



RGRG Newsletter: http://www.dur.ac.uk/geography/rgrg_newsletter/ Summer 19. Aug. 2016

<Http://www.rgs.org/OurWork/Research+and+Higher+Education/ResearchGroups/Rural+Geography.htm>

SECTION | CONTENTS

1. Upcoming in Germany & Poland
2. RGS-IBG London 30.Aug.-2.Sep.15. RGRG AGM, sessions & abstracts
3. Undergraduate dissertation winners of Riverford organic food boxes
4. Books
5. GEORge on political geography (Humour)

Happy Summer – Stopping on the Scottish-English border, a homemade burrito could not assuage gloom on border conflict around the world. But it was heartening to anticipate returning to historic RGS-IBG headquarters in London. Peter Jackson chairs the 2016 conference on the theme of Nexus Thinking, which ponders the competing interests of various environmental and social domains. Perhaps Nexus Thinking can clarify the BRExit positions of Leave & Remain voters in the June 23 Referendum on exiting the European Union – and the minuet on triggering Article 50.



Could Nexus Thinking shed light on US biopolitics? Certainly, one plenary speaker relevant to rural geographers is Julie Guthman (UCSC), whose book on California's strawberry industry, *Agrarian Dreams* (2000, 2014), informed work on organics, alternative food networks, and migrant labour. Guthman speaks Weds 31 August 2016, 13.10 in Ondaatje Theatre (<http://conference.rgs.org/AC2016/66>).



- Don't miss the RGRG AGM & elections during lunch, Thursday Sep. 1st.
- Below are scores of pages of RGRG-linked conference sessions.
- Deadline for the next RGRG Newsletter is 21.Nov. 16.

Best wishes – Bruce, Editor, *RGRG Newsletter*

Bruce.Scholten@btopenworld.com <http://durham.academia.edu/BruceScholten>

1. UPCOMING IN GERMANY AND POLAND

European Rural Geography conference, Braunschweig (Brunswick), Germany

14-17 June 2017. 'New rural geographies in Europe: actors, processes, policies.' Session abstracts due 15.Aug.16. Paper abstracts due 31.Oct.16:

file:///C:/Users/Bruce/AppData/Local/Temp/RuralGeo2017_Call%20for%20paper%20and%20sessions%20abstracts.pdf



ESRS Congress: XXVIIth ESRS conference, Krakow, Poland, July 24-27, 2017.

'Uneven processes of rural change: on diversity, knowledge and justice':

<http://www.esrs2017.confer.uj.edu.pl/> and <http://www.esrs2017.confer.uj.edu.pl/>



2a. RGS-IBG Annual Conference London 30.Aug.-2.Sep.15

Keith Halfacree emailed (5Aug16): 'I look forward to catching up with many of you at the RGS-IBG Annual Conference in London at the end of this month.

Besides the 'rural' sessions, we will be having our RGRG AGM at the conference: Thurs 1st September Thursday 13.10pm - Room SAF-121. At this meeting we need to elect quite a few new Committee members. Consequently, we are asking for nominations (a proposer and seconder; both must be RGRG members but need not be RGS-IBG members) for the following positions: Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Ordinary Members (3), and Postgraduate Members (2).

'Also, **Sonja Rewhorn** has once again very kindly organised a bit of a social gathering for us. There will be some leaflets going round the rural sessions on Weds and Thurs- It's THURSDAY 1st September 2016 from 730pm QUEEN's ARMS, Kensington (short walk from RGS). No resources for free drinks, sadly, but there will again be a quiz / photo competition.'



2016 Photos will appear in next *RGRG Newsletter*. See 2015 photos:

<https://www.dur.ac.uk/resources/geography/rgrg/RGRGNewsWINTER2015-16-16feb16.pdf>

2b. RGS-IBG Annual Conference London Sessions, Abstracts & AGM (Thurs 13.10pm - Room SAF-121)

<http://conference.rgs.org/Conference/Sessions/SearchResults.aspx?conference=AC2016&rg=RGRG>
Rural Geography Research Group

Wednesday 31 Aug 2016

The Food Rurality Nexus [Click for session details](#)

Wednesday Session 1 (09:00-10:40) Sir Alexander Fleming Building, Room 121

11	The Food Rurality Nexus
Affiliation	Rural Geography Research Group Food Geographies Working Group
Convenor(s)	Hannah Brooking (University of Leicester, UK)
Chair(s)	Keith Halfacree (Swansea University, UK)
Timetable	Wednesday 31 August 2016, Session 1 (09:00 - 10:40)
Room	Sir Alexander Fleming Building, Room 121
Session abstract	This session will explore nexus relations between food and rurality. In the 1980s and 1990s, rural geography was closely associated with the geographies of agricultural food production, although during the latter decade a series of new ingredients were stirred into the constitution of rural studies, including many that seemed to have little or no connection with agricultural geographies. Despite some efforts to forge some lines of connection (e.g. Morris & Evan 1999; Cheshire 2012), the geographies of

The Food Rurality Nexus

food... and the geographies of rurality have often been examined in isolation from one another, particularly empirically where food geographies have increasingly focused on areas beyond the rural, and also in the theoretical registers being used. The emergence of nexus thinking, however, may provide an opportunity for recognising new connections, interdependencies, trade-offs and tensions between food and rurality. The demands of the globalised food-supply chains, for instance, may transform, create unsustainable demands on or detrimentally impact a range of human and more-than-human constituents of rural space, including water courses, soils, plants, wildlife, landscapes, and human communities. The rural, or images and imaginings of the rural, may be crucial in the marketing of food, travelling together to places that are far from their rural places of origin, as well as potentially attracting people into particular rural localities.

Contact organisers to request a change to session or paper details: AC2016@rgs.org

Assessing food chain performance from a consumer perspective: relations between place of residence and consumer knowledge and practice

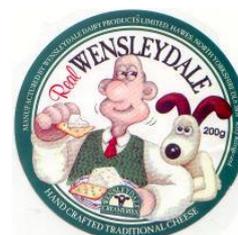
Damian Maye (University of Gloucestershire, UK)

James Kirwan (University of Gloucestershire, UK)

Daniel Keach (University of Gloucestershire, UK)

Dilshaad Bundhoo (University of Gloucestershire, UK)

Previous studies have shown that consumer knowledge about food differs between urban and rural groups. This relationship between place of residence and food consumption knowledge needs to be further examined and it provides the focus for this paper. Consumer work was undertaken to examine similarities and differences between urban and rural consumer groups in relation to cheese consumption practices and knowledge. Four consumer focus groups, two in a rural location and two in an urban location, were carried out in October 2014. The focus groups explored consumer issues about their choices in relation to available information, their knowledge and behaviour in relation to cheese buying and household use, price, nutritional knowledge about cheese and how this influences purchasing and understandings of localness and globalness and the role these issues play in cheese consumption choices. Differences between urban and rural consumers are evident, including: greater awareness of production practices, animal welfare and milk price challenges amongst rural participants, with taste the key factor in urban groups and price and convenience also prominent. Similarities between urban and rural consumer perceptions and behaviours are also notable, with consumers of the same household profile tending to behave similarly in terms of purchasing patterns. Consumers generally were not so interested in the production side, including the scale of production. Only more informed participants seem to look at the production side in any detail, a feature which was more evident in the rural focus groups. Place of residence therefore appears to influence geographical knowledges; however, the evident ambivalence in these data regarding consumption practices warns against applying overly simplistic spatial framings.



Which whey is sustainable?

Hannah Brooking (University of Leicester, UK)

This paper is going to focus on the notions of eco-localism and the sustainable intensification of cheese from farm to fork. With regard to these two notions, a lot of the focus in the literature has been on the farm or the dairy but in this study I seek to explore their applicability to the study of the production, distribution and consumption of cheese, moving beyond the farm gate. Cheese is notoriously unsustainable, as on average 10 litres of milk is needed to make just 1kg of hard cheese and there are concerns over the amounts of methane and other greenhouse gas emissions as well as environmental waste across the network. Cheese is important for sustaining rural livelihoods and important for employment, especially in the context of concerns over milk prices, falling farm incomes and reductions in dairy farming. Many dairy farmers are therefore looking to diversify and add value to their milk production, by turning to cheesemaking. The Specialist Cheesemakers Association (SCA) has recorded an increase in both enquiries from dairy farmers and new members joining (Specialist Cheese makers Association, 2015). This paper explores eco-localist and sustainably intensified networks from production to consumption drawing on actor network theory, interviews and ethnographic observations collecting information on sustainability challenges within milk production, cheesemaking, distribution and sales. The paper concludes by reflecting on the nexus relations embodied across the cheese network and their relationships to rural environments and communities.

'Pryd a mwyl' - more than a meal, reflections on inter-generational experiences of a place based, traditional Welsh food culture

Eifiona Thomas Lane (Bangor University, UK)

Arwel Jones (Bangor University, UK)

Rebecca Jones (Bangor University, UK)

Through informal engagement and the facilitated sharing of a meal event with young people of the community, lay communication of food based images, practices and ingredients were recorded to investigate whether intergenerational learning would allow a characterisation of key elements of the undescribed commonplace of the rural food system. The communal meal (and more) enabled a participatory exploration of inter-generational exchanges about the hidden, rare traditional every day practices that constitute a remnant yet still living memory of rural Welsh life. Re-tellings of childhood stories, memories of family loved and foraged foods captured the essence of a distinctively localised Welsh food culture. In this locale mealtimes generally remain a shared family experience and for many participants, was rooted in pockets of local production and consumption. Using community events and stakeholder workshops, the study questioned whether a broader investigation into traditional food values and equity could be useful in demonstrating how lay understandings are shared across generations in the face of a more globalised food culture of apparent choice and processed heritage. Future food policy development would subsequently be based on a fuller appreciation of the uniqueness of everyday local foods.

This discourse is clearly missing from current food and drink 'from Wales' directives, despite being clearly and profitably articulated within media debates. Such traditional values and local histories can clearly inform and vitally broaden theoretical contexts that inform the building more resilient local food systems, cultural resilience and also address the oft framed contradictory development of the authentic and distinctive within rural food and farm based tourism.

City horticulture – rural identity: local food in Bath and Bamberg

Daniel Keech (University of Gloucestershire, UK)

Marc Redepenning (Otto-Friedrich Universität, Germany)

Bath (UK) and Bamberg (Germany) bear comparison in terms of size, population, topography, UNESCO-recognised architecture and a history of urban horticulture. Although market gardening in Bath has mostly disappeared, in Bamberg a 650-year long tradition of commercial horticulture forms, as the Gärtnerstadt (Gardeners' Quarter), one element of Bamberg's World Heritage status. In each place, urban identities are informed through the cities' relationship with rural framings of local food. In Bamberg, tradition and kinship is guarded by brewers and gardeners who are closely bound to regular urban customers and direct suppliers in nearby 'Franconian Switzerland'. However, in the light of low-priced and non-local competition, deep-rooted, parochial rivalries between gardener fraternities inhibit mutual co-operation. In Bath – where the council's 'local food strategy' aims to support agricultural jobs and enhance the health of disadvantaged urban dwellers – the absence of city production requires a spatially extended view of 'local'. The council, over several years, has supported producer collaborations to supply public kitchens while low-margin commodity production prevails outside the city. Meanwhile, local pubs – including some used by activists who embrace urban gardening as a route to system transition – rely on larger, regional chains for marketing the South-West's reputation for good food. The authors wish to build on these experiences to explore: (i) How rural spatial semantics are deployed to signify quality via the food systems of provincial cities; (ii) Variations in how this sense of rurality is valued by municipal authorities; (iii) How a food-rurality nexus might help to overcome urban-consumer vs. rural-producer binaries.

Identifying the geography of UK Farm Shops

Robert Geary-Griffin (University of Leicester, UK)

To date it is unknown whether in the UK the farm business diversification enterprises known collectively as Farm Shops possess a shared geography. Farm Shops are not typically sited in routine retail environs, tending to be located 'in the country' on the related farm's land. This research builds on the findings of a survey conducted into the nature of UK Farm Shops which focused on a range of topics: Location and duration of the enterprise, Farm type, Connection to farming household, Produce offered, Employees, Service convenience, Advertising, Learning curve, Complimentary/competing local enterprises, Other diversifications pursued, Financial aspects. The volunteer sample was drawn from an opportunity pool of vetted high visibility farm business enterprises that advertised as self-identifying Farm Shops. Various secondary data sources were employed to give greater context to the Farm Shop mapping: UK Census boundary data, Rural/Urban classification, Socioeconomic status,

Age spread demographic, Agricultural practice etc. Two separate Farm Shop pools were mapped, first was the total opportunity pool of vetted Farm Shops that had been compiled prior to conducting the survey. This enabled for a more robust exploration into the existence of common geographical features. Second was the total volunteer pool of Farm Shops that consisted solely of the enterprises from whom completed surveys had been received. This allowed for the richer integration of factors of interest identified during the survey analysis that benefited from exploratory mapping. The findings have provided greater insight into the geography of UK Farm Shops.



