along with ever greater globalization is timely in strengthening rural as integral to socio-economic policy decisions. This integration can build on the existing successes of rural innovation, for example, form accessibility, community governance, multifunctionality and small and medium size enterprises to develop sustainable mechanisms for fair policy making. The alternative side of the discussion is that rural should become a niche commodity and be managed as such. This session, within the context of the timeliness of the new dawn of global, national and local politics, aims to discuss the opportunities or otherwise of greater equitable policy decisions for strengthening rural communities and what the new dawn for rural policy might look like.

Finding Direction: Exploring the Negotiation of Place Values in New Zealand's High Country
Ben Payne (University of Otago, New Zealand)

Activation of Rural Heritage; Tourism, Power and Development Strategies
Filipa Fernandes (Technical University of Lisbon, Portugal)

Online Networking and Rural Businesses
Leanne Townsend (University of Aberdeen)
Claire Wallace (University of Aberdeen)
Tim Norman (University of Aberdeen)

Exploring land ownership and community resilience in rural Scotland
Mike Woolvin (SRUC)
Sarah Skerratt (SRUC)

Strengthening Rural Equity: New Dawn Opportunity for Town and Parish Councils
Sonja Rewhorn (University of Chester)

The Rural Beyond Rurality (1): Borders of Representations. Convenor & Chair Keith Halfacree (Swansea University).	RGRG	Thu 29 Aug	Session 3. Skempton Building SKE-060c
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In the context of the overall conference theme of New Geographical Frontiers, this session is inspired by a desire to reflect upon, to question, to critique, and at times to subvert the accepted frontiers of 'the rural' within dominant geographical scholarship. Papers are invited from (almost) all perspectives that challenge and / or transgress accepted senses of the rural in these ways. For example, participants may wish to address such questions as:

- Where does the rural 'end' (and/or where does it 'begin')?
- What comprise the borderlands of the rural today and how do we access them?
- What may be understood by rurality 'within' the urban?
- What and how is the rural 'beyond representation'?
- What are the consequences of staying within what may seem like well established borders of the rural in the present day... and what are the consequences of crossing them into new, uncertain and unfamiliar terrains?

The session aims to demonstrate that, in spite of some popular representations, the rural today is not a residual anachronism somehow bypassed and increasingly erased by the creative destruction of 'progress' but a lively arena and resource for socio-cultural, economic and political expression. However, to appreciate this vitality we do at least sometimes need to venture 'beyond rurality'...

CURIOS: Reaching Beyond the Rural? The Digitisation of Community Heritage Archives

David Beel (University of Aberdeen)

Claire Wallace (University of Aberdeen)

Considering Policy Approaches to Rural England: The Role of Physical Boundaries

Andrew Grayson (University of Sheffield)

'Rurban' Borders: an Exploration of the Fluid and Transient Nature of 'Rural-Urban' and Even 'Rural-Rural' Boundaries

Susan Machum (St. Thomas University, Canada)

Altered Representations of Rurality and Sustainability in the Global South: Agri-Tourism in the

Mumbai Pune City-Regions

Rohit Madan (Cardiff University)

What is the Rural for Rural Women? Lay Discourses from Lived Experience

Mireia Baylina (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain)

Maria Dolors Garcia Ramon (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain)

Ana Maria Porto (Universidad de Santiago de Compostela, Spain)

Isabel Salamaña (University of Girona, Spain)

Montserrat Villarino (Universidad de Santiago de Compostela, Spain)

Rethinking Relational Rurals in Global Environmental Challenges

Michael Woods (Aberystwyth University)

The Rural Beyond Rurality (2): Practices Across and Within Borders. Convenor(s) Keith Halfacree (Swansea University). Chair Damian Maye (Countryside & Community Res. Inst.).	RGRG	Thu 29 Aug	Session 4. SKE-060c
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Researching Countryside Driving as Traversing the Borders of 'The Rural'

Rosie Hughes (University of Sheffield)

Beyond the Bucolic Rural: Robot Milking Barns and More-than-Human Co-productions of Interior Farming Spaces

Lewis Holloway (University of Hull)
 Christopher Bear (Cardiff University)

Consumer-Participatory Utilisation of Urban Farmlands and Commodification of Rurality: a Case Study of Nerima Ward, Tokyo

