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Happy Summer - Exeter University, setting for the 2015 RGS-IBG international meeting, has one of the loveliest campuses in the world. Exeter hosted RGRG's 2004 Anglo-German meeting with past heads Henry Buller - and Guy Robinson whose new co-edited *Handbook on the Globalisation of Agriculture* leads the book section. Below please find RGRG sessions and abstracts. More details in last issue:



<https://www.dur.ac.uk/resources/geography/rgrg/RGRGNewsWINTER2014-152mar15.pdf>

See you at the RGRG AGM during lunch, Sep. 3rd when 1-2 Postgrad Reps & the next Newsletter editor will be elected. Good luck to the new editor!

Meanwhile, Sonja Rewhorn challenges you to the RGRG Photo Contest. Get snapping! It could be you winning at the RGRG Social later that evening (below).

Best wishes – Bruce, Editor 2009-15, *RGRG Newsletter* (<http://durham.academia.edu/BruceScholten>)

1. RGS-IBG Exeter 1-4 Sep. 2015: RGRG AGM, social & photo competition



RGRG Countryside in the City Snap Competition 2015



In groups go around Exeter and snap shots on your mobile device of something you see as countryside in the city – the rural in the urban. **Please be careful of the traffic!**

- Rules are simple – there's no right or wrong; it's your image that is important. Judges' decision final.
- Bring your photos to the Farmers Union, 10 Queens Terrace, EX4 4HR from 7.30pm, Sep. 3. **Best snap of the night announced 10pm.**



Email competition snaps: s.rewhorn@chester.ac.uk



Photos will appear in next *RGRG Newsletter*.

See 2014 photos: <https://www.dur.ac.uk/resources/geography/rgrg/RGRGNewsWINTER2014-152mar15.pdf>

RGRG ANNUAL SOCIAL GET TOGETHER
Thursday 3rd September 2015.....from 730pm
The Farmers Union 10 Queens Terrace, Exeter EX4 4HR

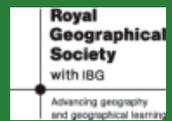


Look out for our reserved tables!



Quizzes & Photo Competitions!

<http://www.thefarmersunion.co.uk/>



**The Farmers Union
 10 Queen's Terrace
 EX4 4HR.
 Not far from
 Exeter Train
 Station on B3138**



British allotment gardens und die Deutsche Schrebergärten learn from each other.

2. Anglo-German research

In 2013, a number of RGRG members presented at a rural geography conference at Otto Friedrich University in Bamberg, Germany, for which RGS-IBG provided some financial support. The conference was hosted by Prof Marc Redepenning. Following this contact, Marc and RGRG member Dan Keech (University of Gloucestershire/CCRI) have secured a small networking grant from the Bavarian government. The grant will fund reciprocal exchange visits to Bath and Bamberg in September 2015, with a view to developing more substantial joint research in future.

Key focus points of these visits will be:

- * how commercial urban, peri-urban and rural-to-urban horticulture in these two cities is organised
- * the socio-cultural factors that motivate people to be active in forms of urban horticulture
- * how urban and peri-urban horticulture influences perceptions of local and regional identity, including through tourism
- * what perceptions local people have about the benefits of short food supply chains
- * how municipal and regional politics influence these issues

Socio-cultural explanations seem desirable to expand the technical findings and policy insights gleaned from the recent FP7 research project SUPURBfood (www.supurbfood.eu) in which CCRI was a partner.

For more details, contact Dan Keech <dkeech@glos.ac.uk> or stop me at the RGS conference on 2nd Sept.

Dr Daniel Keech
Research Fellow, CCRI
University of Gloucestershire
Tel: 01373 451402 (Mon, Wed, Fri) or 01242 714131 (Tues & Thurs) Skype: daniel.keech1

3. FEATURE: Mekong Success - Improved livelihoods with low input rice in Vietnam



Text & Photos: Dr Nguyen Van Kien, Director, Research Centre for Rural Development, An Giang University, nvkien@agu.edu.vn or kiananu@gmail.com

Editor: Dr Charles Howie FRGS, Visiting Fellow, Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester, England
chowie@rau.ac.uk

Transformation of the landscape in the Mekong Delta Vietnam over the last 30 years, from low-lying fields to walled compartments, has enabled provinces to intensify rice production from one low-yielding crop per year, grown in seasonally rising flood waters, to three crops of high yielding, short duration, rice per year.

But this has come at a cost. Farmers use much larger quantities of fertilizer and other chemicals, and they have not benefitted proportionately from this increased production.

Chau Phu District had around 18,000 hectares (ha) of floating rice before the 1990s, but it is now nearly extinct, with less than 100 ha. remaining in An Giang Province. In 2013, a research team from the Research Center for Rural Development (RCRD) of An Giang University found only 46 ha cultivated by poor farmers in two communes of Tri Ton district. Since then RCRD has co-designed a series of action research activities with farmers, local authorities, business and NGOs as well as international research organizations in order to conserve this important agro-ecological system.

Floating rice-based systems in An Giang Province

Formerly, farmers received [only] VND 5-6,000/kg for unmilled rice, but at the harvest in January 2014, farmers sold their unmilled rice for VND 14,000/kg (milled rice sold for VND 25,000/kg). The entire crop was sold at the farm gates, apart from a small amount retained as seed for the following season.

Interestingly, farmers' income has improved significantly due to the increase in price as well as greater demand. This appears to contradict conventional economic theories of demand and supply, where normally as price goes up, demand goes down. For the floating rice, as the price has risen so has demand. The rice was apparently bought by rich households to store for home consumption year- round. Some local business people also bought rice to make gifts to their close customers. In Vietnam's growing middle class, it is possible that more people are becoming aware of the benefits of zero or low chemical input crops and are making a life style choice by buying this rice.

The conservation effort of RCRD and its partners is having spillover effects. From only 46 ha of floating rice grown in 2013, this increased to 92 ha in 2014, and should exceed 100 ha in 2015. Leaders and farmers of neighbouring Chau Phu district have requested the RCRD research team to investigate potential sites for recovery of floating rice areas. In 2015, a mid-level compartment of 43 ha in Chau Phu district, where two crops of high yield rice varieties are grown, was returned to a single crop of floating rice.

The Leader of An Phu district, near the Cambodian border, also has strong incentives to shift 10,000 ha of agricultural lands (3 communes) back to floating rice as an adaptation to floods. Transforming back from walled compartments to open fields creates room for flood waters and would operate as a safety mechanism during high water levels.

There are signs that farmers and decision makers recognize the negative consequences of high dikes. Therefore, recovery of traditional agro-ecological floating rice based systems is an alternative for improving local livelihoods and nutrition in the long run.



An Giang University finds traditional floating rice can enhance livelihoods, nutrition & flood resilience.

4. BOOKS

Handbook on the Globalisation of Agriculture

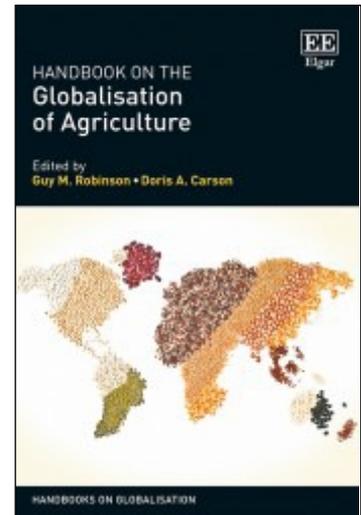
Handbooks on Globalisation series

(2015) UK and USA: Edgar Elgar Publishing

Edited by Guy M. Robinson, Director, Centre for Rural Health and Community Development, University of Adelaide, Australia and



Doris A. Carson, Department of Geography and Economic History, Umeå University, Sweden and Centre for Rural Health and Community Development University of South Australia



This Handbook provides insights to the ways in which globalisation is affecting the whole agri-food system from farms to the consumer. It covers themes including the physical basis of agriculture, the influence of trade policies, the nature of globalised agriculture, and resistance to globalisation in the form of attempts to foster greater sustainability and multifunctional agricultural systems. Drawing upon studies from around the world, the Handbook will appeal to a broad and varied readership, across academics, students, and policy-makers interested in economics, trade, geography, sociology and political science.

‘Guy Robinson and Doris Carson have assembled a wonderfully comprehensive and timely book that both reveals and joins together the many and varied elements of diverse contemporary agriculture and food production systems. The book stands as a valuable scan of the diverse forces and processes of change in agriculture and also makes visible, through its various and well-chosen case analyses, the abiding and sometimes colliding roles of structure, agency, power and place in shaping farm and food futures.’

– John Smithers, University of Guelph, Canada

‘An excellent, timely and innovative contribution to the wide-ranging debates on the globalisation of agriculture. The book brings together a wide array of authors who approach agricultural globalisation issues from various angles spanning both the social and natural sciences, including key contributions on agriculture/environment issues, food security challenges, policy regimes, transnational corporations, and challenges of an increasingly globalised agriculture.’

– Geoff A. Wilson, Plymouth University, UK

RGRG Editor: Highlights include an article by GATT-WTO economist Kym Anderson. Former RGRG head Guy Robinson’s introduction to the Handbook with co-editor Doris Carson makes good reading for students and academics. Other RGRG-linked authors are Pratyusha Basu, James Klepek, Bruce Scholten, Brian Ilbery and Damian Maye.

Contents: <http://www.e-elgar.com/shop/handbook-on-the-globalisation-of-agriculture>



5. RGS-IBG Exeter 1-4 Sep. 2015: RGRG sessions & abstracts

Conference Chair, Professor Sarah Whatmore (University of Oxford) on its theme: ‘The Anthropocene has been claimed to herald a new geological epoch in which human society is acknowledged as having become the greatest force shaping planet earth. Although its recognition as a new age in geological history remains provisional... it has given rise to the ‘post-disciplinary’ ambitions of an Earth Systems Science that presents the integrative role of geography with new challenges...’