Editor: Wallace & Gromit suggest visiting Wensleydale Creamery.

The Food Rurality Nexus

Wednesday Session 1 (09:00-10:40) Sir Alexander Fleming Building, Room 121 [Session details](#)

11 The Food Rurality Nexus

Affiliation Rural Geography Research Group
Food Geographies Working Group

Convenor(s) Hannah Brooking (University of Leicester, UK)

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

Timetable Wednesday 31 August 2016, Session 1 (09:00 - 10:40)

Room Sir Alexander Fleming Building, Room 121

Session abstract This session will explore nexus relations between food and rurality. In the 1980s and 1990s, rural geography was closely associated with the geographies of agricultural food production, although during the latter decade a series of new ingredients were stirred into the constitution of rural studies, including many that seemed to have little or no connection with agricultural geographies. Despite some efforts to forge some... lines of connection (e.g. Morris & Evan 1999; Cheshire 2012), the geographies of food and the geographies of rurality have often been examined in isolation from one another, particularly empirically where food geographies have increasingly focused on areas beyond the rural, and also in the theoretical registers being used. The emergence of nexus thinking, however, may provide an opportunity for recognising new connections, interdependencies, trade-offs and tensions between food and rurality. The demands of the globalised food-supply chains, for instance, may transform, create unsustainable demands on or detrimentally impact a range of human and more-than-human constituents of rural space, including water courses, soils, plants, wildlife, landscapes, and human communities. The rural, or images and imaginings of the rural, may be crucial in the marketing of food, travelling together to places that are far from their rural places of origin, as well as potentially attracting people into particular rural localities.

Assessing food chain performance from a consumer perspective: relations between place of residence and consumer knowledge and practice

Damian Maye (University of Gloucestershire, UK)

James Kirwan (University of Gloucestershire, UK)

Daniel Keech (University of Gloucestershire, UK)

Dilshaad Bundhoo (University of Gloucestershire, UK)

Previous studies have shown that consumer knowledge about food differs between urban and rural groups. This relationship between place of residence and food consumption knowledge needs to be further examined and it provides the focus for this paper. Consumer work was undertaken to examine similarities and differences between urban and rural consumer groups in relation to cheese consumption practices and knowledge. Four consumer focus groups, two in a rural location and two in an urban location, were carried out in October 2014. The focus groups explored consumer issues

about their choices in relation to available information, their knowledge and behaviour in relation to cheese buying and household use, price, nutritional knowledge about cheese and how this influences purchasing and understandings of localness and globalness and the role these issues play in cheese consumption choices. Differences between urban and rural consumers are evident, including: greater awareness of production practices, animal welfare and milk price challenges amongst rural participants, with taste the key factor in urban groups and price and convenience also prominent. Similarities between urban and rural consumer perceptions and behaviours are also notable, with consumers of the same household profile tending to behave similarly in terms of purchasing patterns. Consumers generally were not so interested in the production side, including the scale of production. Only more informed participants seem to look at the production side in any detail, a feature which was more evident in the rural focus groups. Place of residence therefore appears to influence geographical knowledges; however, the evident ambivalence in these data regarding consumption practices warns against applying overly simplistic spatial framings.

Which whey is sustainable?

Hannah Brooking (University of Leicester, UK)

This paper is going to focus on the notions of eco-localism and the sustainable intensification of cheese from farm to fork. With regard to these two notions, a lot of the focus in the literature has been on the farm or the dairy but in this study I seek to explore their applicability to the study of the production, distribution and consumption of cheese, moving beyond the farm gate. Cheese is notoriously unsustainable, as on average 10 litres of milk is needed to make just 1kg of hard cheese and there are concerns over the amounts of methane and other greenhouse gas emissions as well as environmental waste across the network. Cheese is important for sustaining rural livelihoods and important for employment, especially in the context of concerns over milk prices, falling farm incomes and reductions in dairy farming. Many dairy farmers are therefore looking to diversify and add value to their milk production, by turning to cheesemaking. The Specialist Cheesemakers Association (SCA) has recorded an increase in both enquiries from dairy farmers and new members joining (Specialist Cheese Makers Association, 2015). This paper explores eco-localist and sustainably intensified networks from production to consumption drawing on actor network theory, interviews and ethnographic observations collecting information on sustainability challenges within milk production, cheesemaking, distribution and sales. The paper concludes by reflecting on the nexus relations embodied across the cheese network and their relationships to rural environments and communities.

'Pryd a mwyl' - more than a meal, reflections on inter-generational experiences of a place based, traditional Welsh food culture

Eifion Thomas Lane (Bangor University, UK)

Arwel Jones (Bangor University, UK)

Rebecca Jones (Bangor University, UK)

Through informal engagement and the facilitated sharing of a meal event with young people of the community, lay communication of food based images, practices and ingredients were recorded to investigate whether intergenerational learning would allow a characterisation of key elements of the undescribed commonplace of the rural food system. The communal meal (and more) enabled a participatory exploration of inter-generational exchanges about the hidden, rare traditional every day practices that constitute a remnant yet still living memory of rural Welsh life. Re-tellings of childhood stories, memories of family loved and foraged foods captured the essence of a distinctively localised Welsh food culture. In this locale mealtimes generally remain a shared family experience and for many participants, was rooted in pockets of local production and consumption. Using community events and stakeholder workshops, the study questioned whether a broader investigation into traditional food values and equity could be useful in demonstrating how lay understandings are shared across generations in the face of a more globalised food culture of apparent choice and processed heritage. Future food policy development would subsequently be based on a fuller appreciation of the uniqueness of everyday local foods.

This discourse is clearly missing from current food and drink 'from Wales' directives, despite being clearly and profitably articulated within media debates. Such traditional values and local histories can clearly inform and vitally broaden theoretical contexts that inform the building more resilient local food systems, cultural resilience and also address the oft framed contradictory development of the authentic and distinctive within rural food and farm based tourism.

City horticulture – rural identity: local food in Bath and Bamberg

Daniel Keech (University of Gloucestershire, UK)

Marc Redepenning (Otto-Friedrich Universität, Germany)

Bath (UK) and Bamberg (Germany) bear comparison in terms of size, population, topography, UNESCO-recognised architecture and a history of urban horticulture. Although market gardening in Bath has mostly disappeared, in Bamberg a 650-year long tradition of commercial horticulture forms, as the Gärtnerstadt (Gardeners' Quarter), one element of Bamberg's World Heritage status. In each place, urban identities are informed through the cities' relationship with rural framings of local food. In Bamberg, tradition and kinship is guarded by brewers and gardeners who are closely bound to regular urban customers and direct suppliers in nearby 'Franconian Switzerland'. However, in the light of low-priced and non-local competition, deep-rooted, parochial rivalries between gardener fraternities inhibit mutual co-operation. In Bath – where the council's 'local food strategy' aims to support agricultural jobs and enhance the health of disadvantaged urban dwellers– the absence of city production requires a spatially extended view of 'local'. The council, over several years, has supported producer collaborations to supply public kitchens while low-margin commodity production prevails outside the city. Meanwhile, local pubs – including some used by activists who embrace urban gardening as a route to system transition – rely on larger, regional chains for marketing the South-West's reputation for good food. The authors wish to build on these experiences to explore: (i) How rural spatial semantics are deployed to signify quality via the food systems of provincial cities; (ii) Variations in how this sense of rurality is valued by municipal authorities; (iii) How a food-rurality nexus might help to overcome urban-consumer vs. rural-producer binaries.

Identifying the geography of UK Farm Shops

Robert Geary-Griffin (University of Leicester, UK)

To date it is unknown whether in the UK the farm business diversification enterprises known collectively as Farm Shops possess a shared geography. Farm Shops are not typically sited in routine retail environs, tending to be located 'in the country' on the related farm's land. This research builds on the findings of a survey conducted into the nature of UK Farm Shops which focused on a range of topics: Location and duration of the enterprise, Farm type, Connection to farming household, Produce offered, Employees, Service convenience, Advertising, Learning curve, Complimentary/competing local enterprises, Other diversifications pursued, Financial aspects. The volunteer sample was drawn from an opportunity pool of vetted high visibility farm business enterprises that advertised as self-identifying Farm Shops. Various secondary data sources were employed to give greater context to the Farm Shop mapping: UK Census boundary data, Rural/Urban classification, Socioeconomic status, Age spread demographic, Agricultural practice etc. Two separate Farm Shop pools were mapped, first was the total opportunity pool of vetted Farm Shops that had been compiled prior to conducting the survey. This enabled for a more robust exploration into the existence of common geographical features. Second was the total volunteer pool of Farm Shops that consisted solely of the enterprises from whom completed surveys had been received. This allowed for the richer integration of factors of interest identified during the survey analysis that benefited from exploratory mapping. The findings have provided greater insight into the geography of UK Farm Shops.

Managing the rural Nexus: exploring if and how we can manage for multiple goals (1): Exploring attempts and tools to deliver management of the rural nexus

Wednesday Session 1 (09:00-10:40) Sheffield Building, Room 2 [Click for session details](#)

23 Managing the rural Nexus: exploring if and how we can manage for multiple goals (1): Exploring attempts and tools to deliver management of the rural nexus

Affiliation Planning and Environment Research Group
Rural Geography Research Group

Convenor(s) **Kerry Waylen (James Hutton Institute, UK)**
Chris Short (CCRI, University of Gloucestershire, UK)

Chair(s) **Chris Short (CCRI, University of Gloucestershire, UK)**

Timetable Wednesday 31 August 2016, Session 1 (09:00 - 10:40)

Room Sheffield Building, Room 2

Session abstract Rural spaces are often subject to multiple goals, and can potentially support multiple functions, benefits and/or services. How can such systems be managed and governed... effectively? Recognising and describing their potential to support multiple

Managing the rural Nexus: exploring if and how we can manage for multiple goals (1): Exploring attempts and tools to deliver management of the rural nexus

services and goals is not by itself sufficient. Managing the nexus requires us to collaboratively share different knowledges, negotiate different values, agree priorities, develop and implement plans, and finally implement and monitor management actions. Therefore, the aim of our session is to share ideas and experiences about all these activities that take us beyond information-collection in order to support and deliver 'nexus management'. This session brings together those who are working with, studying and/or developing tools and approaches intended to allow us manage for multiple goals. Our focus is on rural areas but represents many sectors covering water, land, service industries, energy production and cultural landscapes, i.e. all those who plan and manage our complex semi-natural systems to provide multiple services to society. We see rural settings as complex social-ecological systems with various - sometimes conflicting - planning and decision-making processes and links between the State and local actors. This is a two-part session. The first part presents three papers that explore what tools, plans, initiatives or policy changes might support nexus management. This is followed by a facilitated discussion on how, who and when different approaches might be used to manage the rural nexus. The second part presents three papers that reflect more on how we can study, assess and evaluate tools and initiatives to manage the nexus. These presentations, as well those from the first session, will provide us with ideas about how we can assess initiatives or tools for nexus management. These ideas will inform a facilitated discussion on what we need to study (and how, when, and by whom) in order that we may better understand the potential of tools and initiatives for managing the rural nexus. All presenters and attendees will be encouraged to contribute to the discussion in both parts of the session. There is also opportunity for additional short contributions or reflections on the above topics, in the form of speed presentations (1-3 mins, no slides needed). If anyone is interested in doing this, please email the facilitators beforehand. A brief report (<2 pages) will subsequently be made available to capture the main points and conclusions from this double session.