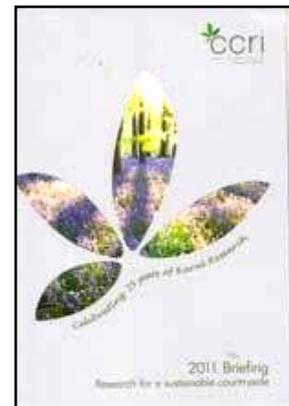
Ryo Iizuka (Tokyo Metropolitan University, Japan)
 Tadayuki Miyachi (Kokushikan University, Japan)
 Toshio Kikuchi (Tokyo Metropolitan University, Japan)
 Mitsuru Yamamoto (Saitama University, Japan)

New Nordic Rurality - Enacting Terroir as Rootless American Innovation or Soiled European Tradition

Kasper Ostrowski (Aarhus University, Denmark)

Conceptualising Short Chain Activities in City-Regions: Making the Case for Proactive Spatialised Governance

Damian Maye (Countryside and Community Research Institute)
 James Kirwan (Countryside and Community Research Institute)
 Nigel Clark (Lancaster University)
 Matt Reed (Countryside and Community Research Institute)
 Daniel Keech (University of Gloucestershire)



<p>Transgression proliferations: geographies of creative process-theory-practice boundary transition (nature-culture) (1). No1 – Practicing Landscapes. Convenors Owain Jones (Countryside and Community Research Institute), Daniel B. Kramer (Michigan State University, United States), Kaisa Schmidt-Thomé (Aalto University, Finland). Chair, Damian Maye (Countryside and Community Research Inst.).</p>	<p>RGRG</p>	<p>Fri 30 Aug</p>	<p>Session 1. Sherfield Building, Room 6 SHE-6</p>
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Walking, talking and art-making in landscapes: expressing landscape values through mobile and arts-based methods.

Amy Holden (University of Dundee)

Creative material practices as response-abilities: entanglings with food insecurities and vulnerable subjectivities.

Emma Roe (University of Southampton)
 Michael Buser (University of the West of England)
 Elizabeth Dinnie (The James Hutton Institute)

Some implications of boundary transition: two cases from housing/planning studies

Kaisa Schmidt-Thomé (Aalto University, Finland)

Boundaries from the outside: borrowing from anthropology into a dynamic characterization.

Miguel Torres Garcia (University of Manchester)

<p>Transgression proliferations: geographies of creative process-theory-practice boundary transition (nature-culture) (2). No.2 – Animals. Convenors Owain Jones (CCRi), Daniel Keech (University of Gloucestershire), Kaisa Schmidt-Thomé (Aalto Univ., Finland). Chair Emma Roe (University of Southampton).</p>	<p>RGRG</p>	<p>Fri 30 Aug</p>	<p>Session 2. SHE-6</p>
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Much of the import, richness and potential of ongoing performative life proliferates across inter-leaving registers, materials and processes. This is particularly so (but not exclusively) in relation to boundaries of emotion-memory-action; time; human-non-human; nature-culture. Alternative, interdisciplinary insights are needed as a starting point for understanding perception, experience and agency that do justice to a “more whole” understanding of the world and humanness created from interaction with the environment. If the world is experienced as action possibilities (instead of single states of affairs), the content/target of knowledge is how to find a way to a desired situation with the action possibilities of the current situation.

This means that valuation, social structures and emotions are embedded in all action, and as Dewey has put it, form the irreplaceable foundation of rationality.

What seems striking about contemporary (human) geographical frontiers are their permeability and almost furious dynamism. For example, economic globalisation (and oppositional local-ness), regional migrations and climate change challenge scale, place and political perceptions. The rate and frequency of 'natural' and 'human-created' environmental interactions – floods, fires, droughts, loggings, land-grabs, urbanisation – mean that our interpretations of urgency, memory, belonging and landscape are shaken up and (repeatedly) reconfigured.

Do we need to design creative ways to understand, celebrate and make use of diversity and hybridity, to allow passage-ways to be carved through the frontiers between action, identity, expression and place?

We seek creative geography endeavours (theoretical and/or empirical) that generate new renditions or practice particularly (but not exclusively) those based upon pragmatist and non-representational procedures, which emphasise boundary transition as a source of energy and world purchase/impact; particularly (but not exclusively) those trying to make sense of our cultural negotiations with nature: in it, with it and against it.

Creating Transgressive Art-Geographies: Crossing Frontiers Between Nature-Culture & Practice-Theory

Merle Patchett (University of Bristol)

“Its not about the birds only” - Tue Greenfort’s artistic practice as a presentation of alternative approaches to our cultural negotiation of the natural world.