➔ Check website for updates!	
<i>Http://conference.rgs.org/Conference/Sessions/SearchResults.aspx?conference=AC2015&rg=RGRG</i>	
Convenor(s)	Title
Dr Linda Price, Dr Dan Keech & Professor Owain Jones (co-sponsor Gender & Feminist Geographies Research Group) WED 02 Sep, Session 1, 09:00-10:40. Session 2, 11:10-12:50.	Losing Ground – Gaining Ground. The Emotional, Affective & Gendered Consequences of Loss / Recovery of Nature, Home & Place in Rural Modern / Non-modern Settings
Dr Richard Yarwood & Dr Keith Halfacree WED 02 Sep, Session 1, 09:00-10:40.	Music of the Rural / The Rural of Music: Folk & Beyond
Ms Sonja Rewhorn WED 02 Sep, Session 3, 14:40-16:20. Session 4, 16:50-18:30.	Fairness & Social Justice for Rural Communities
Dr Imogen Bellwood-Howard WED 02 Sep, Session 4, 16:50-18:30.	Implications of Global Agricultural Networks
RGRG AGM, 03.Sep, THUR 13:10-14:25	RGRG AGM, Plenary & lunch. Forum Seminar Rm 10. Vote early! Vote often!
	
Ms Michaela Kennard & Mr Rory Hill. FRI, 04.Sep, Session 1, 09:00-10:40; Session 2, 11:10-12:50; Session 3, 14:40-16:20.	New & Emerging Rural Researchers
Ms Sonja Rewhorn & Professor Derek France (co-sponsor Higher Education Research Grp). FRI, 04.Sep, Session 3, 14:40-16:20.	Social Media & Mobile Technology – the New Era for Learning, Teaching & Communication

8	Losing Ground – Gaining Ground. The Emotional, Affective & Gendered Consequences of Loss / Recovery of Nature, Home & Place in Rural Modern / Non-modern Settings (1): Finding and Losing Identity in (Remote) Rural Communities
Affiliation	Rural Geography Research Group Gender and Feminist Geographies Research Group
Convenor(s)	Linda Price (Queen's University Belfast, UK) Daniel Keech (University of Gloucestershire, UK) Owain Jones (Bath Spa University, UK)
Chair(s)	Linda Price (Queen's University Belfast, UK)
Timetable	Wednesday 02 September 2015, Session 1 (09:00 - 10:40)
Room	Forum - Seminar Room 6
Session abstract	The session investigates processes and relationships of nature-culture assemblages in 'ecologies of place' of the Anthropocene. For example resulting from biodiversity degradation; displacement of aboriginal people and cultures; displacement of modern communities through conflict or ecological crisis; through gradual demographic and technological shifts from 'traditional' to neo-productivist agri-culture and rural-urban migration. Such shifts manifest themselves at geo-social scales ranging from, individual, family, community to ethnic groups. Through them run common threads/questions about failures of successful performance of gender identity and personhood potentially leading to suicide, depression, physical ill health and addiction. The session will explore how these experiences/memories have been expressed in art, literature, media culture, new nature writing. It seeks to engage with such narrative expressions for what we can learn about feelings of belonging/unbelonging, subsequent attachment/detachment from the visceral qualities of the land; of sense of place/up-rootedness and from land/soil; dis/connections to past generations in geology, flora and fauna. Thus papers are encouraged focussing on the extent to which gendered sensory embodiment 'in' the seasonal rhythms of land/nature result in diminution of a mind-body, human-nature split and, vitally, what can be learned from arts and culture about opportunities for renewing personal, gendered identities when displacements and spatial and emotional changes occur.

Learning to live and love in rural New Zealand
Anne Galloway (Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand)

This project examines the author's first year living in Reikorangi, a rural community located in the Akatarawa Valley of New Zealand's North Island. Māori "owners" sold two-thirds of the Reikorangi basin to the Crown in 1891, and the following two decades saw much of the bush cleared for Pākehā dairy farmers. The population declined in the 1960s, and today most of the land not used for pastoral and recreational farming is being restored to, and protected as, native bush. Part of a continuing methodological experiment, I combine arts and design-derived research methods with sensory ethnographic practice to present word, image and sound-based explorations in affective and more-than-human geographies. Here, participant observation and interviews with local smallholders are supplemented with creative personal reflections to describe the experience of learning how to "properly" care for the land, water, plants and animals. Recurrent research themes addressed in this presentation include the socio-economic backgrounds of local smallholders, what it means to be a "steward" of the land, and the often complex relations between people and the animals and plants seen to "belong" and ones seen as "pests" to be eradicated. Finally, I consider the broader implications of this particular manifestation of the "good life."

The dynamics of nature-culture assemblages around natural World Heritage Sites: Ecologies of place around the Galapagos and St Kilda archipelagos

Daisy Sutcliffe (University of Glasgow, UK)

World Heritage Sites attempt to conserve and preserve 'pockets of the present', both natural and cultural, for the future of all the peoples of the world irrespective of the territory on which they are located. Situated in United Nations rhetoric, with associated assumptions about geopolitics and an inherent distinction between nature and culture, the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) is responsible for designating World Heritage Sites, which are often presented as being a 'recovery of nature'. Conservation must address complex assemblages of inhabitants of the Site, often highlighting tensions between concepts of property ownership, livelihoods, habitats and 'natural' processes. UNESCO encourages local participation in the conservation of cultural and natural heritage, which can highlight these tensions. In practice, engagement with World Heritage Sites often seeks to tap into the emotional and affective responses that people have to these iconic places on the premise that if people care about a place, they will contribute to its conservation. In this talk I will use my recent empirical research in the Galapagos and St Kilda to explore these ideas using the interdisciplinary methodological approaches that I have experimented with. I will then adventure further into some of the theories surrounding the concepts of nature and culture, art and science, belonging, and local and global communities that have been highlighted during my research.

Madreterra, Mother-earth, Motherland: Precarity, Nativism and Crisis in the New Borderlands of "Fortress Europe"

Alessandro Tiberio (University of California, Berkeley, USA)

In this paper I explore the effects of the 2008 crisis on the rise of nativist, xenophobic and neo-fascist sentiments among European youth, focusing on young Italians involved in the booming back-to-the-land movements around the border-town of Trieste and across the newly-opened borderlands of Italy, Slovenia and Croatia. While in 2007 the Schengen area of free trade and movement expanded beyond the old Iron Curtain borders, in 2008 Europe was hit by the most damaging economic crisis in decades. Since then, groups of Trieste's highly-mobile unemployed or precariously employed youth, in order to cope with both personal and professional crisis, have reopened hundreds of abandoned gardens along and across the old borders as community centers, de-institutionalized mental health centers, and ecological villages. Among them, radical no-global activism and communitarian spirit today coexist with growing xenophobic sentiments, as they increasingly support anti-EU and anti-immigration populist movements and the strong nativist group Free Trieste, arguing for the independence of the city from Italy and reclaiming "ancestral lands" now part of Slovenia and Croatia. They in fact claim to be going back to a "madre terra" (in the double sense of "mother Earth" and "motherland") that is gendered and romanticized as pure, safe and immobile. My paper explores the ways in which nativist fantasies crumble in their hands, as new relationships between a schizophrenic self and a dynamic earth are renegotiated in everyday material encounters. In the context of the recent rightward shift in many parts of "Fortress Europe", my project in fact builds on an understanding of "borderlands" as spaces of inescapable encounter with difference, critically challenging reductive views of contemporary Europe as a monolithic fortress.

Discussant Daniel Keech (University of Gloucestershire, UK)

Open Discussion led by Session Chair.

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4 Music of the Rural / The Rural of Music: Folk & Beyond

Affiliation Rural Geography Research Group

Convenor(s) Keith Halfacree (Swansea University, UK)

4	Music of the Rural / The Rural of Music: Folk & Beyond
Chair(s)	Richard Yarwood (Plymouth University, UK) Keith Halfacree (Swansea University, UK) Richard Yarwood (Plymouth University, UK)
Timetable	Wednesday 02 September 2015, Session 1 (09:00 - 10:40)
Room	Forum - Seminar Room 2
Session abstract	<p>Any talk of an Anthropocenic era must accord within it a key place for culture in all of its guises as a – perhaps the - primary human medium through which people’s impact on the planet is directed, experienced and understood. This session narrows this overview to a concern with the spaces of the rural and the cultural expression of music. There are strong connections between music and rurality, at least in the popular imagination. Most obviously ‘folk music’ is often associated with the countryside and the lives of rural people. The countryside has also been evoked in pastoral symphonies, portrayed in sound tracks and sampled in dance music. Music can help shape rural spaces through, for example, the siting of festivals or place marketing.</p> <p>Building on growing interest in the geographies of music, we encourage geographers to take part in a session to explore the relationship between rurality and music. We do not wish to be too proscriptive but some issues this session may seek to engage with include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how music expresses the rural and rural change; • the ways in which musical production has been moulded through a rural setting; • the contribution of music to the imagination and performance of rural space; • folk revivals; • the performance of rurality and musical performance; • how music is deployed to articulate rural lives; • musicians’ influence on shaping emerging rural worlds; • music and rural politics; • the spaces of rural music; • music festivals.

The Branded Landscapes of Music Festivals in the UK: Sponsorship, Ideology and the Rural
Chris Anderton (Southampton Solent University, UK)

The post-Millennial expansion of music festivals in the UK has been accompanied by a marked upsurge in sponsorship and branding activities. These sponsorship and branding activities provide the necessary financial and marketing support required by many events in order to survive in an increasingly competitive and saturated market, but they also raise questions regarding the ‘true meaning’ of festivals. In particular, there is a tension between a once prevailing understanding of music festivals as spaces of countercultural critique and alternative models of living in the country, and their contemporary position as important leisure and tourist resources that are positively mediated through radio, television, magazines and the internet. This tension is perhaps felt most keenly at rock and pop music festivals held in rural locations, where historical associations with the hippie counterculture and New Age Travellers of the 1970s and 1980s have created long-lasting social, cultural and political stereotypes and ideologies. The post-Millennial period has also seen the growth of small ‘boutique’ music festivals which often serve niche markets and tie into those social, cultural and political stereotypes and ideologies in various ways. This paper will examine how music festivals and sponsors of various sizes have created branded rural landscapes that not only communicate and negotiate ideologies related to the hippie counterculture, but also link into changing imaginaries of the rural.