Linked Sessions [Managing the rural Nexus: exploring if and how we can manage for multiple goals \(2\): Evaluating nexus management: a discussion on how to evaluate tools and initiatives](#)
Contact the conference organisers to request a change to session or paper details: AC2016@rqs.org



Governance scenarios for ecological and social goals in agricultural landscapes

Tamara Schaal (Leuphana University, Germany)

Julia Leventon (Leuphana University, Germany)

Sarah Velten (Leuphana University, Germany)

Joern Fischer (Leuphana University, Germany)

Jens Newig (Leuphana University, Germany)

Presentation 1 Abstract We present four governance scenarios as approaches for managing the rural nexus for delivering multiple social and ecological benefits. The scenarios are possible arrangements of actors and their roles and responsibilities, from the EU to the local level. The scenarios were constructed in response to a spatial scale mismatch between ecological management and existing policy approaches to address biodiversity issues. It is a well-accepted premise in ecology that biodiversity management needs to be coordinated over landscape scales. However, current management jurisdictions, such as individual farms or administrative areas, often do not correspond to such landscapes. Moreover, fitting administrative scales to ecological scales raises questions around efficiency, democratic legitimacy and social benefits of collaborative management. Our previous work as part of the MULTAGRI research project highlights that the existing governance system created under the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) reinforces a spatial scale mismatch. Indeed in many instances (though with noted exceptions, for example in the Netherlands) the CAP favours management at the individual farm scale. Our governance scenarios therefore consider

diverse constellations of actors at different levels and their powers and their implications for managing biodiversity at ecologically meaningful scales. The scenarios are the result of a multi-stage research methodology, engaging actors from across the rural nexus in Saxony and Lower Saxony, Germany, and Scania, Sweden. We initially held multi-stakeholder workshops in order to understand how existing biodiversity governance approaches facilitated and hindered achieving a range of objectives (including biodiversity benefits). Based on the outcomes of these workshops, we developed a range of theoretical scenarios, drawing on academic discourse around power and multilevel governance. The resulting four scenarios are constructed on a 2x2 matrix of top-down versus bottom-up power, and management over administrative levels (from the municipality to the EU level) versus over ecological scales (landscape and bioregion). We explored these scenarios in a second round of workshops by concretising the theoretical scenarios for our three case study areas. We examined acceptability of the scenarios, and discussed the barriers and opportunities to implementing them. Our presentation focuses on the strengths and weaknesses of actor constellations in the scenarios for managing across the rural nexus. In particular, we argue that there are some key challenges to managing for multiple goals at ecological scales, with powers devolved to local level actors. Furthermore, we highlight the practical obstacles of implementing the theoretical scenarios, and some key areas of resistance and non-acceptance of such an approach.

Considering the rural-urban nexus for England's 'Open Environment'

Claudia Carter (Birmingham City University, UK)

The government has started preparations for a 25 year natural environment strategy and 25 year food and farming plan. Elizabeth Truss, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, in October 2015 used the phrase 'Open Environment' to capture her vision for England. Natural England's Conservation Strategy will also align with government priorities to define their environmental conservation priorities and associated policies. Considering the complex interactions and dependencies between social, economic and natural processes in the 21st century, social-ecological systems (SES) thinking makes perfect sense for drawing up a country's environmental/conservation strategy. However, if and how this may then manifest itself in the actual framing and detail of policies and their delivery is uncertain. In fact, little research seems to focus on how practical and common social-ecological systems thinking is amongst policy-makers and advisors, and those implementing government policies. Furthermore, the largely rural focus of environmental conservation efforts is being increasingly challenged with a persistent growth in urban areas and urban-style living. This contribution will shed light on these issues drawing on policy document analysis and work with an Arm's-Length Government Body of how the rural-urban nexus is addressed and to what extent SES thinking is, could or should be embedded.

Payments for Ecosystem Services - a potential tool for managing the rural nexus?

Kerry Waylen (James Hutton Institute, UK)

Julia Martin-Ortega (University of Leeds, UK)

Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) is a management instrument designed to incentivise the managers of natural resources to deliver different ecosystem services (or mixtures of services). PES entails transactions between buyers of services (who will benefit from the services) and providers (who receive payment conditional on altering land or natural resource management in order to deliver these services). Implementing PES could therefore be a way of influencing rural land management to deliver more/different combinations of benefits and services to society. A large body of experience with PES has now developed, especially in Latin America, and the concept has now become topical in the UK. However, the practical implications for land management are not clear, and exactly how this concept fits in with other rural/environmental management concepts and tools is not well understood. Therefore this paper presents expectations and understandings of PES in the UK, based on a workshop and survey of environmental professionals across the UK. We find a range of understandings, not all of which match the 'pure' PES concept in the literature, and some of which strongly resemble or explicitly duplicate other existing initiatives for fund-raising and/or influencing land management. We also present a range of concerns and queries reported about PES. These mixtures of ideas and concerns may reflect other reports about the ambivalence or mixed feelings about neoliberalism and/or marketization of nature held by environmental professionals. We suggest that there is a need for clarity and open debate about the pros and cons of PES within existing institutional mixes within the UK, to understand how it may best help us with nexus management. Facilitated discussion: "How can we assess or evaluate tools and initiatives for nexus management? All contributions and attendees will be encouraged to take part in this discussion.

Nexus Thinking in Gentrification Studies (1)

Wednesday Session 2 (11:10-12:50) Skempton Building, Lecture Theatre 164 [Session details](#)

84 Nexus Thinking in Gentrification Studies (2)

Affiliation Urban Geography Research Group
Rural Geography Research Group

Convenor(s) **Loretta Lees (University of Leicester, UK)**
Martin Phillips (University of Leicester, UK)

Chair(s) Sandra Annunziata (University of Leicester, UK)

Timetable Wednesday 31 August 2016, Session 3 (14:40 - 16:20)

Room Skempton Building, Lecture Theatre 164

Session abstract Most scholars in gentrification studies, if not all, have long been open to and inclusive of different geographies of gentrification. Debates over time around different geographies of gentrification have triggered useful reflections on the process, theories of it, its key concepts, and the term itself (e.g. Rose, 1984; Phillips, 2004; Davidson and Lees, 2005; Janoschka et al, 2014). Those scholars who have been open and inclusive have sought to reconceptualise and re-theorise gentrification in light of different geographies, those who have not have often retrenched into older, classic ideas about gentrification or rejected the gentrification label itself. This session seeks to foster new debate on both old and new geographies of gentrification - in the loosest sense – from rural gentrification to new-build gentrification, from Latin American gentrification to Anglo-American gentrification, from pioneer gentrification to creative gentrification, and so on. In particular we focus on the connections and disconnections, the inclusions and exclusions, around different geographies of gentrification. Indeed, one might say that we are looking for nexus thinking with respect to the geographies of gentrification: considering how gentrification emerges in contexts of growing interdependencies, irreconcilable demands and complex and contested trade-offs between different human and more-than-human actants located in differentiated and yet inter-connected places. In these sessions we will seek to re-evaluate where we are at in C21st gentrification studies and indeed where we need to be.

Linked Sessions [Nexus Thinking in Gentrification Studies \(1\)](#)
[Nexus Thinking in Gentrification Studies \(3\)](#)

Social tectonics and volcanic singularities: A relational approach to gentrification and social mixing

Freek Dehaan (Radboud University Nijmegen, The Netherlands)

While planning paradigms of social mix aim at creating socially cohesive neighborhoods with spaces of encounter, communication and participation amongst different classes and ethnic groups, daily lifeworlds often reveal practices diverging far from that ideal. Against the promising visions of governmental actors, the gentrification literature narrates a stark reality of social indifference, othering, disaffiliation and social 'tectonics' on the level of habitus interaction. However, invaluable as these critiques may be, they tend to endorse the same integration ideals as their positivist other, yet with a focus on their failure. In this paper I want to explore the manifold practices of socialization in mixed neighborhoods with a more open perspective. A frame of thought is developed with elements of intra-action (Barad, 2007), assemblage (DeLanda, 1997) and practice theory (Sloterdijk, 2013) to arrive at an idea of the cultivation of 'volcanic singularities', i.e. of events where tectonic habits are broken. While these events may not be directly visible in socio-economic statistics ('social mobility') or as having lasting effects on daily interaction, they still turn out to be very relevant to neighborhood life in their own singular way. The theory will be supported by a comparative description of a public event in Klarendal (Arnhem, NL), a public place in Cihangir (Istanbul, TR) and a public space in Rudolfsheim-Fünfhaus (Vienna, AT).

Geographies of resistance to state-led gentrification in Istanbul: tracing the stories of future struggle in the everyday practices of Okmeydani dwellers

Clara Rivas-Alonso (University of Leicester, UK)

Gentrification studies have mainly focused on North-American and European cases. This paper seeks to decolonize (drawing on Spivak, 1993) the gentrification literature away from Euro-American perspectives by investigating gentrification and practices of resistance in Istanbul. It also problematizes the post-colonial perspective through relational approaches responding to the most recent calls to widen the epistemological framework towards a planetary outlook (Lees, L., Shin, H. and Lopez-Morales, E., 2016). My paper attempts to identify the radical political statement within an everyday life overshadowed by the possibility of physical and symbolic eviction through state intervention and further gentrification. Specifically I seek to answer the following question: How do different actors/actants negotiate the possibility of a state-led gentrifying project in the neighbourhood of Okmeydani? It therefore seeks to push the boundaries of what has been understood so far as gentrification processes in order to 'dislocate' perspectives (Ong and Roy, 2011) and add to current academic conversations on what constitutes or does not constitute gentrification. This paper seeks to present the different dwellers' stories as intertwined with other actants, as the nexus of juxtaposed narratives and at times inconsistent processes making up the landscape of a pre-gentrified central neighbourhood in Istanbul. Furthermore, I seek to demonstrate how urbanizing spaces in the context of contemporary Turkey assemble a number of actors and interests, including the militarization of neighbourhood spaces, criminalization of dissent and stigmatization of difference. In the face of relentless and normalised state violence, spaces such as Okmeydani are reproduced and reconstituted as spaces of possibility through the unpacking of solidarity practices that reflect different understandings of collectivity and resistance. In doing so, I seek to highlight the weaknesses of a system that is normally portrayed as a homogeneous solid force void of "leaks" or the possibility of "leakage". This paper thus reclaims collectively-constructed spaces as the spaces where the possibilities of unexpected interactions take place.

**English urban gentrifications (2001-2011): wealth concentration in the midst of super-diversity
Antoine Paccoud (Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research, Luxembourg)**

This paper is an investigation of gentrification in a geography marked by 'urban super-diversity' (Vertovec, 2007; Hall, 2015) and 'increasing diversity within increasing diversity' (Johnston et al., 2015) as well as by a proliferation of forms of gentrification (Davidson and Lees, 2005; 2010; Butler and Lees, 2006; Lees, 2008; Butler et al., 2013; Watt, 2013; Paccoud, 2015). Within this context, and as a counterpoint to this apparent state of flux, the paper argues that gentrification is silently contributing to the re-concentration of wealth at work since the 1980s (Piketty, 2014). It uses small area data from the 2001 and 2011 UK Censuses and the ONS' Wealth and Assets Survey to move beyond the change of occupant approach to gentrification and to show the uneven ethnic distribution of three facets of current English gentrifications: (1) asset accumulation, either through purchase for occupation or as a buy-to-let investment (Paccoud 2015), (2) displacement from central city locations and (3) savings erosion in the private rental sector. Through these, gentrification feeds into the diverging long-term trajectories of ethnic group housing wealth accumulation: the groups which were able to enter owner occupation early and in the right areas are now able to draw on its asset-accumulation function, while the others are vulnerable to displacement and the vagaries of the private rental sector. These findings highlight the stability of wealth accumulation trajectories in a geography where migration-led population change and the regulatory and public policy-enabled mutations of gentrification produce the appearance of a diversity of gentrifiers.

**Ruth Glass: Gentrification Nexus?
Samuel Barton (University College London, UK)**

Arguably the centre point of gentrification literature ought to be its coining in 1964 by Ruth Glass in London Aspects of Change. Although a counter argument might identify the next academic article published almost ten years later (Hamnett 1973). In this paper I will argue Glass' essay represents an approach to the city that has been lacking from the subsequent literature on gentrification. In her essay Glass paints an intensely complex picture of London, "too vast, too complex, too contrary and too moody to become entirely familiar" (1964:xiii). It is a description of London that drips with detail and takes on different scales of observation that she allows to contradict one another, as they inevitably must. Whilst she seems to have been an avowed quantitative researcher, her writing tended towards the ethnographic. Through a close reading of Glass I will argue for a messier epistemology in the way we consider processes of change in the city. Gentrification scholars have made demands for an account of specificity, complexity, even chaos, before (Rose 1984) and in particular Bondi (1991) relating this methodological critique to feminist geographies. However in the interest of nexus thinking I'd like to continue to press the point. I will conclude my paper by drawing on my experience as an ethnographer of a gentrifying neighbourhood

and suggest that the genealogy of gentrification (and academy as a whole) has side-lined Glass, and side-lined a valuably messy way of looking at urban change.