Laura Mansfield (Manchester Metropolitan University)

Using video in interviews to discuss wildlife control options for bovine TB

Damian Maye (Countryside and Community Research Institute)

Geographies of badger BCG vaccination: excluding ‘the other’ down on the farm frontier

Philip Robinson (Durham University)

<p>Transgression proliferations: geographies of creative process-theory-practice boundary transition (nature-culture) (3). No.3 – Production Landscapes. Convenors Owain Jones (Countryside and Community Research Institute), Daniel Keech (University of Gloucestershire) & Kaisa Schmidt-Thomé (Aalto University, Finland). Chair, Schmidt-Thomé. Chair Kaisa Schmidt-Thomé.</p>	RGRG	Fri 30 Aug	Session 3. SHE-6
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More-than-human Geographies of Food: Milk and Honey

Barbara Schönher (King’s College London)

Processes of Life: Doing Food on an Allotment

Rebecca Sandover (University of Exeter)

The transgressive art-action-policy work of the environmental charity Common Ground: as retrospective appraisal

Owain Jones (Countryside and Community Research Institute)

Daniel Keech (University of Gloucestershire)

Bodies, self and scale; human/rubber vine relations in northern Australia

Jennifer Atchison (University of Wollongong, Australia)

Lesley Head (University of Wollongong, Australia)

Please check website for linked sessions & details!

1c. CAN YOU FILL THEIR SHOES? 9 RGRG POSTS UP FOR ELECTION
RGRG AGM RGS-IBG Drayson Room 30 Aug. 2013 Friday 13:10-14:25



<p>☛ Rural Geography Research Group (RGRG) - AGM. Convenor Keith Halfacree. Info: k.h.halfacree@swansea.ac.uk & Carol.Morris@nottingham.ac.uk Come & vote!</p>	<p>RGRG AGM</p>	<p>Wed 28 Aug</p>	<p>13:10-14:25 RGS-IBG Drayson Rm</p>
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RGRG members at 2012 AGM at Uni-Edinburgh. Back L-R incl. Sharon Flanigan, Ally Beale, Darren Smith, Michael Wood, Susanne Seymour. Front: Moya Kneafsey, Carol Morris and Keith Halfacree.
 Please come to decide RGRG challenges & opportunities for our rural futures

<p>AGM 2013 to decide 9 RGRG committee posts</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair: Dr Keith Halfacree k.h.halfacree@swansea.ac.uk Until 2013 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ordinary member: Mr Daniel Keech mdk1g09@soton.ac.uk Until 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secretary: Dr Carol Morris carol.morris@nottingham.ac.uk Until 2013 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ordinary member: Dr Ruth Little ruth.little@sheffield.ac.uk Until 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newsletter editor: Dr Bruce Scholten bruce.scholten@btopenworld.com & b.a.scholten@durham.ac.uk Until 2015 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ordinary member: Dr Sharon Flanigan sharon.flanigan@hutton.ac.uk Until 2013
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Treasurer: Dr Gareth Enticott enticottg@cardiff.ac.uk Until 2013 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ordinary member: Dr Moya Kneafsey m.kneafsey@coventry.ac.uk Until 2013
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Postgraduate representative: Mr Andy Grayson a.g.grayson@sheffield.ac.uk Until 2013 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ordinary member: Dr Natalie Beale n.beale@tees.ac.uk Until 2013
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Postgraduate representative: Ms Sonja Rewhorn s.rewhorn@chester.ac.uk Until 2013 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ordinary member: Dr Julie Urquhart j.urquhart@gre.ac.uk Until 2013

2. UNDERGRADUATE DISSERTATION WINNERS FROM 2011/12



Keith Halfacree notes that RGRG offers three annual prizes for Undergraduate dissertations on a broadly 'rural' theme. The prizes are modest financially (£30, £40, £50) but surely still nice to get! Dissertations for 2012/13 are being evaluated and will be announced in the Winter RGRG News: <http://www.rgs.org/OurWork/Research+and+Higher+Education/ResearchGroups/Research+Groups.ht>

Like last year the top award goes to a Durham student, and two 3rd prizes were awarded:

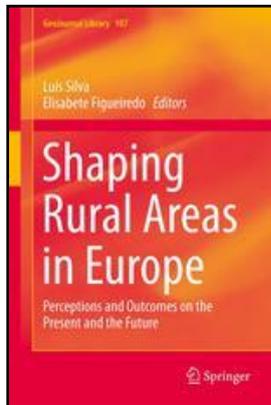
1st Joanna Lawrence, Durham University, *From Grass to Glass: a more-than-human geographical account of milk production on a family run farm in Cumbria*