Local Music, Dance and Festivals in the Rural Areas of the Eastern Black Sea Region, Turkey
Mehmet Somuncu (University of Ankara, Turkey)
Serdar Ceylan (University of Ankara, Turkey)

The Eastern Black Sea Region in NE Turkey is a mountainous area where livestock husbandry and transhumance are important economic activities. During summer, villagers move into yaylas where there is pasturage for their herds. Transhumance begins with the hot weather in early summer, and in those cool yaylas the herders live in traditional wood homes, returning to their villages with the approach of autumn. These characteristics of the region have shaped the lifestyle of the people, and made an impact on local music and dance. For instance, music played with Tulum and Kemence, two local instruments of the area, is very active and alive. The local music, in the form of pastoral folk songs, describes the natural beauty and human relationships with mountains, meadows and yaylas. Dance in the Eastern Black Sea Region, called Horon, is spirited, quick, nervous, once again reflecting the character of people. Yayla festivals have been celebrated traditionally for hundreds of years in the summer season as part of the transhumance culture. During the festivals, people dance accompanied by local instruments all day without interruption, sometimes till midnight. Every year festivals are celebrated in the majority of yaylas of the region. In recent years,

tourism companies have organized special tours to participate in these festivals. This paper is based on authors' field work in the region, which aims to evaluate the local music, dance and festivals in the rural area of the Eastern Black Sea Region of Turkey.

The Construction of a Rural Reality in Irish Traditional Music Practice

Verena Commins (National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland)

The rurality of Irish traditional music is an enduring trope of its revival and remains a significant element within contemporary narratives and performance practices. While its revival is conceivably an urban-based phenomena, the rural, as the 'authentic' home of Irish traditional music continues to be reified through discourse and scholarship, which cites in particular the rural origins and music-making contexts of past performance. This paper argues for a rural re-turn in performance practice in 1973, signalled by the initiation of the Willie Clancy Summer School (WCSS). The largest and most significant week-long immersion course in Irish traditional music, it takes place annually in the small, rural town of Miltown Malbay in Co. Clare. The paper explores how the rural location of the School is utilised at numerous levels in the production of an authentic site for the transmission, performance and commemoration of Irish traditional music. At the WCSS, tradition is constructed by highlighting the importance of previous generations, privileging and commemorating past performers and the rural genesis and context of their music-making practices, thereby celebrating something older and less progressive. Through the patronage of the WCSS, the rural, indigenous and old-fashioned qualities previously associated with Irish traditional music and formative in its demise, now inscribe an authenticity which formulates an integral basis for this music's international attention and acceptability.

"There's a Western Skyline that I swear I can see": Americana's Stories of Contemporary Rural Lives

Keith Halfacree (Swansea University, UK)

The arts overall, and popular music within them, are now widely acknowledged as useful sources of insights into the geographical imagination. This paper proposes that the musical genre known as Americana, emergent from a synthesis of post-1945 'roots' and folk styles, has much to tell us of the contemporary rural social geographies of the US and Canada. As mostly a maverick, mutable and marginal musical genre, not least reflecting the punk and 'alternative country / folk' backgrounds of many of its artists, Americana tends to shun the urban and leisured sites found today at the core of popular music. It favours, instead, the forgotten or overlooked spaces of small city, town and rural locations, and focuses on the equally marginal and precarious lives of their residents. Yet, from out of the gloom, the genre also expresses a strong sense of individual survival and even articulates an underlying current of utopian hope for a brighter future. All of these issues are illustrated in the paper largely through the music and writings of Willie Vlautin, musical mainstay of the bands Richmond Fontaine and the Delines, as well as award-winning novelist.

Rurality, National Identity and Music: Englishness and "Folk Against Fascism"

Richard Yarwood (Plymouth University, UK)

Folk traditions, including music, have been used to evoke the idea that a nation is somehow more authentic if it has 'rural roots' (Jones et al. 2004). Most recently this has been seen in the misappropriation of contemporary folk music by the far right. Many artists responded by aligning themselves with the movement 'Folk Against Fascism' in an effort to distance themselves and their work from this form of politics. Using examples of contemporary folk music, this paper examines how rurality, national identity and citizenship are contested through folk music.

12	Fairness and Social Justice for Rural Communities (1)
Affiliation	Rural Geography Research Group
Convenor(s)	Sonja Rewhorn (University of Chester, UK)
Chair(s)	Sonja Rewhorn (University of Chester, UK)
Timetable	Wednesday 02 September 2015, Session 1 (09:00 - 10:40)
Room	Forum - Seminar Room 10
Session abstract	<p>This session is inspired for fairness for the rural place. The Anthropocene has seen and continues to see changes in the relationships between rural and urban and within rural space. These changes are occurring within the global context of austerity, neoliberalism economies, development of unconventional energy sources, changing oil prices, geopolitics and advances in mobile technologies and global connectivity. Whether this is impacting on the interdependence relationship between town and country or the migration in to or out of the rural. With these global – local changes are we able to ensure equity for rural communities and rural economies?</p> <p>Rural communities are often recognized for their innovation to address difficulties, for example accessing services, setting up micro-economies, enhancing community capacity and</p>

12 Fairness and Social Justice for Rural Communities (1)

maintaining local governance. The Anthropocene is seeing a current period of significant local, national and global changes along with ever greater globalization. It is therefore timely in strengthening rural as integral to socio-economic 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 a fair and just rural. 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 Anthropocene within the global, national and local, aims to discuss the opportunities or otherwise of greater equitable decisions for strengthening rural communities and what for rural justice might look like as we move through the Anthropocene.

Building on the dichotomy between urban and rural this session encourages geographers to participate in a discussion on rural justice. The session is not prescriptive, very much welcomes postgraduates and international papers and areas of research that may wish to engage in this session may include;

- Social Fairness for rural communities
- Service Delivery in rural areas
- Rural Community Development
- Gentrification of rural place
- Policy justice for rural communities
- Economic Equity
- Rural Governance

Linked Sessions

[Fairness and Social Justice for Rural Communities \(2\)](#)

Identifying the Role of Politics in the Dynamics of Rural Policy Making

Chris Elton (Independent researcher, UK)

Rural Studies literature frequently subsumes the role of politics in rural policy development within neo-Marxist or Corporatist frameworks. As a result, the huge levels of subsidies to farmers and land owners and the extensive environmental and land use regulations, the role of national and supra-national governments has rarely been explored. Recent developments in political science have supported the emergence of new institutionalism (NI), as 'the most successful paradigm in comparative politics and public policy analysis' (Radaelli, Dente and Rossi 2012). NI emphasises the significance of 'institutions' – as a set of rules, including the values and beliefs of the key actors (or competing actors) - in interpreting policy issues and (re-) formulating policy responses.

This paper draws upon research into the role of institutions in the dynamics of rural policy making in the UK and European Community in the post-war period. The research findings identify the dominant strategic role of the Treasury in setting the parameters of UK rural policy; until the early 1980s, the role of rural/agricultural policy in the UK as an economic instrument supporting the balance of payments and the Sterling exchange rate; the contrasting development of the Common Agricultural Policy which puts strong emphasis on welfarist values and beliefs; the abandonment of an integrated rural policy in the UK in the past 10 years. The research provides an essential context for current debates on social fairness in rural England.

Rural gentrification and the class complexion of the British countryside 10 years on

Martin Phillips (University of Leicester, UK)

Darren Smith (Loughborough University, UK)

Chloe Kinton (Loughborough University, UK)

Helene Ducros (University of Leicester, UK)

Gentrification of the British countryside has long been identified as a key ingredient in the reconfiguration of relations between urban and rural space and the formation of differences and inequities within rural space. Middle class gentrifiers have been portrayed as colonising and taking over rural space, displacing other people, practices and cultures such that the countryside can be viewed as a 'middle class territory' (Murdoch 1995). The present paper seeks to explore the dynamics of rural gentrification in Britain as part of a larger comparative study of gentrification in the UK, France and USA. After outlining the project and the potential value of comparative studies of rural gentrification, explored the dynamics of rural gentrification in Britain through making use of the 2011 Census to update the analysis of Phillips (2007) that was based on the 2001 Census. The paper highlights how large swathes of the British countryside may be viewed as almost the sole preserve middle class, although there are also areas that have remained immunised from gentrification processes. Attention is also drawn to differences within gentrifier populations, and to the association of middle class presence with evidence of social inequities. The paper considers

whether the British countryside has become a place more and more characterised by different rural populations living disconnected lives.

Ladders & Snakes, jigsaws, mosaics – the serious game of capturing a local voice for rural health service community co planning

Sarah Bowyer (University of the Highlands and Islands, UK)

The Scottish Government seeks community participation in health service reform. Benefits are thought to include improvements in quality of care, access to services and patient and staff satisfaction (Scottish Health Council 2014). With the specific nuances and challenges of rural health care provision, such a tailored approach is especially valued to ultimately improve health outcomes in the community.

Many participation activities are based upon the model of Arnstein's ladder of citizen participation (Arnstein 1969) whereby each rung represents a further level of citizen's decision making power and reaching the top symbolises full citizen control. Amongst the critiques of this model is that successful participation is portrayed as reaching a higher rung of the ladder and it fails to consider the importance of the participation process itself, together with the end result (Tritter and McCallum 2006). The analogy resembling the ordered ascent of a ladder is limiting and perhaps the process is more comparable to fitting irregular pieces into 'a complex jigsaw puzzle' or 'creating a mosaic' (Tritter and McCallum 2006).

This paper presents the results of doctoral research describing the process of participatory mapping exercises with residents of rural Scottish villages. What part could this method of participation play in the creation of pieces of 'the local voice' that fit into solving the puzzles of co-producing rural health services?

Digital rural-urban equity: Attitudes and opinions from small and micro businesses towards Next Generation Broadband (NGB) in rural areas and their relative competitiveness

Megan Palmer-Abbs (University of Aberdeen, UK)

Fast and reliable digital connectivity and associated ICT applications are acknowledged stimuli for business growth, internationalising market areas (EU, 2014; Scottish Government, 2011), and influencing practices and profitability of businesses. Commercial NGB upgrades in the UK have concentrated on densely populated areas and many rural areas lag urban in terms of their ability to access fast and reliable digital connections, with inevitable implications for business competitiveness. This urban-rural digital equity gap is acknowledged by government which, through the Broadband UK (BDUK) programme, publicly funds digital infrastructure improvements to resolve this issue. The BDUK NGB upgrade programme offers an interesting framework within which to explore what NGB delivers and its impact upon rural businesses, in particular small and micro business.

The paper reports early findings from a PhD project that seeks to understand the impacts of NGB roll out upon small and micro businesses in accessible and remote rural communities in the North East of Scotland. British Telecom is currently introducing the NGB infrastructure across this area making it particularly interesting for the research. A survey of small and micro businesses has been undertaken to provide baseline information about online experiences, communication patterns, market areas and how NGB could help rural businesses gain a competitive edge. Findings from the survey, in particular those that emphasise the importance of rural digital connectivity as a mechanism for promoting fairness and rural social justice, will be presented. Reflections on how the survey is informing the development of the second stage of the research will be shared.