Urban tourism: new questions for gentrification research Agustín Cocola Gant (University of Lisbon, Portugal)

The growth of urban tourism has intensified the middle class colonisation of city centres in both the North and the South and is leading to new processes of displacement. However, gentrification research has overlooked the role that tourism plays in processes of production and consumption of urban spaces. The paper will argue that tourism accelerates the pressure of gentrification-induced displacement and that an understanding of the links between tourism and gentrification are crucial for gentrification research. The paper will suggest the relevance of a new research agenda based on the following themes. First, that both the North and the South are experiencing an increased conversion of housing into accommodation for visitors, especially after the spread of short term rentals and portals such as Airbnb. This phenomenon is leading to both direct and exclusionary displacement. Second, that tourism encourages commercial gentrification while neighbourhoods become spaces dominated by transient consumers. We need a better understanding of how such mutations involve processes of place-based displacement and to explore whether it provokes a progressive out-migration from the place. Third, it is important to distinguish the impacts that tourism has in the South and the North as it affects the way in which gentrification takes place. As the South has become a leisure-oriented space for more advanced economies, gentrification is increasingly related to state-led investment which caters to the needs of affluent visitors. Finally, the role of lifestyle migrants is central to understanding how gentrification works in the South, both as pioneer gentrifiers in historic cities and as consumers of authentic experiences in processes such as slum tourism.

Managing the rural Nexus: exploring if and how we can manage for multiple goals (2): Evaluating nexus management: a discussion on how to evaluate tools and initiatives

Wednesday Session 2 (11:10-12:50) Sheffield Building, Room 2 [Click for session details](#)

55 Managing the rural Nexus: exploring if and how we can manage for multiple goals (2): Evaluating nexus management: a discussion on how to evaluate tools and initiatives

Affiliation Planning and Environment Research Group
Rural Geography Research Group

Convenor(s) **Kerry Waylen (James Hutton Institute, UK)**
Chris Short (CCRI, University of Gloucestershire, UK)

Chair(s) **Kerry Waylen (James Hutton Institute, UK)**

Timetable Wednesday 31 August 2016, Session 2 (11:10 - 12:50)

Room Sheffield Building, Room 2

Session abstract Rural spaces are often subject to multiple goals, and can potentially support multiple functions, benefits and/or services. How can such systems be managed and governed effectively? Recognising and describing their potential to support multiple services and goals is not by itself sufficient. Managing the nexus requires us to collaboratively share different knowledges, negotiate different values, agree priorities, develop and implement plans, and finally implement and monitor management actions. Therefore, the aim of our session is to share ideas and experiences about all these activities that take us beyond information-collection in order to support and deliver 'nexus management'. This session brings together those who are working with, studying and/or developing tools and approaches intended to allow us manage for multiple goals. Our focus is on rural areas but represents many sectors covering water, land, service industries, energy production and cultural landscapes, i.e. all those who plan and manage our complex semi-natural systems to provide multiple services to society. We see rural settings as complex social-ecological systems with various - sometimes conflicting - planning and decision-making processes and links between the State and local actors. This is a two-part session. The first part presents three papers that explore what tools, plans, initiatives or policy changes might support nexus management. This is followed by a facilitated discussion on how, who and when different approaches might be used to manage the rural nexus. The second part

55 Managing the rural Nexus: exploring if and how we can manage for multiple goals (2): Evaluating nexus management: a discussion on how to evaluate tools and initiatives

presents three papers that reflect more on how we can study, assess and evaluate tools and initiatives to manage the nexus. These presentations, as well those from the first session, will provide us with ideas about how we can assess initiatives or tools for nexus management. These ideas will inform a facilitated discussion on what we need to study (and how, when, and by whom) in order that we may better understand the potential of tools and initiatives for managing the rural nexus. All presenters and attendees will be encouraged to contribute to the discussion in both parts of the session. There is also opportunity for additional short contributions or reflections on the above topics, in the form of speed presentations (1-3 mins, no slides needed). If anyone is interested in doing this, please email the facilitators beforehand. A brief report (<2 pages) will subsequently be made available to capture the main points and conclusions from this double session.

Linked Sessions [Managing the rural Nexus: exploring if and how we can manage for multiple goals \(1\): Exploring attempts and tools to deliver management of the rural nexus](#)

Contact the conference organisers to request a change to session or paper details: AC2016@rgs.org

Evaluating the impact of integrated local delivery on enhancing ecosystem services resilience Janet Dwyer (Countryside and Community Research Institute, UK)

Chris Short (CCRI, University of Gloucestershire, UK)

Jenny Phelps (FWAGSW, UK)

This paper reviews the outcomes from a three year project (Water and Integrated Local Delivery (WILD)) that sought to 'bring about environmental improvements to the rivers and other watercourses of the Cotswold Water Park through partnership working'. The key driver for this was the Water Framework Directive (WFD) utilising funding from the Environment Agency and other sources, both farmers and local communities were encouraged to get directly involved in understanding local water courses and their management. The result was a wide range of enhancements and delivery plans to improve the water environment that covered WFD, flooding, biodiversity, resource protection and local planning issues. The project recognized at its heart that rural spaces are subject to multiple strategic objectives that are interlinked and therefore offer multiple benefits and/or services. The intention was to determine a different approach as to how such social-ecological systems might be managed and governed effectively. This included the development of an integrated reporting and communication template; and the development of trust and collaboration. The approach allowed for the sharing of knowledges, negotiating different values, agreeing priorities and implementing management actions. This paper will reflect on the issue of evaluating such an initiative, and to what ends the various stakeholders were 'satisfied' with the outcomes. The impact on institutional settings and ability to transfer the lessons learnt will also be considered.

The contribution of social enterprise to the governance of rural land

Tom Kenny (Shared Assets, UK)

Mark Walton (Shared Assets, UK)

Shared Assets explores new models of 'common good land use', meaning land use that is economically, socially and environmentally productive. In practice this normally means focusing on social and community enterprises using land to grow food, produce renewable energy, or manage woodlands, waterways, parks, and other environmental assets. These groups are often experts at delivering multiple values, both because they aspire to a diverse range of outcomes and because they often need to develop multiple income streams to be sustainable. This presentation will draw on our experiences with these groups to explore successful models of nexus management, and barriers and facilitators to achieving them. Despite engaging in a number of different activities, on different types of land, land-based social enterprises have a number of common experiences. They are almost invariably connected with a wide range of local stakeholders, including communities, local authorities, landowners and other local third sector groups. They are almost all based on the pursuit of innovative environmental and/ or social missions alongside traditional approaches to land management. They also encounter a number of common barriers, for example with planning and commissioning processes and developing sustainable business models. The talk will draw learning and case studies from a number of our projects involving supporting or researching these groups. For example, a key finding of our 'Woodland Social Enterprise in England' survey was that these groups generally engage

in a wide range of activities inspired by multiple aims and objectives. Another project, 'Better Land Based Economies' studies the contribution of community food growing groups to the various different elements of local economic resilience. 'Making Local Woods Work' is a programme of support aimed at developing social enterprise and community woodland management.

Scenario Planning, what is it good for? Investigating how scenario planning processes may support nexus management of wicked problems

Sam Poskitt (University of Reading, UK)

Andrew Ainslie (University of Reading, UK)

Kerry Waylen (James Hutton Institute, UK)

Scenario planning (SP) – the development of multiple plausible narratives of future events, conditions and trajectories (van Notten et al., 2003) - has received much attention as a tool for supporting nexus management of wicked problems in social-ecological systems (SES). However, the intended, reported and actual benefits of SP for nexus management are poorly understood and lacking in evidence (Wilkinson, 2009). It is essential, therefore, to critically assess how SP may support the management of wicked problems for multiple goals. In this paper I provide a critical analysis of SP as a tool for nexus management of wicked problems. I outline the benefits commonly expected from SP and the benefits commonly reported as successful outcomes. I then highlight areas where further research is needed. I focus on insights drawn from a case study review in which I explored the benefits commonly expected and reported from using SP. I conducted a literature search to identify cases where SP has been used for nexus management of wicked problems. I then carried out a comparative documentary analysis on a sample of 31 cases to investigate the rationales for using SP and the reported outcomes of doing so in all of these cases. The results of the review show that, in all cases, the rationale for using SP is underpinned by an assumption that it can help manage complexity and uncertainty through the creation of structured, alternative futures. However, the expectations for specific benefits of SP varied between different cases. In order of occurrence, the expected benefits were: developing more resilient management strategies for wicked problems, enabling processes of learning, developing shared understanding across different levels, enabling stakeholder participation and facilitating processes of knowledge exchange. Of these, developing more resilient management strategies and enabling processes of learning were most commonly reported as successful outcomes. However, the review highlights a fundamental lack of evidence for the impact SP had on the management of wicked problems in practice. It also reveals a lack of clarity regarding exactly what processes of learning in SP entail, how these learning processes may be influenced by the interactions, roles and relationships between different participants, and how learning may, in turn, influence the management of wicked problems in practice. I therefore conclude that further empirical research is needed to evaluate if and how SP may support nexus management of wicked problems in SES.

Facilitated discussion: "How can we assess or evaluate tools and initiatives for nexus management? All contributions and attendees will be encouraged to take part in this discussion."

Nexus Thinking in Gentrification Studies (2)

Wednesday Session 3 (14:40-16:20) Skempton Building, Lecture Theatre 164 [Session details](#)

84 Nexus Thinking in Gentrification Studies (2)

Affiliation Urban Geography Research Group
Rural Geography Research Group

Convenor(s) **Loretta Lees (University of Leicester, UK)**
Martin Phillips (University of Leicester, UK)

Chair(s) **Sandra Annunziata (University of Leicester, UK)**

Timetable Wednesday 31 August 2016, Session 3 (14:40 - 16:20)

Room Skempton Building, Lecture Theatre 164

Session abstract Most scholars in gentrification studies, if not all, have long been open to and inclusive of different geographies of gentrification. Debates over time around different geographies of gentrification have triggered useful reflections on the process, theories of it, its key concepts, and the term itself (e.g. Rose, 1984; Phillips, 2004; Davidson and Lees, 2005; Janoschka et al, 2014). Those scholars who have been open and inclusive have sought to reconceptualise and re-theorise gentrification in light of different geographies, those who have not have often retrenched into older, classic

Nexus Thinking in Gentrification Studies (2)

ideas about gentrification or rejected the gentrification label itself. This session seeks to foster new debate on both old and new geographies of gentrification - in the loosest sense – from rural gentrification to new-build gentrification, from Latin American gentrification to Anglo-American gentrification, from pioneer gentrification to creative gentrification, and so on. In particular we focus on the connections and disconnections, the inclusions and exclusions, around different geographies of gentrification. Indeed, one might say that we are looking for nexus thinking with respect to the geographies of gentrification: considering how gentrification emerges in contexts of growing interdependencies, irreconcilable demands and complex and contested trade-offs between different human and more-than-human actants located in differentiated and yet inter-connected places. In these sessions we will seek to re-evaluate where we are at in C21st gentrification studies and indeed where we need to be.