2nd Frances Dixon, Aberystwyth University, *Factors Influencing Participation (and Non-participation) in the Glastir Agri-environment Scheme*

3rd Sean Gill, Newcastle University, *Polish Immigration to Otterburn, Northumberland*

3rd Kathryn Butterfield, University of Sheffield, *The Rural Stage: a walking tour beyond the scenery*

3. BOOKS & PUBLICATIONS



Shaping Rural Areas in Europe: Perceptions and Outcomes on the Present and the Future

Edited by Luís Silva (CRIA/FCSH-UNL, Centre for Research in Anthropology) & Elisabete Figueiredo (DCSPT, University of Aveiro)

GeoJournal Library, Volume 107 2013.

Publisher: Springer Netherlands:

<http://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-94-007-6796-6/page/1>

ISBN: 978-94-007-6795-9 (Print) 978-94-007-6796-6 (Online)

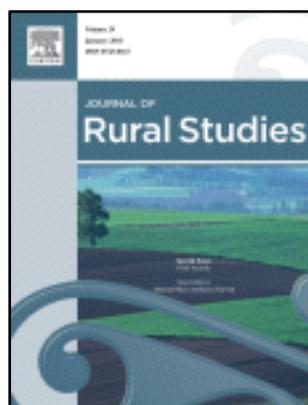
Table of Contents (16 chapters): Living in the Rural: New and Old Actors and Their Visions on Rurality. Running Wild in the Country?: Mobilising Rural In-Migration, by Keith Halfacree.

Translating Ex-Urban Dwellers' Rural Representations into Residential Practices and Rural Futures, by María Jesús Rivera. Perceptions and Appropriations of Discourses in the National Park Island of Ons (Galicia, Spain), by Juan Martín Dabezies & Paula Ballesteros-Arias. Having, Loving, Being in the Periphery: Interpretations of Locality in the National Landscape of Koli, Eastern Finland, by Eeva Uusitalo & Laura Assmuth. Projecting the 'Disadvantaged': Project Class, Scale Hopping and the Creation of Ruralities, by Alexandra Szőke.

Consuming and Representing the Rural. The Pastoral Ideal in Portugal: From Literature to Touristic Practices, by Luís Silva. Mediating Rurality, History and Exclusivity in Pousadas de Portugal, by Marta Lalanda Prista. McRural, No Rural or What Rural? – Some Reflections on Rural Reconfiguration Processes Based on the Promotion of Schist Villages Network, Portugal, by Elisabete Figueiredo. Connecting Food Memories with the Rural: The Case of Portuguese and British Consumers, by Mónica Truninger. Does the Countryside Still Feed the Country? Producing and Reproducing the Rural in Transylvania, by Árpád Töhötöm Szabó. In Search of the Rurban Idyll? Developing the Residential Rural Areas in Finland, by Pilvi Hämeenaho. The Foraged Countryside: Perceptions of Nature and Culture in Four Encounters with Fungi, by Maria Kennedy. The Rurality Reinvention Discourse: Urban Demands, Expectations and Representations in the Construction of an Urban Rurality Project, by Ana Matos Fernandes. Cross-Cultural Perceptions and Discourses Between Rural and Urban in Galicia, by Xerardo Pereiro & Santiago Prado. Concluding Remarks on Perceived and Lived Ruralities and the Future of Rural Europe by Luís Silva.

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Editor: A roster of seasoned food systems researchers contribute to this JRS special issue.



Journal of Rural Studies

Volume 29, Pages 1-138 (January 2013)

Food Security

**Special issue edited by Damian Maye (dmaye@glos.ac.uk)
& James Kirwan (jkirwan@glos.ac.uk)**

Damian Maye writes:

A new special issue on food security has been published in the *Journal of Rural Studies*. It provides a rural social science contribution to the food security debate. The papers focus on food security in the UK, Australia, New Zealand, the USA and Italy.

The special issue has its origins in two Rural Geography Research Group-sponsored sessions that were held at the RGS-IBG Annual Conference in London in September, 2010.

Editors (Damian Maye & James Kirwan) introduce the idea of 'fractured consensus' as a unifying theme. Here's a link to the *JRS* website: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/07430167/29>

Food security: A fractured consensus. Table of Contents:

Introduction, by Damian Maye & James Kirwan. Regionalizing food security? Imperatives, intersections and contestations in a post-9/11 world, by C. Clare Hinrichs.