Rural regeneration and rural "statecraft" and "scalecraft"

Simon Pemberton (Keele University, UK)

Whilst many academic studies have systematically considered the key policies, approaches, issues and debates concerned with urban regeneration in the UK (see Tallon, 2013; Jones and Evans, 2013; Roberts and Sykes, 1999), considerably less attention has been focused on rural regeneration. Arguably part of the problem is a perception of rural areas as 'carriages' or an appendage to the 'locomotive' of the metropolis (Shucksmith, 2008), rather than being important spaces in their own right, and with their own specific regeneration challenges and opportunities.

This paper seeks to respond to this lacuna in knowledge. In particular, it draws on the concepts of 'statecraft' (Bulpitt, 1986) and 'scalecraft' (Fraser, 2010). Statecraft is "the craft that states practice when they act politically". This directs attention to the motives and behaviours of states and governments and how politics and power are important in shaping behaviour (Buller and James, 2012). However, equally important, is the notion of 'scalecraft', defined by Fraser (2010, p.344) as the "fashioning and refashioning of geographic scale to suit particular needs". Consequently, the paper explores how the restructuring of rural regeneration governance has involved both statecraft and scalecraft, providing opportunities for certain political interests in rural areas to pursue and implement new sets of regeneration policies at particular scales (and vice versa). The implications for a 'fair' and 'just' rural are subsequently considered.

Rural proofing – a new way for rural fairness?

Sonja Rewhorn (University of Chester, UK)

Social justice has been argued to have been indicative in the ideologies of many European Governments in the 1990s (Martell 2004), including New Labour (1997 – 2010). Social justice is a particular interest to geographers (Valentine 2003). The UK Government publish its Rural White Paper for England ‘Our Countryside our future: fair deal for rural England’ (2000), which introduced the policy construct of rural proofing. The Coalition Government has continued to support the construct (Defra 2013). Although rural proofing has been a compulsory aspect of domestic policy-making since 2000, there appears to be a gap in the knowledge as to the critical effectiveness of rural proofing where it came from and where rural proofing may be in the future. The critical evaluation of the literature is suggesting that rural proofing emerged within the ideology of social justice, the ‘third-way’, partnership governance as well as the paradigm shift in rural policy having agriculture at the centre to one of recognising the multi-faceted geographies within rural (England) space. Social justice is a philosophy that focusses on delivering a positive fair deal (Rawls 1958; Valentine 2003). Policy development and delivery is often described as a positive feedback process. With these two foundations from the literature, it seems appropriate to undertake the analysis of data from stakeholders involved in rural proofing within an appreciative inquiry analytical framework. Appreciative inquiry enables the practitioner and researcher to be reflexive and to (re)construct local knowledge, examples and power relations in terms of what has occurred to date within rural proofing and to enable the researcher to undertake a critically responsive evaluation (Stake 1975).

34 **Losing Ground – Gaining Ground. The Emotional, Affective & Gendered Consequences of Loss / Recovery of Nature, Home & Place in Rural Modern / Non-modern Settings (2): Losing and Recovering Self(in)Place**

Affiliation	Rural Geography Research Group Gender and Feminist Geographies Research Group
Convenor(s)	Linda Price (Queen's University Belfast, UK) Daniel Keech (University of Gloucestershire, UK) Owain Jones (Bath Spa University, UK)
Chair(s)	Daniel Keech (University of Gloucestershire, UK)
Timetable	Wednesday 02 September 2015, Session 2 (11:10 - 12:50)
Room	Forum - Seminar Room 6
Session abstract	The session investigates processes and relationships of nature-culture assemblages in ‘ecologies of place’ of the Anthropocene. For example resulting from biodiversity degradation; displacement of aboriginal people and cultures; displacement of modern communities through conflict or ecological crisis; through gradual demographic and technological shifts from ‘traditional’ to neo-productivist agri-culture and rural-urban migration. Such shifts manifest themselves at geo-social scales ranging from, individual, family, community to ethnic groups. Through them run common threads/questions about failures of successful performance of gender identity and personhood potentially leading to suicide, depression, physical ill health and addiction. The session will explore how these experiences/memories have been expressed in art, literature, media culture, new nature writing. It seeks to engage with such narrative expressions for what we can learn about feelings of belonging/unbelonging , subsequent attachment/detachment from the visceral qualities of the land; of sense of place/up-rootedness and from land/soil ; dis/connections to past generations in geology, flora and fauna. Thus papers are encouraged focussing on the extent to which gendered sensory embodiment ‘in’ the seasonal rhythms of land/nature result in diminution of a mind-body, human-nature split and, vitally, what can be learned from arts and culture about opportunities for renewing personal, gendered identities when displacements and spatial and emotional changes occur.
Linked Sessions	Losing Ground – Gaining Ground. The Emotional, Affective & Gendered Consequences of Loss / Recovery of Nature, Home & Place in Rural Modern / Non-modern Settings (1): Finding and Losing Identity in (Remote) Rural Communities

**Learning to live and love in rural New Zealand
Anne Galloway (Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand)**

This project examines the author’s first year living in Reikorangi, a rural community located in the Akatarawa Valley of New Zealand’s North Island. Māori “owners” sold two-thirds of the Reikorangi basin to the Crown in 1891, and the following two decades saw much of the bush cleared for Pākehā dairy farmers. The population declined in the 1960s, and today most of the land not used for pastoral and recreational farming is being restored to, and protected as, native bush. Part of a continuing methodological experiment, I combine arts and design-derived research methods with sensory ethnographic practice to present word,

image and sound-based explorations in affective and more-than-human geographies. Here, participant observation and interviews with local smallholders are supplemented with creative personal reflections to describe the experience of learning how to “properly” care for the land, water, plants and animals. Recurrent research themes addressed in this presentation include the socio-economic backgrounds of local smallholders, what it means to be a “steward” of the land, and the often complex relations between people and the animals and plants seen to “belong” and ones seen as “pests” to be eradicated. Finally, I consider the broader implications of this particular manifestation of the “good life.”

The dynamics of nature-culture assemblages around natural World Heritage Sites: Ecologies of place around the Galapagos and St Kilda archipelagos

Daisy Sutcliffe (University of Glasgow, UK)

World Heritage Sites attempt to conserve and preserve ‘pockets of the present’, both natural and cultural, for the future of all the peoples of the world irrespective of the territory on which they are located. Situated in United Nations rhetoric, with associated assumptions about geopolitics and an inherent distinction between nature and culture, the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) is responsible for designating World Heritage Sites, which are often presented as being a ‘recovery of nature’. Conservation must address complex assemblages of inhabitants of the Site, often highlighting tensions between concepts of property ownership, livelihoods, habitats and ‘natural’ processes. UNESCO encourages local participation in the conservation of cultural and natural heritage, which can highlight these tensions. In practice, engagement with World Heritage Sites often seeks to tap into the emotional and affective responses that people have to these iconic places on the premise that if people care about a place, they will contribute to its conservation. In this talk I will use my recent empirical research in the Galapagos and St Kilda to explore these ideas using the interdisciplinary methodological approaches that I have experimented with. I will then adventure further into some of the theories surrounding the concepts of nature and culture, art and science, belonging, and local and global communities that have been highlighted during my research.

Madreterra, Mother-earth, Motherland: Precarity, Nativism and Crisis in the New Borderlands of "Fortress Europe"

Alessandro Tiberio (University of California, Berkeley, USA)

In this paper I explore the effects of the 2008 crisis on the rise of nativist, xenophobic and neo-fascist sentiments among European youth, focusing on young Italians involved in the booming back-to-the-land movements around the border-town of Trieste and across the newly-opened borderlands of Italy, Slovenia and Croatia. While in 2007 the Schengen area of free trade and movement expanded beyond the old Iron Curtain borders, in 2008 Europe was hit by the most damaging economic crisis in decades. Since then, groups of Trieste's highly-mobile unemployed or precariously employed youth, in order to cope with both personal and professional crisis, have reopened hundreds of abandoned gardens along and across the old borders as community centers, de-institutionalized mental health centers, and ecological villages. Among them, radical no-global activism and communitarian spirit today coexist with growing xenophobic sentiments, as they increasingly support anti-EU and anti-immigration populist movements and the strong nativist group Free Trieste, arguing for the independence of the city from Italy and reclaiming “ancestral lands” now part of Slovenia and Croatia. They in fact claim to be going back to a “madre terra” (in the double sense of “mother Earth” and “motherland”) that is gendered and romanticized as pure, safe and immobile. My paper explores the ways in which nativist fantasies crumble in their hands, as new relationships between a schizophrenic self and a dynamic earth are renegotiated in everyday material encounters. In the context of the recent rightward shift in many parts of “Fortress Europe”, my project in fact builds on an understanding of “borderlands” as spaces of inescapable encounter with difference, critically challenging reductive views of contemporary Europe as a monolithic fortress.

Discussant Daniel Keech (University of Gloucestershire, UK)

Open Discussion led by Session Chair.

38	Fairness and Social Justice for Rural Communities (2)
Affiliation	Rural Geography Research Group
Convenor(s)	Sonja Rewhorn (University of Chester, UK)
Chair(s)	Sonja Rewhorn (University of Chester, UK)
Timetable	Wednesday 02 September 2015, Session 2 (11:10 - 12:50)
Room	Forum - Seminar Room 10
Session abstract	This session is inspired for fairness for the rural place. The Anthropocene has seen and continues to see changes in the relationships between rural and urban and within rural space. These changes are occurring within the global context of austerity, neoliberalism economies,

development of unconventional energy sources, changing oil prices, geopolitics and advances in mobile technologies and global connectivity. Whether this is impacting on the interdependence relationship between town and country or the migration in to or out of the rural. With these global – local changes are we able to ensure equity for rural communities and rural economies?

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. The Anthropocene is seeing a current period of significant local, national and global changes along with ever greater globalization. It is therefore timely in strengthening rural as integral to socio-economic 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 a fair and just rural. 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 Anthropocene within the global, national and local, aims to discuss the opportunities or otherwise of greater equitable decisions for strengthening rural communities and what for rural justice might look like as we move through the Anthropocene.