Linked Sessions [Nexus Thinking in Gentrification Studies \(1\)](#)
[Nexus Thinking in Gentrification Studies \(3\)](#)

Contact the conference organisers to request a change to session or paper details: AC2016@rgs.org

Social tectonics & volcanic singularities: A relational approach to gentrification & social mixing

Freek Dehaan (Radboud University Nijmegen, The Netherlands)

While planning paradigms of social mix aim at creating socially cohesive neighborhoods with spaces of encounter, communication and participation amongst different classes and ethnic groups, daily lifeworlds often reveal practices diverging far from that ideal. Against the promising visions of governmental actors, the gentrification literature narrates a stark reality of social indifference, othering, disaffiliation and social 'tectonics' on the level of habitus interaction. However, invaluable as these critiques may be, they tend to endorse the same integration ideals as their positivist other, yet with a focus on their failure. In this paper I want to explore the manifold practices of socialization in mixed neighborhoods with a more open perspective. A frame of thought is developed with elements of intra-action (Barad, 2007), assemblage (DeLanda, 1997) and practice theory (Sloterdijk, 2013) to arrive at an idea of the cultivation of 'volcanic singularities', i.e. of events where tectonic habits are broken. While these events may not be directly visible in socio-economic statistics ('social mobility') or as having lasting effects on daily interaction, they still turn out to be very relevant to neighborhood life in their own singular way. The theory will be supported by a comparative description of a public event in Klarendal (Arnhem, NL), a public place in Cihangir (Istanbul, TR) and a public space in Rudolfsheim-Fünfhaus (Vienna, AT).

Geographies of resistance to state-led gentrification in Istanbul: tracing the stories of future struggle in the everyday practices of Okmeydani dwellers

Clara Rivas-Alonso (University of Leicester, UK)

Gentrification studies have mainly focused on North-American and European cases. This paper seeks to decolonize (drawing on Spivak, 1993) the gentrification literature away from Euro-American perspectives by investigating gentrification and practices of resistance in Istanbul. It also problematizes the post-colonial perspective through relational approaches responding to the most recent calls to widen the epistemological framework towards a planetary outlook (Lees, L., Shin, H. and Lopez-Morales, E., 2016). My paper attempts to identify the radical political statement within an everyday life overshadowed by the possibility of physical and symbolic eviction through state intervention and further gentrification. Specifically I seek to answer the following question: How do different actors/actants negotiate the possibility of a state-led gentrifying project in the neighbourhood of Okmeydani? It therefore seeks to push the boundaries of what has been understood so far as gentrification processes in order to 'dislocate' perspectives (Ong and Roy, 2011) and add to current academic conversations on what constitutes or does not constitute gentrification. This paper seeks to present the different dwellers' stories as intertwined with other actants, as the nexus of juxtaposed narratives and at times inconsistent processes making up the landscape of a pre-gentrified central neighbourhood in Istanbul. Furthermore, I seek to demonstrate how urbanizing spaces in the context of contemporary Turkey assemble a number of actors and interests, including the militarization of neighbourhood spaces, criminalization of dissent and stigmatization of difference. In the face of relentless and normalised state violence, spaces such as Okmeydani are reproduced and reconstituted as spaces of possibility through the unpacking of solidarity practices that reflect different

understandings of collectivity and resistance. In doing so, I seek to highlight the weaknesses of a system that is normally portrayed as a homogeneous solid force void of "leaks" or the possibility of "leakage". This paper thus reclaims collectively-constructed spaces as the spaces where the possibilities of unexpected interactions take place.

English urban gentrifications (2001-2011): wealth concentration in the midst of super-diversity **Antoine Paccoud (Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research, Luxembourg)**

This paper is an investigation of gentrification in a geography marked by 'urban super-diversity' (Vertovec, 2007; Hall, 2015) and 'increasing diversity within increasing diversity' (Johnston et al., 2015) as well as by a proliferation of forms of gentrification (Davidson and Lees, 2005; 2010; Butler and Lees, 2006; Lees, 2008; Butler et al., 2013; Watt, 2013; Paccoud, 2015). Within this context, and as a counterpoint to this apparent state of flux, the paper argues that gentrification is silently contributing to the re-concentration of wealth at work since the 1980s (Piketty, 2014). It uses small area data from the 2001 and 2011 UK Censuses and the ONS' Wealth and Assets Survey to move beyond the change of occupant approach to gentrification and to show the uneven ethnic distribution of three facets of current English gentrifications: (1) asset accumulation, either through purchase for occupation or as a buy-to-let investment (Paccoud 2015), (2) displacement from central city locations and (3) savings erosion in the private rental sector. Through these, gentrification feeds into the diverging long-term trajectories of ethnic group housing wealth accumulation: the groups which were able to enter owner occupation early and in the right areas are now able to draw on its asset-accumulation function, while the others are vulnerable to displacement and the vagaries of the private rental sector. These findings highlight the stability of wealth accumulation trajectories in a geography where migration-led population change and the regulatory and public policy-enabled mutations of gentrification produce the appearance of a diversity of gentrifiers.

Ruth Glass: Gentrification Nexus?

Samuel Barton (University College London, UK)

Arguably the centre point of gentrification literature ought to be its coining in 1964 by Ruth Glass in London Aspects of Change. Although a counter argument might identify the next academic article published almost ten years later (Hamnett 1973). In this paper I will argue Glass' essay represents an approach to the city that has been lacking from the subsequent literature on gentrification. In her essay Glass paints an intensely complex picture of London, "too vast, too complex, too contrary and too moody to become entirely familiar" (1964:xiii). It is a description of London that drips with detail and takes on different scales of observation that she allows to contradict one another, as they inevitably must. Whilst she seems to have been an avowed quantitative researcher, her writing tended towards the ethnographic. Through a close reading of Glass I will argue for a messier epistemology in the way we consider processes of change in the city. Gentrification scholars have made demands for an account of specificity, complexity, even chaos, before (Rose 1984) and in particular Bondi (1991) relating this methodological critique to feminist geographies. However in the interest of nexus thinking I'd like to continue to press the point. I will conclude my paper by drawing on my experience as an ethnographer of a gentrifying neighbourhood and suggest that the genealogy of gentrification (and academy as a whole) has side-lined Glass, and side-lined a valuably messy way of looking at urban change.

Urban tourism: new questions for gentrification research

Agustín Cocola Gant (University of Lisbon, Portugal)

The growth of urban tourism has intensified the middle class colonisation of city centres in both the North and the South and is leading to new processes of displacement. However, gentrification research has overlooked the role that tourism plays in processes of production and consumption of urban spaces. The paper will argue that tourism accelerates the pressure of gentrification-induced displacement and that an understanding of the links between tourism and gentrification are crucial for gentrification research. The paper will suggest the relevance of a new research agenda based on the following themes. First, that both the North and the South are experiencing an increased conversion of housing into accommodation for visitors, especially after the spread of short term rentals and portals such as Airbnb. This phenomenon is leading to both direct and exclusionary displacement. Second, that tourism encourages commercial gentrification while neighbourhoods become spaces dominated by transient consumers. We need a better understanding of how such mutations involve processes of place-based displacement and to explore whether it provokes a progressive out-migration from the place. Third, it is important to distinguish the impacts that tourism has in the South and the North as it affects the way in which gentrification takes place. As

the South has become a leisure-oriented space for more advanced economies, gentrification is increasingly related to state-led investment which caters to the needs of affluent visitors. Finally, the role of lifestyle migrants is central to understanding how gentrification works in the South, both as pioneer gentrifiers in historic cities and as consumers of authentic experiences in processes such as slum tourism.

Nexus Thinking in Gentrification Studies (3)

Wednesday Session 4 (16:50-18:30) Skempton Building, Lecture Theatre 164 [Session details](#)

118 Nexus Thinking in Gentrification Studies (3)

Affiliation Urban Geography Research Group
Rural Geography Research Group

Convenor(s) **Loretta Lees (University of Leicester, UK)**
Martin Phillips (University of Leicester, UK)

Chair(s) **Martin Phillips (University of Leicester, UK)**

Timetable Wednesday 31 August 2016, Session 4 (16:50 - 18:30)

Room Skempton Building, Lecture Theatre 164

Session abstract Most scholars in gentrification studies, if not all, have long been open to and inclusive of different geographies of gentrification. Debates over time around different geographies of gentrification have triggered useful reflections on the process, theories of it, its key concepts, and the term itself (e.g. Rose, 1984; Phillips, 2004; Davidson and Lees, 2005; Janoschka et al, 2014). Those scholars who have been open and inclusive have sought to reconceptualise and re-theorise gentrification in light of different geographies, those who have not have often retrenched into older, classic ideas about gentrification or rejected the gentrification label itself. This session seeks to foster new debate on both old and new geographies of gentrification - in the loosest sense – from rural gentrification to new-build gentrification, from Latin American gentrification to Anglo-American gentrification, from pioneer gentrification to creative gentrification, and so on. In particular we focus on the connections and disconnections, the inclusions and exclusions, around different geographies of gentrification. Indeed, one might say that we are looking for nexus thinking with respect to the geographies of gentrification: considering how gentrification emerges in contexts of growing interdependencies, irreconcilable demands and complex and contested trade-offs between different human and more-than-human actants located in differentiated and yet inter-connected places. In these sessions we will seek to re-evaluate where we are at in C21st gentrification studies and indeed where we need to be.

Linked Sessions [Nexus Thinking in Gentrification Studies \(1\)](#)
[Nexus Thinking in Gentrification Studies \(2\)](#)

Artists and gentrification in the post-socialist context

Jarosław Działek (Jagiellonian University, Poland)

Monika Murzyn-Kupisz (Krakow University of Economics, Poland)

Despite a growing number of publications presenting non-Anglo-Saxon and non-European experiences of gentrification, still few studies deal with this phenomenon in Central and Eastern Europe, and if so without particular attention given to artists as potential important actors in the process. Referring to existing discourse on the multidimensional roles attributed to artists in gentrification (e.g. inspirers, pioneers, classic gentrifiers, displacers and beneficiaries, displacees and victims, indicators, policy pawns instrumentalised by commercial actors, contesters), the paper seeks to broaden and deepen the analysis of their potential involvement in gentrification by exploring artists' spatial choices and preferences in post-socialist cities. The aim of the text is to reconsider the roles of this professional group in gentrification in this specific geographic context, where various new processes of demographic, social and economic changes, including reprivatisation, commercial gentrification, touristification, studentification, new-built gentrification, linked with both activities of private actors and public policies influenced transformations of inner city quarters after 1989. These processes vary over time and in space in different parts of cities, giving artists new opportunities but also creating challenges to their presence and activities.

At the same time the impact of long lasting patterns of residential differentiation, artists' residential and workplace locations in Polish cities both from prior to World War II and from communist times has to be taken into account (e.g. location of artists' studios built by communist authorities and state owned housing cooperatives prior to 1989). Accordingly, we intend to examine whether artists' involvement in gentrification in Polish cities possesses some unique features or is just a generic reflection of processes observed elsewhere and to what extent the observed phenomena fit into existing typologies of gentrification. In our analysis we will take into consideration an array of potential factors influencing their decisions to locate in particular parts of the city ranging from aesthetic and social to economic and environmental.

Diversity of potential involvement of artists in urban change also results, as will be shown in the paper, from a broad variety of residential, workplace, networking and leisure preferences of artists who are not as a homogenous professional group as stereotypes tend to present it and are among others linked with individual needs, artistic genre, income level, life-cycle stage and personal path-dependency. Reflections presented in the article result from research carried out in 2013-2016 in Krakow – a major urban centre in Poland – including a quantitative study on the artists' places of residence and location of creative companies, a survey among art students and a series of in-depth interviews with artists representing different artistic genres, age groups and places of residence.

Mapping and Measuring the Diverse Geographies and Biographies of Rural Gentrification

Darren Smith (Loughborough University, UK)

Martin Phillips (University of Leicester, UK)

Chloe Kinton (Loughborough University, UK)

There is a strong legacy of academic debates about how to most effectively identify and measure gentrification within discourses of urban gentrification (Lees, 2010), such as the early work of David Ley (1989), and more recently Wyly And Hammel (2005). Equally, how best to capture and represent the widely acknowledged signifier of social class-led displacement of population is contested (e.g. Atkinson, 2010). To date, similar discussions have not taken place in the rural gentrification scholarship. In this paper we present findings from an on-going ESRC project on international rural gentrification in UK, USA and France. We focus on the UK, and consider the merits and limitations of using distinct social, economic, cultural and demographic measures / indices of rural gentrification to effectively map and spatially analyse the diverse geographies of rural gentrification that are emblematic of geographic contingencies, different trajectories, and the variable phases of the processes of change.