Highlights: ► New concerns about food security risks prompt diverse interest in regional food systems and supply. ► A U.S. NGO, federal agency and food retail corporation each pursue regionalizing initiatives. ► Regionalizing initiatives reveal variable mixes of territorial and relational priorities. ► Risk framings of food security intersect across the three regionalizing initiatives. ► Priorities of community and food access, as well as institutional power, diverge.

Trade-off or convergence? The role of food security in the evolution of food discourse in Italy, by Gianluca Brunori, Vanessa Malandrin & Adanella Rossi. Food security in Australia in an era of neoliberalism, productivism and climate change, by Geoffrey Lawrence, Carol Richards & Kristen Lyons. A license to produce? Farmer interpretations of the new food security agenda, by Rob Fish, Matt Lobley & Michael Winter. Food security and the justification of productivism in New Zealand, by Christopher Rosin. Framing GM crops as a food security solution, by Jacqui Dibden, David Gibbs & Chris Cocklin.

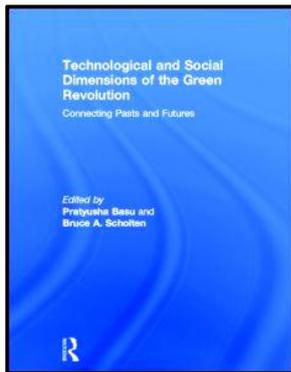
Highlights: ► We examine the proposed use of biotechnology in addressing food security. ► The contribution of genetically modified organisms to food security is contested. ► The concept of 'food security' reconstitutes biotechnology as a moral imperative. ► Debates about biotechnology and food security in the UK and Australia are compared.

The interconnected challenges for food security from a food regimes perspective: Energy, climate and malconsumption, by Colin Sage. Doubling food production to feed the 9 billion: A critical perspective on a key discourse of food security in the UK, by Isobel Tomlinson. Food security framings within the UK and the integration of local food systems, by James Kirwan & Damian Maye.

Highlights: ► Provides a critical interpretation of food security politics in the UK. ► Applies the notion of food security collective action frames. ► Local food systems are largely sidelined within "official" food security framings. ► Broadening framings beyond quantity can help accommodate social justice needs.

Consumers and food security: Uncertain or empowered? By Moya Kneafsey, Elizabeth Dowler, Hannah Lambie-Mumford, Alex Inman & Rosemary Collier. Beyond food security to realizing food rights in the US, by Molly D. Anderson. From post-productionism to reflexive governance: Contested transitions in securing more sustainable food futures, by Terry Marsden. Facing food security, by Patricia Allen

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**Technological and Social Dimensions of the Green Revolution
Connecting Pasts and Futures**

**Edited by Pratyusha Basu (University of South Florida)
& Bruce A. Scholten (Durham University)**

Published in hardback 11th April 2013 by Routledge
Hardback: £85.00. 106 pages
[Http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415815185/](http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415815185/)

Bruce Scholten writes: This book was previously published as a special issue of *International Journal of Agricultural Sustainability (IJAS)* (May 2012), based on Scholten & Charles Howie's 2010 RGRG sessions on Development in the Rural South: bioeconomic crises lead to 'new' ag revolutions at RGS-IBG 2010 London, and Scholten & Basu's sessions on Rural Prospects in a Globalising World at AAG 2011 Seattle.

Basu & Scholten insist concern for the Green Revolution in grains must not overlook the White Revolution in dairying which can not only produce 'additional' food with green crop wastes, but also trigger smallholder development. Thus, Green (grain), White (dairy), Yellow (oilseeds), and Blue (aquaculture) Revolutions can intersect, as they do in UN-FAO crops-livestock-fish-biogas projects. This can be seen as part of the Royal Society's concept of Intensive Sustainability – or of MS Swaminathan's Evergreen Revolution - to produce food for 9 billion people by 2050 without sacrificing more forest.