Building on the dichotomy between urban and rural this session encourages geographers to participate in a discussion on rural justice. The session is not prescriptive, very much welcomes postgraduates and international papers and areas of research that may wish to engage in this session may include;

- Social Fairness for rural communities
- Service Delivery in rural areas
- Rural Community Development
- Gentrification of rural place
- Policy justice for rural communities
- Economic Equity
- Rural Governance

Linked Sessions

[Fairness and Social Justice for Rural Communities \(1\)](#)

Small Towns – Places not to be overlooked in the (rural) economy

Valerie Carter (ECOVAST)

There were many people across Europe who had expressed an interest in the importance of the smaller historic settlements in Europe and the need to conserve them and their assets. They are recognised as an essential part of the hierarchy of settlements in Europe – they are a link between ‘urban’ and ‘rural’ Europe.

- * they demonstrate their history, local building materials and styles of architecture
- * they are places where many millions of people live – and should have a voice about their future
- * they are places which are essential to and contribute not only to the economy of the local area, but also to the regions and the country in which they are found
- * the towns have significant assets to give them a future – particularly to attract visitors and bring in new sources of income.

Research on small towns – both across Europe to define how many there are and detailed research on 160 small towns in South East England

- * Research carried out from 2009 until 2012/13 – both empirical and opinion surveys
- * Evidence gathering involved site visits and data-gathering using modern technology (would not have been possible without the Internet and emails)

The tyranny of geography: the injustice of measuring rural deprivation through small area statistics
John H. McKendrick (Glasgow Caledonian University, UK)

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) has been a useful tool for understanding social injustice in Scotland, including that which is experienced in rural areas. For example, SIMD data has confirmed that rural income poverty is prevalent, and that the risk of poverty is higher in some rural areas than in some urban areas. On the other hand, the rise to prominence of the aggregate measure of ‘living in the 15% Most Deprived Areas’ is inherently unjust to rural areas, as it significantly underestimates the prevalence of rural deprivation. This aggregate measure is widely used to highlight need, although its application can extend beyond the scope for which it was designed. Through its application more so than its design, SIMD tends to underestimate the scale of deprivation in rural Scotland. Addressing this issue, it is

argued, is of fundamental importance if we are to avoid dismissing, ignoring, marginalising or downplaying of the significance of the problem of deprivation in rural areas.

Policy Justice, Governance, and Rural Communities: Insights from research into Bovine Tuberculosis in West Wales

Hilary Carberry (Aberystwyth University, UK)

Bovine tuberculosis has been framed primarily as an animal disease problem in a rural context, with public health implications and economic costs to the taxpayer and farmers. While formal governance mechanisms for policy making and participation exist, Welsh government policy relating to bovine tuberculosis has attracted strong criticism and opposition, and provoked a sense of injustice in diverse groups and communities.

This paper draws on interviews with members of both policy and rural communities to examine how participants in the debate understood and applied the notion of justice, and to what extent the policy was seen to have achieved a just outcome. In considering these research questions, the session will also explore the potential of Q-methodology as a tool to facilitate deliberative discussion of contentious or complex issues, and to enhance the prospects for the realisation of justice.

Naturalness and justice in rural flood management

Steven Emery (University of Birmingham, UK)

The winter of 2013 in England was the wettest on record. This led to severe flooding of land and property in many parts of the country. The 2013 floods were characterised by their particular impact on rural populations and the farming community. The affected communities argued forcefully that both the response to the flooding and the management in place prior to flooding had been inadequate on account of a neglect for the needs and interests of rural communities vis-à-vis those living in more densely populated urban areas. This raises serious questions about the relationship between procedural and distributional concepts of justice in flood management and the wider implications of a shifting flood policy discourse toward 'natural flood management'. Has the conceptualisation of rural communities as living in 'natural floodplains' rendered their susceptibility to flooding inevitable and acceptable in the eyes of policy makers? Based on ongoing research among four communities affected by the winter 13/14 floods the paper explores the extent to which procedural justice has been left wanting in the move toward greater cost-effectiveness in flood management spending at the national level. It also reflects on the differential ability of local communities to deploy justice rhetorics in their political campaigning.

Facilitating knowledge exchange between practitioners in the Global South – a pathway to achieving fairness and social justice for rural communities?

Carmen Dienst (Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy GmbH, Germany)

Jon Sumanik-Leary (Loughborough University, UK)

Julia Terrapon-Pfaff (Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy GmbH, Germany)

Willington Otriz (Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy GmbH, Germany)

Daniel Vallentin (Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy GmbH, Germany)

Frederik Santer (Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy GmbH, Germany)

The development of rural communities in the Global South is often limited by lack of access to basic services such as energy, due to the incompatibility of the centralised models of service provision typically employed in urban areas with the remote nature and low demand of rural areas. However, as the call for this session rightly states, "rural communities are [also] often recognized for their innovation to address [such] difficulties." This innovation can be fostered by local Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) offering the technical, financial, organisational and/or political support needed to turn ideas into reality.

Many such solutions have the potential to be transferred to similar NGOs in other parts of the world, however the large distances and cultural differences between them often leaves these innovative practices and know-how trapped within localised "knowledge hotspots." Practitioners' networks offer the potential to link together these organisations by actively facilitating the exchange of experiences through online forums, training and workshops.

This paper describes the experiences of the WISIONS initiative in supporting three such knowledge sharing networks in the field of decentralised energy for rural development, focussing on the following small scale technologies: biogas digesters and wind/hydroelectric turbines. The processes within and common challenges faced by the networks are discussed, drawing out the key factors that can enable such a mechanism to improve energy service provision for, and therefore offer fairness and social justice to, rural communities around the world.

I think we've been sold a pup': a critical investigation of renewable rural community energy in the English East Midlands

Jen Dickie (University of Leicester, UK)

Martin Phillips (University of Leicester, UK)

The anthropocene is one of many concepts that highlight both societal dependence on the earth's resources, not least as a source of energy, and how individual human activities can create large-scale environmental change. Stress has been widely paid to the use and impact of carbon-based energy, and the value of transitions to a low carbon economy. Such concerns provide the background to the present paper that explores community renewable energy in the English East Midlands. Right from its creation, the Coalition Government has made commitments to encourage community renewable energy schemes. However, whilst rural communities have been major contributors to initiatives such as the Low Carbon Communities Challenge, there is a need to recognise that, as Walker et al (2010) argue, use of term community renewable energy "embodies implications and assumptions" that need to be critically investigated. The paper examines the meaning of community in renewable energy development in the region, before outlining a typology of renewable energy assemblages. Particular attention is paid to forms of community engagement and pay back established within different forms of renewable energy; the ways that community is used in particular energy assemblages; and the associations of community energy development and resistance with the social and economic make-up of rural communities. The paper concludes by exploring the implications of this analysis for access to energy, equitable decision-making and social justice in the countryside.

**Post-war' Democracy: cultural politics of governance in rural Nepal
Tulasi Sharan Sigdel (Kathmandu University, Nepal)**

Questions on political transformation, fairness and social justice have been at the top of the political discourse in 'post-war' transition in Nepal since 2006. The mass movement 2006 ended the Monarchy and Maoist Insurgency bringing Maoists' revolutionary wings into mainstreaming politics of liberal democratic framework. In this political transition, the efforts to institutionalize liberal democracy on one hand and the 'radical revolutionary left-led' practices during the war on the other collide with conflicting political discourse and governance practice. Consequently, the competing claims and contestation in governance have been struggling to maintain, challenge and transform entrenched inequality in everyday politics in rural peasantry.

In this paper, I use cultural politics of governance to bring into focus the everyday practices of governance in rural peasantry and the 'cultural meanings' being produced, reproduced and challenged. This paper explores 'governance' as site for the production of material and symbolic meanings of fairness and justice through competition for power and authority in state framework. It analyzes how the issues of recognition and redistribution (Fraser, 1997) have emerged from the grassroots in 'post war' democracy. With ethnographic evidences from multi-research sites, I argue that multiple actors emerging from the grassroots have been contesting and claiming the rights of recognition and redistribution where the dominant ideologies of class, caste and gender interact and intersect. However, the paradox of 'cooperation' and 'competition' within and among caste, class and gender ideologies reflect in everyday governance from both symbolic and material perspective in rural Nepal.

85 Global agricultural networks: configurations and implications

Affiliation	Rural Geography Research Group
Convenor(s)	Imogen Bellwood-Howard (Georg-August University Göttingen, Germany)
Chair(s)	Imogen Bellwood-Howard (Georg-August University Göttingen, Germany)
Timetable	Wednesday 02 September 2015, Session 4 (16:50 - 18:30)
Room	Forum - Seminar Room 3
Session abstract	The dawn of agriculture is proposed as a starting point of the Anthropocene. Through the performance of agriculture, humans modify the environment whilst it in turn shapes their livelihood activities. Today's agriculture is far removed from that of the early Anthropocene. Commercialisation introduces interaction between market actors. The internationalisation of supply and demand networks means that the effects of agriculture may be experienced in places physically displaced from the site of husbandry, whilst farmers in turn receive impulses from far-flung destinations.

This global circulation of agricultural inputs and outputs has drawn attention from geographers concerned with ecology, society, technology and, critically, the links and interactions between them. Further, the boundaries between human and non-human elements have been blurred within the Actor Network Theory approach that agrifood studies lends itself to. The focus has been sharpened on the commodities formerly perceived as merely the outputs of agricultural production, the construction of the markets in which they are traded, the standards applied to them, and their 'social life' as they encounter consumers. Simultaneously, examination of the supply chains delivering locally and internationally sourced inputs and technologies brings issues of power and justice to the fore.

This session explores the implications, experiences and possibilities associated with the

international agricultural networks of the Anthropocene. Papers explore their meaning for human and non-human actor groups and diverse commodities in rural and urban environments in the global north and south.