Very particular, or rather universal? Gentrification in London, Berlin and St. Petersburg

Matthias Bernt (Leibniz Institute for Research on Society and Space, Germany)

Over the last years, an increasing number of scholarly contributions has questioned the usefulness of the concept of gentrification for cases outside of the context in which the term has originally been developed. The paper builds on this debate and explores the unfolding of gentrification in three contrasting environments. It analyzes the course of urban upgrading in London-Barnsbury, in Prenzlauer Berg in East-Berlin, as well as in the central city of St. Petersburg and argues that while the concept of gentrification provides useful conceptual tools to understand the commodification of urban space in general, its explanatory force is fairly limited with regard to the actual spatial and temporal patterns of urban change. I conclude that what is widely coined as "gentrification" is in fact an umbrella term for fairly disparate socio-spatial formations which are marked by different policies and state structures and result in different dynamics of regeneration and population change. I claim that this calls for more reflection on the double character of housing as a commodity and as a social right, i.e. the nexus between commodification and de-commodification in the housing sector. While rent-gap theories provide indispensable instruments for understanding the first, other and more contextually sensitive approaches are needed for studying the latter.

Nexus relations and gentrification in rural Japan

Ryo Iizuka (Shumei University, Japan)

Martin Phillips (University of Leicester, UK)

This paper explores the application of the concept of gentrification to rural Japan. Not only has rural gentrification often been a 'neglected other' in studies of gentrification (Phillips 2004), but scepticism has also been expressed about the applicability of gentrification to studies of Japanese and other cities in the 'Global East' (e.g. An 2008; Lutzeler 2008, Waley 1997, 2016; Ley and Teo 2013; Yip and Tran 2016). There has also been a continuing emphasis on agrarian productivity and depopulation in studies of rural Japan. Taken together, these features might suggest an unproductive

nexus of epistemological and ontological conditions for the application of the concept of rural gentrification. This paper argues, however, that a series of forms of gentrification can be identified as having emerged within areas of rural Japan, including ones dating back to the late nineteenth century. Conceptualisations of nexus are used to illustrate the presence of complementary and antagonistic relations between forms of rural gentrification, and also the presence of processes that encompass urban and global spaces and spatialities. Drawing connections to discussions over travelling theory and comparative studies of urban gentrification (e.g. Maloutas 2011, Lees 2012, Lees et al 2015, 2016), the paper ends by highlighting local specificities to processes of rural gentrification in Japan as well as the value of relational and genetic (Robinson 2015) perspectives on gentrification.

Exploring anti-eviction practices in Madrid, Rome and Athens during austerity: challenges and opportunities for gentrification resistance
Sandra Annunziata (University of Leicester, UK)

This paper deals with the rise of evictions and anti-eviction practices in Southern Europe since the Economic Crisis and explores the challenges and opportunities they represent for gentrification resistance. In a time of austerity, as a consequence of the crisis, a growing number of evictions are unfolding in the landscape of Southern Europe. People are mainly evicted for mortgage arrears in Spain, for rental arrears in Italy and at risk of eviction for fuel poverty and private indebtedness in Greece. Moreover, tenants living at market rent are indirectly displaced from central neighbourhoods because gentrification is slowly reducing the availability of affordable housing. Despite intellectual efforts to explain the causes of displacement within and outside of the gentrification literature, the most brutal manifestations of the process of exploitation that occurs through housing and land rent accumulation, is still not fully explored as a mechanism of exploitation and reproduction of poverty. Anti-eviction movements have acquired power, visibility and centrality in political discourse in these countries, and as a consequence measures to prevent eviction are rising timidly in the policy arena and/or are a matter of intense confrontation between institutions and social movements. This paper explores the nexus between current anti-eviction practices, gentrification resistance and housing policies as performed in the space of Southern European cities post the 2008 economic crisis.

Thursday 01 Sep 2016

New and Emerging Rural Researchers

Thursday Session 1 (09:00-10:40) Skempton Building, Room 163 [Click for session details](#)

149 New and Emerging Rural Researchers

Affiliation Rural Geography Research Group

Convenor(s) Hannah Brooking (University of Leicester, UK)
Rory Hill (University of Oxford, UK)

Chair(s) Hannah Brooking (University of Leicester, UK)

Timetable Thursday 01 September 2016, Session 1 (09:00 - 10:40)

Room Skempton Building, Room 163

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.

Contact the conference organisers to request a change to session or paper details: AC2016@rgs.org

Geography of rural change: the Brazilian countryside in the context of global multifunctionality
Felipe da Silva Machado (Plymouth University, UK)

Brazil is a country of immense diversity and went from being the 14th largest global economy in 1970 to 10th in 1990 and to the 6th or 7th largest economy in recent years (Becker and Egler, 1992; Cohn, 2012). As the economy globalized and industry decentralized away from metropolitan areas profound changes occurred in the hinterland, which was particularly marked in the state of Rio

de Janeiro. With ample petroleum offshore Rio de Janeiro assumed a series of new manufacturing and logistical functions which transformed it into one of the most dynamic states in Brazil and this produced profound impacts in the countryside. The concept of multifunctionality (Wilson, 2007, 2010; Woods, 2005) serves as the theoretical basis for understanding rural-urban interaction in the context of recent social and economic change resulting from new urban and industrial investments in the rural zone of the state. By acknowledging the importance of spatial restructuring in multifunctionality and in the creation of a space with different premises, the research analyses rural space in its relation with both endogenous and exogenous forces interacting with local actors. The use of different spatial scales for analysis - local, regional, national and global - becomes, in this context, crucial.

Farmers' experience of, and response to climate change in Gloucestershire - conclusions from a mixed method study

Alice Hamilton-Webb (Royal Agricultural University, UK)

Rhiannon Naylor (Royal Agricultural University, UK)

Louise Manning (Harper Adams University, UK)

John Conway (Royal Agricultural University, UK)

According to the current body of research, there is a general lack of engagement with climate change amongst the farming community; both interantioanly and nationally. It is well recognised that farmers are vulnerable to various climate change driven impacts, but also have significant potential capacity to respond. As the UK agricultural sector is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050, it is essential to put emphasis on the benefits of working with farmers at the local level. This paper explores the extent to which farmers in Gloucestershire engage with climate change risk, and the key motivations and barriers involved in responding to risk on-farm. The relative influence of internal and external factors on farmers' engagement with climate change are assessed with a particular focus on the relative role that risk experience plays in farmers' engagement with climate change. In this case, flooding is used as a potential, locally salient "experience" of climate change the farmers may be able to draw on. Gloucestershire has been affected by notable, recent flood events such as in Summer 2007, and recent Winter storms (2013/14). The paper is based on a postal survey with 200 farmers in the county and 15 face to face follow-up interviews, and puts forward a number of implications for current policy and communication of climate change risk.

UK farming, Ecosystem Services and Public Private Partnerships (PPPs)

Daniel Casey (The University of Sheffield, UK)

Farming is a major part of the UK's economy. In 2014 alone farming contributed approximately £5,413 million to the UK economy (Defra, 2015). Yet, farming is facing a perfect storm (Foresight, 2011). Challenges to agricultural sustainability are arising from a growing population, climate change and changing food diets (Tillman et al., 2002; IPCC, 2015). Whilst farming has always gone through periods of 'boom' and 'bust' UK farming is currently facing challenges of an unprecedented nature. Equally, through the intensification of farming practices and the increasing use of technology within agriculture there is a direct correlation with the damage certain farming practices can have on the environment (Smill, 2013). This paper will have a particular focus on policy based work through the study of agro-environmental schemes and the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) reforms. It will offer new insights into the way that the environment and ecosystem services (ES) can be managed, an area where little interdisciplinary research has been done to date (UK NEAFO, 2014). ES have proven important impacts upon human well-being (MEA, 2005; Dunn, 2011). One novel way to manage and deliver such ES has come about through the creation of Public Private Partnerships (PPPs). Therefore, this paper will offer an interdisciplinary perspective, drawing on literatures from both the social and natural sciences, in order to understand how farming is changing, the ES farming provides in the UK and how best to manage ES.

Fade Away or Keep Going? Investigating the Human Factors that Influence Intergenerational Family Farm Transfer through the Lens of Symbolic Capital

Shane Conway (National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland)

Similar to what is occurring on a global scale, Irish agriculture is populated by an older generation of farmers. Consequently, intergenerational family farm transfer is increasingly viewed as crucial to the survival, continuity and future sustainability of the family farm and agricultural sector. A review of existing research highlights how financial incentives that encourage succession and retirement from farming have stimulated little change in the behavioural intentions and attitudes amongst elderly farmers. Recognising the limitations of focusing on financial enticements encouraging

this process, as is currently the case in Ireland, there is a growing acknowledgement that attention should be paid to addressing the underlying emotional forces determining family farm transfer, in an effort to guide future policy. Answering these questions from a geographical perspective, this research seeks to address this gap in knowledge by investigating the deep-rooted connection older farmers have with their farm and occupation. The theoretical framework underpinning this research is Pierre Bourdieu's concept of symbolic capital. Adopting this concept enables the development of structural reference points in respect of the human factors involved in the process. This research employs a multi-method triangulation design, consisting of self-administered questionnaires in conjunction with complimentary Problem-Centred Interviews to determine the complex underlying forces influencing farm transfer. Preliminary analysis of fieldwork data carried out reveal many older farmers appear to prioritise the building and maintenance of their personal accumulation of symbolic capital rather than transferring management and ownership of the family farm and retiring.

Actor-centred approach to the conceptualization of rural space
Olli Rosenqvist (University of Jyväskylä, Finland)

Both 'rural' and 'space' are ambiguous concepts that can have, on the one hand, concrete, material and territorial meanings, and, on the other hand, abstract, mental, metaphorical, symbolic and relational meanings. One way in trying to understand and to take into account all of these various meanings, is to apply Chris Philo's (2000) suggestion, based on Michel Foucault's thinking, and adopt a form of spatial ontology where all of the things and phenomena relevant to a substantive study are dispersed across an undivided hypothetical space or plane. So far, the most influential attempt to conceptualize rural space in the spirit of holistic spatial ontology is that made by Keith Halfacree (2006) who has applied the ideas of Henri Lefebvre in his conceptualization. Svein Frisvoll (2012) has developed Halfacree's thinking further by bringing power relations to the front. One thing that bothers me with regard to the Lefebvrian approach to define rural space, is its neglect of action and actors who seek to lead a meaningful life. The Lefebvrian approach seems to predetermine certain roles to the individual and communal actors within social and discursive structures and power-geometries. The process of using and applying the various meanings of rural space among actors, who in the last instance define the rural space, remains unclear. In my presentation I will discuss what a more actor-centred approach to the conceptualization of rural space could look like.

From political ecology to political technology in agrofood systems

Thursday Session 2 (11:10-12:50) RGS-IBG Lowther Room [Click for session details](#)

170 From political ecology to political technology in agrofood systems

Affiliation Food Geographies Working Group
 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 Thursday 01 September 2016, Session 2 (11:10 - 12:50)

Room RGS-IBG Lowther Room

Session abstract Agrofood studies has evolved from a political economy to a networked perspective that addresses power in a relational fashion, allowing agency to emerge from constellations of social, economic, technological and natural components. Drawing on Actor Network Theory (ANT), this approach attempts to overcome separations between nature, culture and society. ANT emerged from Science and Technology Studies (STS), to which this session relates: we seek to interrogate the role of technology in agrofood systems. Technologies are not merely material implements, but include interpretations of ways to use these and to perform agrofood systems without them. Issues of power and control are folded into physical objects such as seed, agrochemicals, vehicles and packaging. STS provides language that describes how such technologies are 're-scripted' in diverse social contexts, performing multiple tasks for different actors. This vocabulary permits examination of the recursive co-construction of technology, society and nature. More generally, food systems comprise complex nexuses between humans, animals, plants and technology; rural-urban and development gradients, and production, processing, marketing and consumption.

The session comprises papers that consider the technology-politics nexus in

From political ecology to political technology in agrofood systems

agrofood systems. We are particularly interested in STS, ANT, technoscience, assemblage and Political Ecology perspectives.