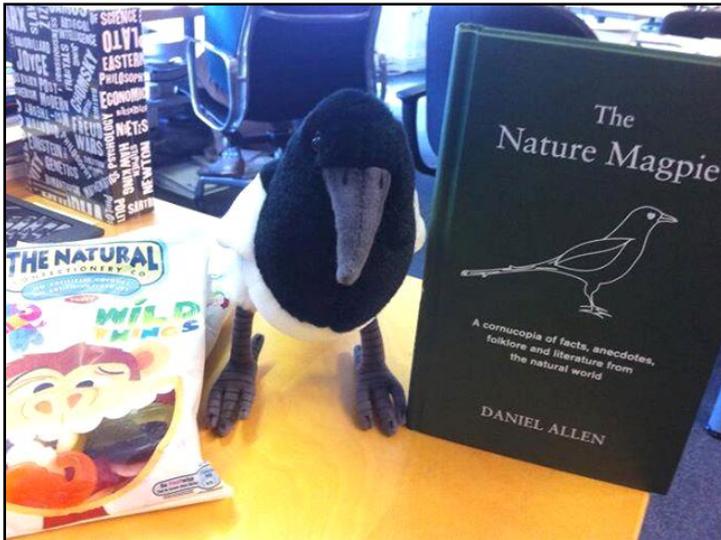
Rising concerns about agricultural productivity and food security in rapidly changing economic and environmental contexts have led to renewed interest in agricultural development. But the extent to which new policies and programs will enable socially just and environmentally sustainable futures for rural communities remains a matter of intense debate. This book contributes to such debates by critically examining the intersection of agricultural histories, heterogeneous social contexts and new technological developments in rural communities across the Global South. It shows how experiences of the previous Green Revolution can inform new agricultural programs and enable equitable and participatory development in rural places. Through close engagement with rural communities, this book ensures that rural voices become part of the debate on agricultural development and suggests pathways for building on the gains of the Green Revolution without necessarily repeating its problematic social, technological and environmental aspects.

Table of Contents: 1. Introduction: Technological and social dimensions of the Green Revolution: connecting pasts and futures, by Basu & Scholten. 2. Selling Guatemala's next Green Revolution: agricultural modernization and the politics of GM maize regulation, by James Klepek. 3. Evaluating the Green Revolution after a decade: a Swaziland case study, by Alan Terry. 4. Malawi's agricultural input subsidy: study of a Green Revolution-style strategy for food security, by Marie Javdani. 5. Challenges for under-utilized crops illustrated by ricebean (*Vigna umbellata*) in India and Nepal, by Peter Andersen. 6. Crop–livestock systems in rural development: linking India's Green and White Revolutions, by Basu & Scholten. 7. Growing inequality: agricultural revolutions and the political ecology of rural development, by Lucy Jarosz.



Photo: Martha Young-Scholten. Anand, India, 1998

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The Nature Magpie: A Cornucopia of Facts, Anecdotes, Folklore and Literature from the Natural World (Icon)

Published 2 May 2013

Hardcover: 224 pages
 Publisher: Icon Books Ltd
 £8.96 from WH Smith

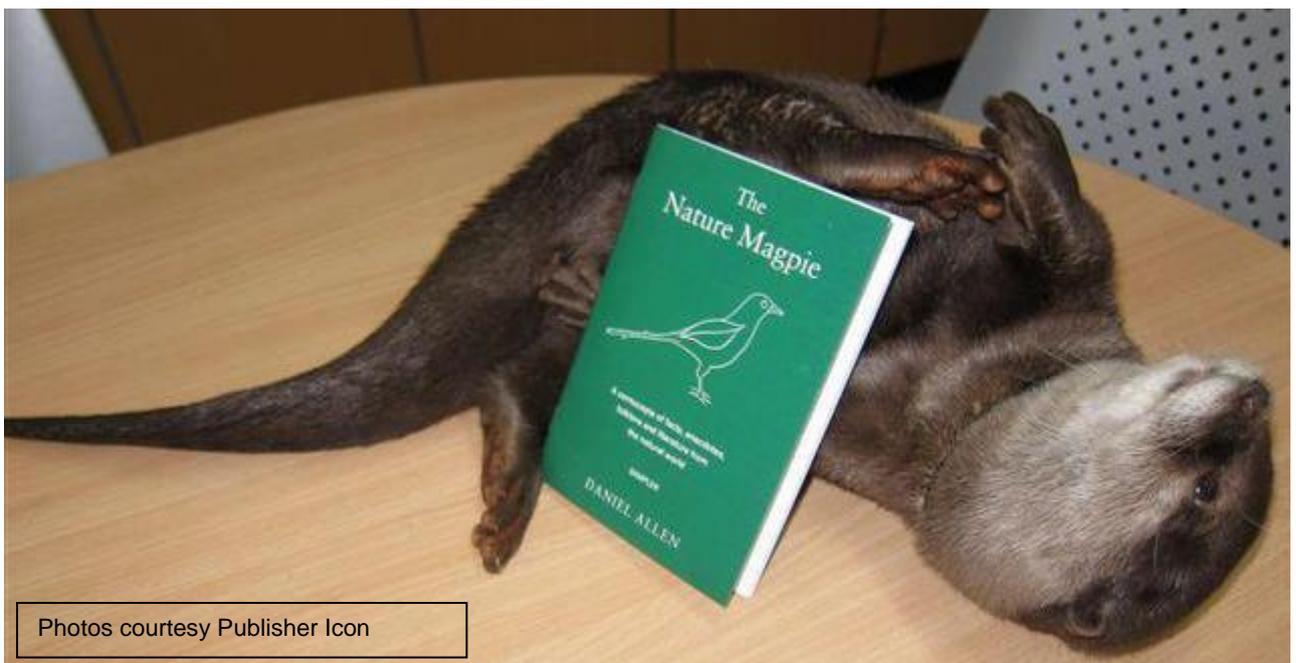
ISBN-10: 1848315333
 ISBN-13: 978-1848315334
 ISBN 10: 1848315333
 Illustrations & Other Content