"Nobody likes to be dismissed": rethinking human value in global agricultural networks

Natascha Klocker (University of Wollongong, Australia)

Olivia Dun (University of Wollongong, Australia)

Lesley Head (University of Wollongong, Australia)

Early debates over the evolution of agriculture centred around the diffusion of people from a central node of innovation. In the process of deconstructing that narrative with archaeological evidence of spatially and temporally variable independent invention, and more recent geographic attention to non-human actors, we have perhaps lost sight of the role played by movements of people in sustaining the global agro-industrial complex. In this paper we explore the to-ing and fro-ing of human bodies, knowledge and practices within and around global agricultural networks encompassing Tonga, Papua New Guinea, Vietnam and Burundi. Examples from our work in Australia's Sunraysia horticultural region show how human beings are valued in diverse ways, with implications for how food is grown and knowledge is transferred or dismissed. Within global agricultural networks, some humans are perceived (and perceive themselves) as little more than labouring bodies – they move with the seasons to pick, prune, harvest and earn. Others, while recruited on the basis of their physicality, work within these networks to carve out a role that goes beyond labouring. They evaluate, compare and transfer knowledge and practices as they move from one commercial farm to another, and from country to country. Others still, act outside the formal agro-industrial complex to create and sustain global agricultural networks of their own: in backyards, on borrowed farmland, or in community and market gardens. Taken together, these examples show that the diverse valuing of humans matters for what is grown and learned: where, when and how.

U.S. Organic Dairy Politics: 'Check-off' shows farmer-processor-marketer positionality in the Global North & South

Bruce Scholten (Durham University, UK)

In the U.S. National Organic Program (NOP), farmers resist encroachment on their incomes by processors and marketers. Farmers object to an 'organic check-off' (% of farmgate sales), which the Organic Trade Association (OTA) has been touting to the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture and Congress. The OTA claims it would resemble promotional check-offs for conventional beef or the 'Milk Moostache' campaign in conventional milk, and would benefit all organic actors. No way! protest most American organic farmers, claiming processors such as White Wave and marketers like Whole Foods seek to 'tax' them unfairly (Odairy 2015). My research bolsters farmers, documenting agribusiness snubbing of domestic milk and soy for cheaper imports - while farmers are constrained by the fixity of land (Scholten 2014: 225). The check-off furore also substantiates the view of Verghese Kurien, the late leader of dairy farmers' cooperatives in India's White Revolution, that, whether farmers labour in the Global North or Global South: 'the entire value chain from procurement to marketing is the sole and exclusive domain of the farmer. The moment the farmer loses... it, being a small producer, [s/he] becomes nothing more than a contract labourer' (Scholten 2010: 252).



Above: 'Milkman Kurien' presents his memoirs to the Pres. Kalam (2005 Kurien Collection)

Biofuel Networks in Karnataka, India

Rebecca Enderby (King's College London, UK)

The promotion of biofuels as a solution to climate change and energy insecurity was followed by a food vs fuel debate. A possible solution is 'secondary' biofuels, non-edible crops able to grow on marginal land. India, a rapidly growing economic power without domestic oil reserves, is keen to engage with biofuels.

Policy initially focused on the non-edible species *Jatropha*, however subsequent land grabs, poor yields and the need for high inputs showed that the reality did not match the discourse.



Indian National biofuel policy is still based on utilising marginal land and non-edible plants, but no longer emphasises *Jatropha*. Karnataka State policy now advocates planting multiple indigenous species, claiming to be re-establishing a 'traditional' rural landscape and economy, utilising a 'decentralised', farmer-led biofuel production model. Political and research interest in these plants has constructed them as a 'historic' source of fuel and income and an ecological asset, increasing biodiversity and raising soil fertility.

Consequently, novel actors and networks have been established. Interactions between these plants and the various stakeholders are shifting; plants that were rarely planted are now valued and cultivated. The revaluing of these biofuel species is shaping landscapes and livelihoods, a consequence of both human and non-human actors. This paper uses political ecology to discuss empirical data, whilst reflecting on what might be gained using an ANT framework. It will ask who might be gaining or losing as a consequence of novel human-non-human relationships in this biofuel production network.

Multiscalar Networks in Urban Vegetable Production

Imogen Bellwood-Howard (Georg-August University Göttingen, Germany)

Urban vegetable production in Tamale metropolis, Northern Ghana, comprises networks of heterogeneous elements acting at different scales. Connections between such elements comprise not only flows of material inputs and outputs, but also diffusion and adaptation of consumption preferences. Despite the fact that the vegetables themselves often travel from farm to mouth within the metropolis, global influences engage to construct these place- and time-specific agroecological assemblages.

Certain technological inputs, primarily agrochemicals and seed, are components of global supply networks. The availability of improved tropical germplasm on the market represents collaboration between research associations and established agroinput suppliers. Simultaneously, farmers conserve seed from varieties of both introduced and traditional species.

Historically, international influences have informed consumption choices relating to these different species and varieties. High value expatriate markets initially introduced cabbage and lettuce, and new dishes now combine continental and African elements.

International agencies have facilitated access to local resources such as water, which is critical in this monomodal savannah region, especially for temperate crops. A large, European-funded infrastructural project aims to rehabilitate a city centre dam, and foreign funds also facilitated NGO's installation of piped water.

These diverse elements converge as farmers intercrop on their farms. They constantly develop their management practices to facilitate synergies within the resultant agroecological configurations. It is instructive to conceptualise these agricultural systems as confluences of technologies, access routes, biologies and preferences. They comprise multiscalar networks: elements interact within a specific situation whilst linking to global elements.

Power and Place in the Global Sugar Assemblage

Michael Woods (Aberystwyth University, UK)

This paper investigates the local impacts of global economic restructuring in the agrifood sector through a case study of the closure of the Moreton Central Sugar Mill in Nambour, Australia in 2003. Adopting an assemblage approach derived from the work of Manuel de Landa, the paper conceptualizes the sugar industry as a series of interlocking and overlapping assemblages territorialized at different scales from the global to the local. As such, it traces how the reconfiguration of the global sugar assemblage during the 1990s affected changes in the composition, territorialisation and coding of the Australian sugar assemblage and the local assemblage centred on Moreton Mill. In particular, it shows how the capacity of the Moreton Mill to respond to global restructuring was constrained by the material conditions of its local assemblage, leading to the recoding of its financial status within the corporate assemblage of its Belgian owners and its eventual closure. The paper then examines failed efforts by local actors to sustain the local sugar industry by reconfiguring the assemblage to produce new products and attaching to alternative translocal assemblages to access new markets, and why these failed. Thus, finally, the paper considers the impact of the mill closure on the construction of Nambour itself as an assemblage, arguing that although material roles in employment and income generation had been lost, components from the sugar industry had retained their expressive role as a mark of local identity and incorporated into a new heritage assemblage.

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Rural Geography Research Group AGM & Committee elections
Thursday 03 Sep 2015 Plenary & lunch (13:10-14:25) Forum - Seminar Room 10



** Up for elections: 1-2 Postgrad Reps (hopefully we can reappoint Rory for a year),
 2 Ordinary Members and 1 Newsletter Editor!*

Chair	Prof	Nigel	Walford	n.walford@kingston.ac.uk	To 2016
Secretary	Dr	Keith	Halfacree	k.h.halfacree@swansea.ac.uk	To 2016
Treasurer	Dr	Gareth	Enticott	enticottg@Cardiff.ac.uk	To 2016
Postgraduate representative	Mr	Rory	Hill	rory.hill@ouce.ox.ac.uk	To 2015*
Postgraduate representative	Ms	Michaela	Kennard	m.e.kennard@gre.ac.uk	To 2015*
Newsletter editor	Dr	Bruce	Scholten	bruce.scholten@btopenworld.com	To 2015*
Ordinary member (networking)	Ms	Sonja	Rewhorn	s.rewhorn@chester.ac.uk	To 2016
Ordinary member	Mr	Daniel	Keech	dkeech@glos.ac.uk	To 2015*
Ordinary member	Dr	Ruth	Little	ruthie.little@gmail.com	To 2015*
Ordinary member	Dr	Martin	Phillips	mpp2@le.ac.uk	To 2016
Ordinary member	Dr	Charles	Howie	charles_a_howie@hotmail.com	To 2016
Ordinary member	Dr	Richard	Yarwood	r.yarwood@plymouth.ac.uk	To 2016

221 New and Emerging Rural Researchers (1): Rural Society and Change

Affiliation	Rural Geography Research Group
Convenor(s)	Michaela Kennard (University of Greenwich, UK) Rory Hill (University of Oxford, UK)
Chair(s)	Rory Hill (University of Oxford, UK)
Timetable	Friday 04 September 2015, Session 1 (09:00 - 10:40)
Room	Peter Chalk - Room 1.1
Session abstract	This session looks to explore new and emerging ideas across rural geography by discussing the work of early career researchers. It is hoped to prompt lively discussion as research ideas and results are presented in a friendly and constructive forum. This session is always well attended, conducted in a friendly, welcoming and constructive manner, and is widely appreciated by all those attending.
Linked Sessions	New and Emerging Rural Researchers (2): Rural Society and Place New and Emerging Rural Researchers (3): The Rural Environment and Production

Understanding the discourses that surround older people in rural communities
Andrew Maclaren (University of Aberdeen, UK)

Discourses that surround older people vary from the opinion of policy papers, to media representations and everyday experiences of ageing. With the UK now experiencing the beginnings of an ageing population, increased discussion is coming to light on how older people are perceived, either as assets or burdens to their communities. Rural communities, most importantly, have experienced this rate of ageing faster than urban areas, and so provide an interesting environment in which to consider questions on the perceptions of older people. This paper will present a PhD study that looks to these very questions. Specifically, this paper will discuss the different discourses that surround older people in rural communities. First, it will present existing secondary data to understand the financial contributions older people make and the pensions and benefits they receive. The paper will use the data to investigate the authoritative view of identifications and experiences of older people enabled by state technologies of legibility such as the census data and healthcare statistics, and so how these might produce a discourse of burden. Second, it will look ahead to the possibility of fieldwork and emotional geographies as a way to elucidate the everyday experiences of ageing, and the discourses previously discussed. This range of methodologies will thus offer

critique and nuance to the research project in understanding older people as assets or burdens to their (rural) communities.

Relationality, networks and self-determination: Decolonisation and innovation through an Indigenous tourism initiative in Chile

Marcela Palomino-Schalscha (Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand)

Alto Bío-Bío, a rural and predominantly Indigenous (Mapuche-Pewenche) territory in the Chilean Andes, is often described as an isolated, remote and inhospitable place. In the media and most academic accounts, it is usually presented as a “frontier” place, plagued by poverty and conflict, where communities have subsumed into despair and alienation. Although true in part, this presentation suggests that that is only one side of the story. Building on literature around relational understandings of place, scale and resubjectivation, it aims to demonstrate that Alto Bío-Bío is also a site of innovation.