Farm Plastic Recycling Phantasies: Differences in EU and US regulation

Bruce Scholten (Durham University, UK)

Plastic in the world's oceans may soon outweigh fish. Plastic packaging, etc., in agrofood systems is proliferating in 'nexuses between humans, animals, plants and technology' (IBH session abstract). Creatures suffer by absorbing plastic waste; burning plastic releases toxins; and burying disrupts hydrology. Conversely, agrofood systems benefit from plastic protecting seedbeds from cold, erosion and weeds; preserving hay, straw and silage from rain, rot and pests; and decreasing wastage from farm-to-table. Unfortunately, organic matter often contaminates agricultural plastic 50-70% by weight, making recycling uneconomic. This presentation links empirical data from public, private and PPP approaches to plastic recycling, in networks from the Erema company in Austria to the UK, Massachusetts and Wisconsin, USA. EU and national authorities mandate recycling; by contrast some US model farms do not recycle. Barely 10% of global plastic is recycled. Reversing this scenario is discussed in relation to the 1980-90s US neoliberal shift from the 'precautionary principle' to a 'risk/benefit' approach (Scholten 1990:8; 2016:13-20), compared to a European political environment sensitive to dangers in a 'risk society' (Beck 1992). Technical advances by Wisconsin Film and Bag Co. ease the cleaning bottleneck for (often incompatible) plastics, but will not improve logistics enough to make recycling routine. Sustainability requires what Actor Network Theory (ANT) describes as reconstitution of the technological and human nexus (Murdoch 1995, 1997:25). But regulation and tax incentives lack political-economic consensus, and are unlikely to assemble without a public outcry on farm plastic such as that which attended the global Mad Cow crisis (BAS pic 2015).



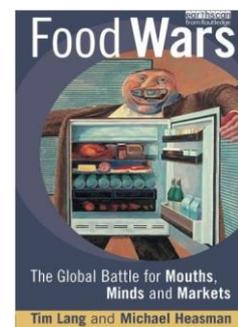
County Durham beef farmer wraps hay bales in plastic (BAS 2015).

"No such thing as a free lunch": Expiry dates and technologies of power in UK surplus food redistribution networks

Charlie Spring (University of Salford, UK)

Food labelling is described by Lang and Heasman (2004) as a "warzone", an arena in which the distribution of roles and responsibility of government, consumers and the food industry is continuously contested. As a technology of power (Milne 2012), the date label 'congeals' relations of power and capital yet authorship does not necessarily equate to authority. In debates around food waste, consumers are frequently represented as ignoring, misreading or mistrusting the label's potential to determine the safety or desirability of food; in short, its edibility.

Among growing numbers of anti-hunger and/or anti-waste organisations aiming to "feed bellies, not bins" in the UK, the date label opens a similarly contested space. This paper explores practices of surplus food redistribution in Greater Manchester, from charitable food banking to street 'protest' feeding. The date label's relevance in determining the edibility of food is mediated by organisational regulations, individual attitudes and situational expedience. At times elaborated and at other times disregarded or concealed, the date label may prevent the use of food in one context but thus enable its redistribution to another. Treating the date label as a node in the ethnographic unpacking of relationships between food, poverty, waste and social movements, this paper sheds light



on the networks and practices of (dis)entanglement in different organisations' configuration of food from, and into, waste. Considering the radical potential for social movements to address the causes of hunger and waste, the date label operates an ambiguous biopolitics, both enabling and protecting the knowing, empowered consumer of neoliberal capitalism yet embodying the rationalising temporalities of industrial food production whose profit-motivated calculations rely on the systemic generation of food waste.

Resisting robots: automated milking and emerging geographies of more-than-human resistance

Christopher Bear (Cardiff University, UK)

Lewis Holloway (The University of Hull, UK)

In this paper, we examine the concept of political technology to explore the emergence of resistant practices in and around automated milking systems (AMS). While a range of studies have explored the 're-scripting' of technologies in various contexts, this is often assumed to emerge in relation to human technological users. Here, instead, we understand re-scripting as emerging through practices of resistance – or counter-conduct – that are distributed through heterogeneous biosocial collectivities, involving not only humans and automation technologies but also cows. AMS are frequently marketed on the basis of freedom and choice for both farmers and cows; their central premise is that farmers no longer need to herd up cows for twice-a-day milking, with cows instead expected to present themselves to a milking robot, which collects the milk, checks for infections, and records data relating to each cow's weight, yield and milking frequency. The intention is that cows are free to express their 'natural' behaviours, while farmers have greater flexibility around the use of their time. In contrast to this freedom discourse, AMS are also implicitly characterised by regimes of control – whether through the development of barn architectures that promote regular milking, the use of electric shocks to eject cows from the milking robots, or the desire of manufacturers that farmers should adopt particular farming philosophies. Based on intensive periods of field research with robots, farmers and cows, this paper explores how political technologies associated with AMS produce regimes of control which are negotiated, subverted or resisted through practices of counter-conduct.



De Laval (2016)

The role of decision support tools in agriculture: lessons from a user-centered study of uptake and use

David Rose (University of Cambridge, UK)

With growing calls for the sustainable intensification of agriculture (Pretty and Bharucha, 2014), there is interest in helping farmers to make evidence-based decisions to improve productivity and environmental outputs. The use of decision support tools, usually defined as software systems (Dicks et al., 2014), may be an important method of improving on-farm decision-making. Despite their apparent value, however, the use of such tools by farmers and advisers has been found to be disappointingly low (McCown, 2002; Alvarez and Nuthall, 2006). This paper presents the findings of a one-year study as part of Defra's Sustainable Intensification Platform. Using a mixed methods approach, involving focus groups, interviews and surveys, the paper argues that several factors need to be considered for the effective design and delivery of decision support tools. It argues that the traditional 'transfer of technology' approach, in which it was assumed that sophisticated, intuitive systems will be taken up quickly by end users, misses several key determinants of use and uptake of technology. Instead, it is better to see technology transfer as 'travel' (de Laet, 2002). Notably, it argues that end users (farmers and advisers) often think of decision support in a far richer way than researchers. Rather than just representing software systems, decision support tools could be trusted peers and advisers. Therefore, human-based decision support tools could be better appreciated in the research community.

**

Rural Geography Research Group AGM & Committee elections

1st Sept. 2016 Thurs, 13.10-14.25pm. Room: Sir Alexander Fleming SAF-121.



We need nominations (a proposer and seconder; both RGRG):

Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Ordinary members (3) Postgrad Members (2).

RGRG Committee Positions & Term Dates after AGM vote at Exeter 2015:

<https://www.dur.ac.uk/resources/geography/rgrg/RGRGNewsWINTER2015-16-16feb16.pdf>

<p>Professor Nigel Walford Chair 2013-16 n.walford@kingston.ac.uk</p> 	<p>Dr Keith Halfacree Secretary 2013-16 k.h.halfacree@swansea.ac.uk</p> 	<p>Dr Gareth Enticott Treasurer 2013-16 enticottg@cardiff.ac.uk</p> 
<p>Mr Rory Hill Postgraduate rep. 2015-16 rory.hill@ouce.ox.ac.uk</p> 	<p>Ms Hannah Brooking Postgraduate rep. 2015-16 hb110@le.ac.uk</p> 	<p>Dr Bruce Scholten Newsletter editor 2015-18 bruce.scholten@btopenworld.com B.A.Scholten@durham.ac.uk</p> 
<p>Dr Fiona Williams Ordinary member 2015-18 fiona.williams@abdn.ac.uk</p> 	<p>Professor Michael Woods Ordinary member zvp@aber.ac.uk</p> 	<p>Ms Sonja Rewhorn C-Geog Ordinary member 2015-16 s.rewhorn@chester.ac.uk</p> 
<p>Professor Martin Phillips Ordinary member 2015-16 mpp2@le.ac.uk</p> 	<p>Mrs Megan Palmer-Abbs Ordinary member 2015-18 meganpalmerabbs@abdn.ac.uk</p> 	<p>Dr Richard Yarwood Ordinary member 2015-18 r.yarwood@plymouth.ac.uk</p> 



Book fair at RGS-IBG (BAS 2011).

The City-Hinterland Nexus in Global Context: The dynamics of rural-urban connections in different global contexts (1)

Thursday Session 3 (14:40-16:20) Skempton Building, Lecture Theatre 164 [Session details](#)

217 The City-Hinterland Nexus in Global Context: The dynamics of rural-urban connections in different global contexts (1)

Affiliation Rural Geography Research Group

Convenor(s) **Guy Baeten (Malmo University, Sweden)**
Mark Boyle (National University of Ireland, Maynooth, Ireland)
Claire Mercer (The London School of Economics and Political Science, UK)

Chair(s) **Mark Boyle (National University of Ireland, Maynooth, Ireland)**

Timetable Thursday 01 September 2016, Session 3 (14:40 - 16:20)

Room Skempton Building, Lecture Theatre 164

Session abstract The dismantling of national based 'immediately adjacent' city-hinterland relationships has been long in gestation; colonization after all put the entire world and its 'natural resources' under the control of imperial cities. Nevertheless, mechanisms of globalisation would appear to be further undoing the traditional city-hinterland relationship, creating new deployments, withdrawals, and penetrations of global capital into hinterlands, and carving out new multi-scalar and multi-city-multi-hinterland relations. At the same time, critical rural geographers, geo-computational scholars interested in (big) data visualisations, postcolonial scholars, assemblages theorists, and urbanists proclaiming the arrival of the age of planetary urbanisation have, in their different ways, been trying to find appropriate lexicons and cartographies to apprehend these geographically variegated de-territorialisations and re-territorialisations of the city-hinterland nexus. Against the backdrop of these material and intellectual shifts, the purpose of this session is to consider anew the status, meaning and implications of continuing to think in terms of cities and hinterlands and to map out an agenda for a new tradition of hinterland studies. The

217 The City-Hinterland Nexus in Global Context: The dynamics of rural-urban connections in different global contexts (1)

papers presented in these sessions will explore the dynamics of rural-urban connections in different global contexts

Linked Sessions [The City-Hinterland Nexus in Global Context: The dynamics of rural-urban connections in different global contexts \(2\)](#)

Contact the conference organisers to request a change to session or paper details: AC2016@rgs.org

Blocking the bridge: the making (and the unmaking?) of Copenhagen's 'hinterland' in south Sweden

Guy Baeten (Malmö University, Sweden)

Looking at hinterland formation in a cross-border context, this paper addresses the consequences of the recent reestablishment of a proper national border between Sweden and Denmark. The idea of an 'Öresund region', including the construction of a bridge that incorporated the very south of Sweden into Copenhagen's hinterland, dates back to the 1990s when the alleged need for professional strategies to deal with heightened interurban competition forced cities to rethink their size (including hinterland), function and image. The Öresund region has since evolved into a highly integrated city-region with intense commuting across the bridge. The relative fixity of the Öresund region is now jeopardized by the flow of refugees entering Sweden from Denmark, resulting in the erection of border checkpoints that are splitting the region in two. Further, discussions about a potential name change to 'Greater Copenhagen' that would normalize the idea of a major city surrounded by a 'natural' hinterland, have culminated in intense political fights over regional 'ownership', Danish-Swedish power imbalances and political representation in regional governmental bodies. Following Jones' (2009) concept of 'phase space', this paper suggests, first, to think of hinterlands as only ever semi-coherent in their concrete realization and always constructed out of the tensions between spatial fixity and flow. Second, rather than fixed spaces, hinterlands should be understood as processes of permanent conflict and contestation, negotiation and compromise, following multiscalar shifts in geopolitical and geo-economic conditions. Finally, even though major city-regions are now often regarded as a prime spatial figure from where to participate in a globally competing world at the expense of the national state, the paper would like to point at the danger of underestimating the continuing constitutive role of national state borders in contemporary European geopolitics (O'Dowd, 2010).

Shanghai and the freight periphery of China's big cities

Jiang Yanpeng (Australian National University, Australia)

Paul Waley (University of Leeds, UK)

Throughout much of the wider East Asian region, the urban edge has been the scene of large-scale speculative construction. In Indonesia, Cambodia, Vietnam and China, peasant farmers have had their land and livelihoods removed from them, often with scant compensation, in order to create space for various forms of satellite city, often walled and gated, enclaves for the prosperous managerial middle classes. This paper will start with an attempt to draw together some of the common threads that characterise these outbursts of speculative building on the edge of East Asian cities. The empirical section of the paper will look in more detail at the construction of a mammoth new business and transport hub on the western outskirts of Shanghai. Hongqiao is one of many such 'new cities' built on the periphery of China's major cities. It is, however, particularly noteworthy for its size and for its ambition as a western pivot to mirror Pudong in the east of Shanghai. The paper is built around research on the process of relocating 11,000 residents, and includes the results of a survey of the concerns of the displaced villagers prior to their relocation into purpose-built high-rise modern blocks. Finally the paper will place these events and the experiences of the displaced farmers and their families into a broader regional context, highlighting both distinctive institutional features and commonalities of process.