Thanks to Keith Halfacree for suggesting this book. It may attract Newcastle United fans – and help the rest of us lighten up, too.

Publisher's blurb: Released on May 2, 2013. It's a unique collection, informed by my academic interests, but accessible enough to excite a broad readership. It's quirky, thought-provoking and humorous with a serious conservation message.

Dr Desmond Morris has already described the book as "A miscellany that keeps you turning the pages". Professor Bill Adams added: "The Nature Magpie is seductively readable, a delightful and constantly surprising compendium of facts about nature."

Dr Daniel Allen was an expert juror for ITV's British Animal Honours 2013. His first book, Otter (Reaktion Books, 2010), was described by Virginia McKenna OBE as 'the most brilliant mix of facts ancient and modern about the otter species'. Daniel has written for magazines such as The Field and is a regular columnist for Small Furry Pets and Practical Reptile Keeping. In 2006 he gained a PhD in Human Geography from the University of Nottingham, and went on to lecture at Keele University. More information about Daniel's expertise and availability can be found on his personal website www.drdanielallen.co.uk



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4. Feature: Fieldwork in Beni Isguen oasis, Algeria, North Africa

By Nejm Benessaiah

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I started my doctoral fieldwork in autumn 2012. As a short version of the story... After receiving my ethnobotany MSc for work in the oases of Morocco, I was so enthralled with the idea of continuing that I decided to carry on and do a PhD, moving to Algeria, the place of my paternal ancestry. Beginning last autumn, it has been a continual journey of discovery to find the place and people my grandfather emigrated from to Tunisia, as a young Islamic Sufi scholar, to finally teach in the great Jemaa Zitoun mosque in the Tunisian capital.

The descendants of my ancestors still live among the dunes, sometimes with sand replacing flooring in the houses. Camels still come and try to steal nibbles of vegetables growing near the trees.

Date palms are still the staple, and still form the core of my studies, about cultural understandings and strategies for living amongst ecological, cultural and political changes in the Sahara. I decided to focus my studies after travelling most of the entire Algerian Sahara to a town more geographically central, closer to the great Atlas, in a place called Beni Isguen.



Oasis near my Grandfather's home in El Oued.

The people here are Mzabi (Zenata) Berbers of the Ibadia religion, an offshoot of the Kharajites. As such they have been historically quite isolated, and only recently more accepted into Algerian society due to religious differences.



Ancient town of Beni Isguen.

The people here are Mzabi (Zenata) Berbers of the Ibadia religion, an offshoot of the Kharajites. As such they have been historically quite isolated, and only recently more accepted into Algerian society due to religious differences. They migrated here 1000 years, looking for a safe place to avoid marauding nomads, being a peaceful, trading people. They did set up links, however with the nomads, by effectively financing the slave trade, being the link between the central trade route between Timbuktu and Algiers (my own ancestors may well have been the nomadic slavers that interacted with them from Oued Righ, or at least the slavery of people's souls, as Islamic priests, as I have recently learned, to my sorrow).

The area is designated a world heritage site for architecture and culture as the building work is truly stunning, in the oasis and town. The people are very friendly and it's the easiest place to hitch a ride anywhere that I've ever been. The community is quite tightly-knit despite modernising pressures, and strives to maintain traditions, men still have the same white robes and baggy trousers of the Turks, and women are covered by white sheets revealing only an eye, and customs such as social exclusion, called tebria, exist as a system of shame, where no-one must interact with a person who has done wrong for a period of time, until the mosque decrees their release. Minor wrong-doing can include having too much gold in the dowry or raucous music at the weddings, thus breaking the social code which sets the standards for all, thereby



Shooting model guns at a wedding.