Looking at the experience of Trekaleyin, a Pewenche tourism initiative, this presentation explores the ways in which community members are actively challenging colonial frontier imaginaries that essentialise Alto Bío-Bío, neglect its political implications, justify poverty and exclusion, and construct their territories as empty and “available”. Engaging in tourism and articulating practices, relations and discourses that are simultaneously ancestral and innovative, community members are enacting their rights and territorial control, while also decolonising relations with the state and broader society. Thus, it is argued that they are strengthening the connections of this rural place across scales and experimenting with, and advancing in, the creation of more plural spaces of co-existence, and moving beyond and expanding conventional political terrains for the defence of self-determination.

The UK Farm Shop: A typology and their effect on the farming family household dynamic and farm business

Robert Geary-Griffin (University of Leicester, UK)

Though recognised as a viable farming diversification (Ilbery et al., 2006), within the research literature focus on the UK Farm Shop (FS) has been left wanting. Questions were raised regarding what a contemporary FS actually is, how they come about and their impact on the farming family household and business. Their assumed Alternative Food Enterprise identity was scrutinised also (Marsden et al., 2000; Smithers, 2010). Of particular interest was the effect a FS has on the farming family household dynamic and the farm business: A household member’s status/power (Gasson & Winter, 1992), sense of recognition vs. invisible labour (Gasson 1990; 1992), successor potential and retention (Errington & Tranter, 1991), autonomy and private income (Rees, 1971, Ilbery, 1991), employment opportunity for the farmer’s partner, identified successor or non-successors (Commins & Kelleher, 1973; NatWest Bank, 1992). In addition, whether the FS had precipitated change to antiquated gender roles (i.e., if present) (Friedmann, 1986; Whatmore, 1991b). Furthermore, whether the FS was perceived to support the longevity of the farming family household and farm business (Abrahams, 1991; McNally, 2001). The mixed-methods approach included an in-depth survey of respondents from FS attached to farming family households. Secondary data was employed for GIS mapping to explore potential FS trait patterns and spatial influence (Bowler et al., 1996; CRR, 2002). Semi-structured interviews, sourced through the survey respondent pool, explored patterns identified along with additional issues arising from the literature. Findings provide a richer insight into UK FS and their farming family households.

Impacts of Next Generation Broadband (NGB) on Small & Micro size enterprises (SMEs) in the North of East of Scotland: a mixed method approach

Megan Palmer-Abbs (University of Aberdeen, UK)

Government and other stakeholders view NGB as critical to enabling rural small and micro businesses to be competitive and grow. Understanding the potential of this technology within the context of the rural economic milieu is fundamental to ensure this business group optimise the benefits. Greater understanding of small and micro business profiles, opportunities offered by NGB, and how this relates to business and the expectations of economic development is required. This paper reports early findings from a project to explore the impact of NGB on small and micro businesses in the North East of Scotland. This area, which includes accessible and remote rural communities, will benefit from British Telecom’s ongoing digital telecommunications infrastructure improvements. This makes it an ideal location in which to situate a ‘before and after’ study. A baseline survey of small and micro business use of digital technologies has been undertaken. This paper reports early findings from this work: that business actor characteristics, sector influences, previous ICT and online experiences affect perceptions and adoption of NGB; drawing from my empirical work I will discuss current businesses communication patterns. Preliminary findings from the next phase of the research, which includes longitudinal engagement with these businesses, endeavours to capture attitudes and behaviour as NGB becomes available, and in-depth engagement with a small number of businesses, will be outlined. This will focus on the relative importance business place on NGB in terms of their functionality, productivity, growth, innovation, and associated resilience. I posit that, drawing from my

empirical work, I will discuss how NGB could alter this.

How to create resilient rural businesses? Exploring the Perception of Rural Entrepreneurs

Artur Steiner (Scotland's Rural College, UK)

Rural businesses contribute to local development and resilience in both direct and indirect ways. Direct contributions include, for example, the creation of local employment and product and service delivery. Indirect contributions can be understood as the knock-on effect or added value of primary business activities. For example, the provision of employment opportunities helps to reduce the risk of out-migration and depopulation. Consequently, rural businesses are an important part of rural life helping communities to function in a sustainable way.

However, globalisation and socio-economic changes have an impact on the activities of rural businesses. This new dynamic business environment creates both opportunities and challenges that have to be recognised by rural entrepreneurs in order for their businesses to survive. The paper questions, therefore, what features of rural businesses and their owners help to create a successful and resilient enterprise. Based on in-depth face-to-face interviews with rural business owners from South Australia the paper explores how business owners cope with a changing business environment and identifies features of resilient businesses. The key findings indicate that it is not stability and constancy, but adaptive capacity, flexibility, and the ability to 'think outside the box' that ensures business survival and its resilience. The study indicates that a fine balance between the context, characteristics of business owners and their enterprises helps in developing resilient businesses.

243 New and Emerging Rural Researchers (2): Rural Society and Place

Affiliation Rural Geography Research Group

Convenor(s) Michaela Kennard (University of Greenwich, UK)
Rory Hill (University of Oxford, UK)

Chair(s) Keith Halfacree (Swansea University, UK)

Timetable Friday 04 September 2015, Session 2 (11:10 - 12:50)

Room Peter Chalk - Room 1.1

Session abstract This session looks to explore new and emerging ideas across rural geography by discussing the work of early career researchers. It is hoped to prompt lively discussion as research ideas and results are presented in a friendly and constructive forum. This session is always well attended, conducted in a friendly, welcoming and constructive manner, and is widely appreciated by all those attending.

Linked [New and Emerging Rural Researchers \(1\): Rural Society and Change](#)

Sessions [New and Emerging Rural Researchers \(3\): The Rural Environment and Production](#)

Scotland's community land initiatives: power, community and change in place-based rural development

Tim Braunholtz-Speight (University of the Highlands and Islands, UK)

Community is a familiar object of study in rural research. However, while there are longstanding critiques of external visions of a "rural idyll" (Newby 1979), or more recently of the use of community as a tool of governance by state actors (Rose 1999, Levitas 2000), "studies of rural power relations are relatively few" (Crow 2008: 134). This paper draws on qualitative field research from my recently-completed PhD, and the work of Gaventa (2006), Cohen (1985) and Woods (2010) to examine community and power relations in a grassroots-initiated rural development movement.

Scotland's community land initiatives (CLIs) are distinctive social enterprises, with membership restricted to residents of local place-based communities, that own (or aim to own) land and physical assets. Emerging in the early 1990s, in some areas of the Highlands and Islands they are now major landowners. The paper explores the relationship between power and various guises of community: as social structure; as identity and boundary-marker; as a mode of action; as an ideal; and as a goal. As a goal, community may be understood culturally, or simply in the sense of retention of population – a familiar issue in remote rural area development. The relationship between CLIs' raison d'être as agents of change and development, and these notions of community, will therefore also be touched on.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans Equalities and Slippery Rural/Urban Imaginaries in East Sussex, England

Nick McGlynn (University of Brighton, UK)

The implementation of lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans (LGBT) equalities is not uniform, but varies locally and regionally as well as nationally. Research has long focused on large metropolises and LGBT 'hotspots' such as San Francisco and New York, with the assumption that work to improve LGBT equalities

will mostly take place in these areas. However, a growing body of geographic research attests to positive LGBT experiences in rural areas, and calls for further attention to LGBT lives and equalities in hitherto neglected towns. In this paper I detail public sector LGBT equalities work occurring in the areas of Hastings, Rother and wider East Sussex, through a Participatory Action Research (PAR) project involving a partnership of local public services, LGBT communities, activists and academics from 2010 to 2013. Bringing a burgeoning literature on geographies of LGBT equalities together with rural geographies, I advance discussions of progressive public sector equalities work beyond the urban and explore how relational imaginaries of 'the rural' and 'the urban' might come together with public sector equalities discourse. While highlighting the continued importance of discursive rural/urban binaries with regard to LGBT equalities in neglected rural areas, I also explore the complex and slippery ways in which such imaginaries adhere and do not adhere to particular areas. I argue for retaining rurality as a key category of analysis in LGBT equalities research, while pointing out the importance of other geographic imaginaries which rural/urban binaries may render less visible.

Survey, representation, design and reuse of the rural paths networks to develop the local economy, fruition and knowledge of the regional landscape resources

Enrico Cicalò (Università degli studi di Sassari, Italy)

Maurizio Minchilli (Università degli Studi di Sassari, Italy)

Loredana Tedeschi (Università degli Studi di Sassari, Italy)

Laura Soro (Università degli Studi di Sassari, Italy)

Francesca Bua (Università degli Studi di Sassari, Italy)

Rural Land Walks is a research project aimed to draw a network of pedestrian paths for the connection and the crossing of the Sardinian regional territory. The project includes the study of an operative method and a subsequent phase of experimentation on a case study in which the network will be drawn and tested. The Rural Land Walks network is a sustainable infrastructure that allows to cross the landscapes and to know their environmental, cultural and historic values. All the territories, if properly designed, can be travelled on foot, through different routes that allow the knowledge of new places and a "slow" perception of the landscape.

This paper will discuss the Rural Land Walks as a network of pedestrian paths, trails, ways for the promotion of Sardinia, that fosters the rediscovery of forgotten infrastructure networks and, at the same time, the revelation of a network of socio-economic stakeholders that can benefit of it and, for this reason, want to take care of it.

This project draws inspiration from the well-established experiences of the pilgrimage routes and pedestrian paths that cross Europe reactivating economies and involving marginalized areas. The Santiago pilgrimage, the Francigena route, are just some of the examples to which the project has been inspired; experiences, those, that have revealed the existence of a demand of landscape, history, environment, culture and knowledge that only going slowly and crossing the lands may be satisfied.

Interviewing women, stock and the Wairarapa landscape: A more-than-human geographical re-visioning of farm fieldwork in Aotearoa/New Zealand

Rebecca Ream (Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand)

With the dominance of humans on this planet, re-visioning our relationship with non-human nature is vital. Through my doctoral research I aim to re-vision this relationship with ten Pākehā women land-based producers and the land and animals they work and live with, in the Wairarapa, New Zealand.

For example, during the interviewing process I used a gendered more-than-human geographical approach involving photography to explore the way producers related to farmscapes, landscapes and animals. To understand what these farmers were saying I immersed myself into their world by using my bodily senses. For example, while walking, riding and driving through vast open paddocks, steep rolling hills, treacherous gorges, I smelt the sheep's wool and damp native forest. I felt the hot dry sun and equinox winds. I heard the sound of bleating lambs and barking dogs. This sensory experience imparted to me the necessary skills to listen to not just human participants but also non-human participants more intently.

This process revealed that my human interviewees have a very diverse and rich understanding of the agency of non-human nature which demonstrably challenges present hegemonic, patriarchal and human-centric, ideas of land use in New Zealand. Concurrently their politics of economy, race and nationalism, for example, clearly reiterates these hegemonic ideologies. Such contradictions highlight a need for this research to explore the politics of agriculture in conjunction with a more-than-human geographic approach to deepen an understanding of the relationship between farmer, land and animal.

Involving the Locals in Planning their Future Health Services – a Health Geography Approach

Sarah Bowyer (University of the Highlands and Islands, UK)

Scottish health policy calls for community participation in planning local health services. The social model of health (Whitehead 1995) acknowledges that health outcomes are determined not only by health services and medical care but also by the social and material environment. Used frequently in public health

initiatives which consider the wider determinants of health this model is consistent with health geography concepts (Curtis 2010). This paper presents doctoral research where participatory mapping techniques were used to explore how residents of two rural Scottish communities perceive their local environment impacts on their health. Using concepts of the sense of place and therapeutic landscapes the results are shared with professionals in positions of health planning to enquire how this information could be utilised in co creation of future services for these communities.

Beyond dominance/resistance: exploring lineage-state relations in the (re)construction of lineage spaces

Chen Ningning (National University of Singapore, Singapore)

Rural studies have long paid attention to the relationship between the state and rural society. However, many studies either overemphasize the powerlessness and vulnerability of rural people in face of the hegemony of governments or reduce the interaction between the state and rural society into a binary politics of dominance and resistance. This paper tends to afford a new understanding of such relationship through the analysis of the politics between the local state and revived lineage communities played out in the (re)construction of lineage spaces in Xincheng Town, a rural township in southeast China. On the one hand, I explore how the local state governs the production of different lineage spaces (e.g. ancestral temples, tombs and historical memorials) against the backdrop of official promotion of modernization and civilization in rural areas. On the other hand, I am concerned with how lineage communities subordinate to, ‘cooperate’ and negotiate with local state during the process. In particular, I focus on different ways and tactics adopted by lineage communities to avoid the state governance and even appropriate the state policy to their own advantages. As such, I shed light on the agency of rural communities and argue for a multiple and open account of articulating power relations of the state and rural society. This study resonates with a recent call for understanding rurality relationally.

268 Social Media and Mobile Technology: The new era for learning, teaching and communication

Affiliation	Rural Geography Research Group Higher Education Research Group
Convenor(s)	Derek France (University of Chester, UK) Sonja Rewhorn (University of Chester, UK)
Chair(s)	Derek France (University of Chester, UK) Sonja Rewhorn (University of Chester, UK)
Timetable	Friday 04 September 2015, Session 3 (14:40 - 16:20)
Room	Peter Chalk - Room 1.5
Session abstract	<p>Social media is a new frontier for many aspects of society. More and more students engage with social media whether through sites such as Facebook, Twitter or through websites and SMS texting. Geography teaching too is embracing the technology and in many cases through the use of mobile technologies. Mobile technology is becoming more widely adopted in teaching and learning contexts across the Geography discipline, with many of its learning and teaching consequences at times not considered or unknown. Already, a number of HEI’s have incorporated tablets and Smartphones use as tools to enhance their teaching and learning portfolios.</p> <p>However, the use of mobile technologies, have an implicit assumption that not only that all students are literal with such technology, but in some cases assuming that students are able to bring their own smart devices. All this is dependant on universal mobile network coverage when out in the field which is often an issue particularly during rural geography fieldwork. As well as the practical issues of using mobile social media apps, there is of course the associated issues of ethics around research as well as professional issues for the students when combining their personal social media accounts and their emerging academic careers. This session will be considering the L&T implications of enhancing fieldwork through the application of social media. Any particular focus will be welcome, but rural environments are particularly encouraged. The session invites delegates to share and discuss the positive and negative issues of utilising mobile technology and embracing social media in rural fieldwork pedagogy.</p> <p>This will be an interactive session where participants will be invited to reflect upon their own pedagogic practice on using social media through mobile technologies within teaching in particular within rural geographies. Postgraduates are welcome to discuss their own reflections on gathering data through this medium. Papers will be 10 minutes long with an expectation of social media participation for and from the audience. The session will conclude with a round table discussion highlighting key issues for teaching and learning in this area.</p>

Social Media and Fieldwork

Derek France (University of Chester, UK), Serval Miller (University of Chester, UK)

Katharine Welsh (University of Chester, UK)

Fieldwork is signature pedagogy in Geography and with the rise of affordable and popular mobile and digital devices there is potential to enhance the student learning experience during fieldwork. Whether students are using Smartphones or Tablets to take photographs, video, browse the web, enter raw data or as a tool to aid reflection, through tweets and simulation exercises, the potential is endless. This paper reports on research findings from a 3-year UK Higher Education Academy project on Enhancing Fieldwork Learning which seeks to evaluate student perception and experiences of incorporating digital technologies into a range of fieldwork settings. The application of social media to enhance student engagement and group interactions on fieldwork is a potentially useful tool not without its drawbacks and limitations. A number of fieldwork-based case studies are presented, from Spain, Italy and the UK. In each best practice example, the learning objectives, delivery, platform and student/staff learning experiences of engaging with social media (as well as any potential mitigation strategies) are considered. It's hoped this paper will facilitate further discussions on effective best practice experiences of applying social media in a fieldwork context.



Reflections on using students' own mobile devices as tools for fieldwork

Julie Peacock (University of Leeds, UK)

In 2014/2015 I integrated Evernote, Geospike and digital storytelling as tools for fieldwork on a 'Field and Environmental Techniques' module at Askham Bryan College. All fieldwork was carried out around college land at Askham Bryan, York. Students used their own devices throughout and a focus group, held five months after the module began, revealed that students were all happy to use their devices in this way. A difficulty for some students was their unfamiliarity with the apps and indeed for using their devices for more than calls, texts and emails which resulted in them not benefitting fully from the technology. However, a couple of students had gone on to use the apps and their devices during other modules. The digital story telling was used when students made an initial site visit to a field site where they were later to develop and carry out a project. This intervention was popular with students, they found it engaging and watching the videos back on return to the classroom allowed for reflection on their work as well as team building through humour and shared experience.

Encouraging the use of social media on a fieldtrip

Alice Mauchline (University of Reading, UK), Becky Thomas (University of Reading, UK)

Rob Jackson (University of Reading, UK)

We were interested to find out how we can best support our students when using the internet for learning purposes while on fieldwork. So we took part in an HEA-funded project investigating the ways in which people use the internet and we were introduced to the concept that people can be characterised as either as a 'visitor' or 'resident'. The visitor uses the internet as a tool to access information whereas the resident lives a proportion of their life online, often socialising and leaves a digital trace. This categorisation varies depending on the app/software in question and also whether it is for personal or professional use (for more information visit: <http://goo.gl/Wom15>). Through an interactive mapping process, we explored how our students engage with the internet and the results were really interesting. Many of them are 'resident' internet users, but mainly for personal purposes and they were really only 'visiting' the internet for their learning. We wanted to consider how to help them move towards using the internet to develop a professional online presence and how this can enhance their employability.

Social media offers students the opportunity to develop a professional online presence. We therefore created a private Facebook group for a recent fieldtrip to Iceland to see whether we can use this tool to improve their learning, facilitate communication and develop their digital identity. We introduced various ways for them to engage within this platform; slowly encouraging them to feel comfortable to write about their learning experiences within the closed group and to share their knowledge with each other. To conclude the fieldtrip, the students were asked to write an assessed blog post on a public platform as a way of enhancing their professional digital identity. The blog post was about the "Benefits of fieldwork for microbiologists in a multinational setting" which was intended to encourage the students to reflect on how their field activities enhanced their understanding of the environmental samples they were using in the lab sessions.

Is there anybody out there? Testing the effectiveness of social media communication tools for co-creating and managing Student Environment Research Team (SERT) field projects

Anita Diaz (Bournemouth University, UK)

Tom Dando (Bournemouth University, UK)

Kate Rickard (Bournemouth University, UK)

Suzanne Gibon (Bournemouth University, UK)

Grace Burger (Bournemouth University, UK)
Deborah Blake (Bournemouth University, UK)

In this session we will present our evaluation of the advantages and disadvantages we have encountered when using social media such as Facebook, WhatsApp and free-online notice boards (e.g. ProBoard, Hootboard) as communication tools between members of a field research team. We consider their value at each of the following project stages: design, data collection, analysis and dissemination.



Twitter – the new frontier for rural geographies?
Sonja Rewhorn (University of Chester, UK)

Twitter and other social media are now part of everyday life. However, what does this mean for more traditional researchers and practitioners across our rural geographies? Are academics and practitioners working effectively enough to consider the implications of embracing social media? In this case using Twitter in more traditional arenas? This is a reflective paper on the experiences of integrating or otherwise Twitter within traditional rural geography qualitative research. Having set out to use Twitter, barriers became all too apparent. Such as ethical considerations, equity of technological infrastructures across rural England and general knowledge of how to appropriately to use Twitter. These early lessons were taken to support development of effective governance in the use of Twitter for the Journal of Geography in Higher Education and RGRS-IBG Rural Geography Research Group as well as transferring the principles to into practice for local councils across England. The paper will highlight how this journey has led to the emergence of robust protocols for when using Twitter in academic and practitioner contexts.

Discussion – what are the top tips for using social media across learning and teaching of Geography in Higher Education and beyond

Derek France (University of Chester, UK), Sonja Rewhorn (University of Chester, UK)

Rural Geography
Research Group
(RGRG)



RGRG Newsletter invites contributions to the Winter 2015 edition.

Articles include Keith Halfacree's report on the Summer 2015 UK-US-Canada meeting in Wales & Sonja Rewhorn's photo montage from the RGRG Countryside in the City Snap Competition.

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Thanks! to Steven Allan, Web Coordinator at Durham University Geography Department who deftly assisted the editor 2009-15. Photo credits include universities, institutions such as CCRI, MS Clipart & B.A. Scholten.