(attempting to) ensure the highly valued quality of equality of all members. Equality is a tricky concept when it comes to other ethnicities in the area, as before it was just Mzabis and their slaves, and now there are immigrants from the North, and Sahelian work migrants from the South. Ex-slaves were incorporated into families and are now independent, a common practice in North Africa. A few days ago they celebrated the recently resurrected rite of Baba Merzoug. The story goes that seven black Mzabis asked their Ashira (tribe) for white wives. The White Mzabis were not able to refuse them outright, so they took them to an isolated spot, and slaughtered them. Black male and female Mzabis still congregate on this spot in separate groups in May every year to remember their own distinct cultural roots, with feasting, music and (un-Islamic) trance.



Sharing dates and tea with Nourreddine.

I am more directly involved with farmers and date palm climbers, looking at knowledge and coping strategies to regular and unexpected shocks to the agroecosystem, looking at the effects of old and new techniques, and the systems of organised community management of resources. They have devised an ingenious irrigation system to deal with the totally

unpredictable floods that come and water the ground, recharge the underlying aquifer, and flush out the salts that build up in the earth due to evaporation under the hot sun, which can reach 50 degrees (122 fahrenheit). Water is pulled up by wells the rest of time. French colonial engineers on inspecting the complex system which resembles a circuit board (with the opening to each garden finely calibrated to plot size and number of date palms) agreed that it could not be improved.



Mohamed Seba transplanting an orange tree.

They used to have communal reciprocal work, as in many places in the world, where farmers spend time on each other's farms doing work that needs many hands, followed by a small feast. Sadly this practice has all but died out as people need money for more expensive commodities like water pumps and electricity. Many people still do communal work however, such as cleaning water ditches and river beds of litter, as guided by the mosque. It has been a truly rich experience, I have made wonderful friends and I hope to continue to be of service to them long into the future.



Taking notes atop the highest watchtower.

5. NEWS

 **Conference: Foodscapes: Access to Food – Excess of Food**
Seggau Castle, Austria – September 22-25, 2013 <http://foodscapesgraz.wordpress.com/>



The first Foodscapes conference is organized by the Department of Geography and Regional Science, University of Graz, with support of EU LEADER regions Vulkanland and Almenland (Styria) in cooperation with the Agro-Food Network, in the Castle of Seggau, in Southern Styria, 40 km from Graz. Keynote speakers include: Julie Guthman and Melissa Caldwell (University of California, Santa Cruz); Mara Miele (Cardiff University); David Evans, (Manchester University); and Mike Goodman (King's College, London). Foodscapes focuses on "Access to Food – Excess of Food, the contradictions of modern industrialized food production, circulation, and consumption.

- Accommodation: <http://www.seggau.com/> Book : schloss@seggau.com Tel.: +43 (0) 34 52 / 82 4 35-7235 or -7234. Mention Foodscapes. Single room: € 72 night w/breakfast. Double € 57.
- Ulrich Ermann, Renate Renner, Annalisa Colombino, (Department of Geography and Regional Studies, University of Graz) ulrich.ermann@uni-graz.at; renate.renner@uni-graz.at; annalisa.colombino@uni-graz.at

 **Conference on New Rural Perspectives and Themes, Nov. 15-16, 2013, Uni-Bamberg, FRG.**

RGRG members will be presenting at this conference which will explore current theoretical and cultural dimensions of rural scholarship, and how they help to frame rurality and space. How rurality affects social, economic, environmental and political dynamics will be considered. The conference has a range of international speakers and will be in English. RGRG members have co-organised the event along with the Universities of Mainz, Bamberg and Erlangen and the German Geographical Society. The committee of the RGRG is grateful to RGS-IBG for a small travel grant. **More info: Dan Keech at CCRI: dkeech@glos.ac.uk**
or: <http://www.geographie.uni-erlangen.de/aktuell/tagungen/rurality-conference.html>



Image: Uni-Erlangen-Nürnberg

RGRG Newsletter invites your contributions to the Winter 2013 edition.

Deadline is 15th December. Please send reports & photos from AAG or RGRG events, advice, awards, book reviews, features, fieldwork, or jobs to Editor: bruce.scholten@btopenworld.com



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Thanks! to Steven Allan, Web Coordinator at Durham University Geography Dept.