Urban-Rural Linkages: Issues and Challenges in Urban Services Provision in the Peri-Urban Areas of Gurgaon City, India

Bhawna Bali (TERI University, India)

The binary perspective on settlements being urban or rural has increasingly become diluted due to emergence of strong interaction and interdependence between the urban and rural areas resulting from rapid urbanization. As the frontiers of cities progressively encroach upon the

surrounding countryside, there is irrevocable alteration of the socio-economic, cultural and natural environment of the rural areas. The villages whose agricultural lands have already been acquired and the villages which are facing imminent acquisition of their agricultural land are witnessing rapid transformations in the population, land use, natural and built environments. The study aims at assessing the existing situation of urban services, and governance issues in selected peri-urban areas of the major industrial and IT hub in northwestern India - Gurgaon City in the State of Haryana. The study is based on mixed methods approach with analyses of secondary data on the household amenities and facilities, and field work based information generated through semi-structured interviews and discussions with peri-urban residents. A lack of politico-administrative jurisdiction and weak governance institutions in peri-urban areas have contributed to degraded environments in the abadis (inhabited areas), unregulated building activities within and outside the abadis (inhabited areas) proliferate to the detriment of healthy living conditions, in particular the provision of basic services. In view of the heightened focus on making India clean (under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan), it is expected that the peri-urban areas will receive attention of planners, policy makers as well as researchers.

The drifter: Mapping the r/urban landscape of post-Apartheid South Africa in the quest for secure livelihoods, better lives and a clear identity

Paul Hebnick (Wageningen University, The Netherlands)

Lothar Smith (Radboud University Nijmegen, The Netherlands)

In this paper we seek to develop an argument indicating the importance of the notion of the 'drifter', which refers to those who are shifting, physically and/or mentally, between rural and urban domains, as part of an identity which is no longer outright agrarian nor wholly urbanite. The term drifter gives necessary emphasis to the agency of individuals and the social constellations they are part of, to explain how the dichotomy of rural and urban regions has become more and more problematic. These drifters play on hybrid thinking, derived from concomitant attachments to both rural and urban sites through an array of interrelating social, economic and cultural fields, to pursue their livelihoods and chase ambitions towards achieving certain identities. This results in heterogeneous attachments to both the rural and urban, with traditional cultural overtones such as the need to be 'home' in the village for rituals like the coming of age for young men mixing in happily with intensive use of social media, that provide new income opportunities, global connections, and the means to organize their degree of mobility. Empirically our focus is on South Africa, more particularly on actors deriving from the villages of Guquka and Koloni, two Xhosa villages located in the Eastern Cape.

Bringing the rural back in: postcolonial suburbs in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Claire Mercer (The London School of Economics and Political Science, UK)

African cities are becoming increasingly suburban, yet we know little about suburban spaces, how they are historically produced, and by whom. This paper argues that African suburbs can be usefully understood as postcolonial suburbs. The postcolonial suburb de-centres the Anglo-American suburban model and pays attention to the historical co-constitution of suburban space across colony and metropole. It draws attention to the colonial and postcolonial governmental policies on land and housing that make suburban development possible, but also attends to the everyday ways in which suburban spaces are built through the efforts of self-builders and their house-building projects.

Using the case of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, the paper considers the ways in which postcolonial suburbs are both the same as the putative Anglo-American suburban model – low-density residential spaces on the edge of the city – but also different in significant ways. These low-density residential spaces towards the edge of the city are being shaped by Tanzania's new middle classes with their appetite for large houses and private cars. But these are not copies of suburban forms from elsewhere. Architecturally they are dominated by bungalows and villas, but these buildings are self-built rather than part of large planned housing schemes. Socially the suburbs are dominated by the middle classes, but these middle classes are oriented towards the countryside rather than towards the city. Drawing on interviews with a small number of suburban residents in Dar es Salaam, I show how self-build housing projects straddle the suburban and the rural in terms of economic investments and social relations. The paper concludes by arguing we need to bring the rural back in to our analysis of the city.



Mt. Kilimanjaro, Tanzania (BAS 2011)

Nexus Thinking in an Energised Rural Geography (1)

Thursday Session 3 (14:40-16:20) Sherfield Building, Room 10 [Click for session details](#)

229 Nexus Thinking in an Energised Rural Geography (1)

Affiliation Energy Geographies Research Group
 Rural Geography Research Group

Convenor(s) **Jen Dickie (University of Stirling, UK)**
Martin Phillips (University of Leicester, UK)

Chair(s) **Martin Phillips (University of Leicester, UK)**

Timetable Thursday 01 September 2016, Session 3 (14:40 - 16:20)

Room Sherfield Building, Room 10

Session abstract Energy has been a key, if often poorly recognised aspect of rurality. Rural areas, for example, have long been important sites of energy production, be this in the form of animal power and biomass, mineral based hydrocarbons, nuclear power, or renewable forms of energy. Whilst much of this production flows in various ways to urban centres, rural life and activities also involves the consumption of energy, with per capita levels of energy consumption being higher in rural areas than urban ones within many counties, including the UK. Growing energy demands have seen many rural areas become spaces of social contestation, with conventional, renewable and unconventional energy production all becoming the focus of resistance and protest. Concerns over the impact of energy consumption of the world's climate have not only added to contestations over energy production but have also raised questions about sustainability of current practices of energy consumption in the countryside. Rural areas, however, may also be important sites for the mitigation of the impacts of energy use, containing many forms of 'carbon sinks', although also being places impacted by some of the consequences of climate change. Such features suggest that there is a need to energise rural geography, developing a greater recognition of how energy acts to condition much of life in rural areas. Nexus thinking may well be a key aspect of an energised rural geography, because developments in energy production, distribution and consumption frequently connect in complex and often countervailing ways with many other constituents of rural space. Concerns, for example, have been expressed about the impacts of renewable energy production on the availability of land for food production, the quality of water supplies and the aesthetic value of rural landscapes, with the latter issues also being the focus of concern in relation to the extraction of unconventional hydrocarbons. Attempts to foster a transition to a low carbon economy may not only be difficult to implement, but

229 **Nexus Thinking in an Energised Rural Geography (1)**

also act to heighten transitions such as commuting and rural gentrification which further foster carbon energy dependencies. Papers in this session explore the value of nexus thinking to study of energy related geographies in rural contexts. Papers explore nexus relations and tensions across a range of energy networks and rural spaces within Australia, Denmark & India, as well as UK

Linked Sessions [Nexus Thinking in an Energised Rural Geography \(2\)](#)

Contact organisers to request a change to session or paper details: AC2016@rgs.org

Energising rural geography: exploring the value of nexus thinking to a post-carbon rural studies

Jen Dickie (University of Stirling, UK)

Martin Phillips (University of Leicester, UK)

Energy has been a relatively neglected issue within studies of rural geography, being rarely mentioned in the textbooks and reviews of rural geography. This neglect is surprising given the significance of rural areas as locations for energy production and distribution, and concerns over high per capita energy use and associated greenhouse gas and other emissions. The emergence of nexus thinking may be seen to further emphasise the relative neglect of energy issues within rural studies, given the prominence it has given to the intersection of energy with agricultural production, the quality of environmental resources, land use demands, and the social and cultural value of landscapes. Drawing on Urry's (2011) notion of a 'post-carbon sociology', this paper seeks to explore the potential of an 'energised rural studies', drawing attention to both the carbon dependency of many contemporary processes of rural change and the geography of attempts to transition towards a low or post-carbon future. The paper focuses attention on the presence 'radical ruralities' (Halfacree 2007) that have been animated by energy issues, what might be described as 'energised radical ruralities' and the energy literacies of more conventional rural communities. The paper concludes by reflecting on the nexus relations between the energised ruralities present within rural communities in the UK.

Low carbon governance: mobilising community energy through top-down support?

Marianna Markantoni (Scotland's Rural College, UK)

Community energy makes an important contribution to sustainable energy generation, reduction and management, and is a desirable feature of a low carbon future. Renewable community energy is increasingly gaining momentum even in the centralised UK energy market. The challenge of low carbon transitions is faced by multiple territorial governments, and requires inclusive governance arrangements in which a combination of actors work together to implement community strategies towards a climate resilient future. Low carbon governance is a multi-level and (co-)evolving process, especially in the complex interactions between actors of the core, inner periphery and civil periphery.

The devolution of power within the UK has enabled Scotland to establish an ambitious policy agenda for renewable energy. By exploring an established national community energy programme (CARES), this study examines the interplay among different actors and looks into how multi-level governance can be strengthened. This paper combines multi-level and evolutionary governance theory to understand the extent to which top-down initiatives facilitate community renewable energy projects in rural areas and help drive wider system transformations. It concludes that in an evolving policy environment, top-down support for community energy is a necessary motivator. This requires the state to play a dominant role in directing low carbon transitions, while acting in concert with non-state, local and regional actors. If (rural) communities are to benefit from energy transitions, wider policies must be aligned with community needs, or else community energy will be pushed to the margins of the next energy revolution.

A Happy Nexus? Anaerobic Digestion and the Matter of Scale in the UK and India

Debadayita Raha (The University of Derby, UK)

Sujatha Raman (The University of Nottingham, UK)

Sarah Jewitt (The University of Nottingham, UK)

This paper examines how the nexus between energy, food and waste is conceptualised in the case of anaerobic digestion (AD) technology in the UK and India. We unpack the scales at which this nexus is framed and by whom, and the implications for how benefits are distributed. AD is conventionally described as a multi-functional technique for breaking down biodegradable 'waste'. In theory, AD represents a 'happy' nexus – rather than a tradeoff - between waste management

renewable energy and socio-economic objectives. The biogas generated in the process can be used as heat energy or converted to electricity or biomethane for transport; the digestate at the end of conversion can be used as fertiliser. Yet, framed in this abstract way, the significance of specific scalar arrangements and valuations of outputs is obscured. In the UK, government support for AD is driven by energy policy, which has stimulated the rise of larger-scale plants and the addition of crop material to 'waste' to improve energy yield. Smaller on-farm and community-scale AD are of interest, but are as yet nascent. India has longstanding experience with small-scale AD/biogas plants, but their success varies by region. For example, in the state of Assam, rural households are faced with the challenge of insufficient water and organic waste to use as feedstock in their digesters. There is also growing interest in developing large scale plants for generating electricity in rural India. Whether these can deliver benefits to rural communities is yet to be determined. But our findings suggest the need to look beyond generic descriptions and examine how the AD nexus works in practice.

Landscapes, Metabolisms and Livelihoods: A Political-Industrial Ecology Analysis of Jatropha Biofuels

Jennifer Baka (The London School of Economics and Political Science, UK)

Political-industrial ecology is an emerging sub-field of human geography that seeks to simultaneously analyze the biophysical and political dimensions mediating human-environment interactions. I argue that the strengths of each field – in depth analysis of the material and energy flows over the life cycle production, in the case of industrial ecology, placed based analysis of the politics of resource access and control, in the case of political ecology – address the deficiencies in the other. Further, I evaluate how the geographic concept of landscape – a way of seeing the world and the ecological concept of metabolism – the material and energetic throughput of production can be used as bridging concepts to connect the two fields. I develop the analysis through a case study of Jatropha biofuel promotion in South India. Jatropha biofuels have been widely promoted within India and elsewhere throughout the developing world over the last two decades because of the biofuel's alleged low carbon footprint and carbon debt in comparison with other biofuel feedstocks. Yet, these industrial ecology profiles do not reveal the land use struggles engendered by Jatropha promotion as a pre-existing Prosopis biomass energy economy in rural India has been uprooted, creating rural energy insecurity in order to make space for 'sustainable' Jatropha. In combination, a political-industrial ecology analysis of Jatropha unveils the visions of 'sustainable' energy provision embodied in carbon footprints/debts and the class struggles and uneven distribution of environmental costs and benefits that results when these visions are inscribed in rural communities.

Discussant

Emily Creamer (The University of Edinburgh, UK)

Discussant

The City-Hinterland Nexus in Global Context: The dynamics of rural-urban connections in different global contexts (2)

Thursday Session 4 (16:50-18:30) Skempton Building, Lecture Theatre 164 [Session details](#)

217 The City-Hinterland Nexus in Global Context: The dynamics of rural-urban connections in different global contexts (1)

Affiliation Rural Geography Research Group

Convenor(s) **Guy Baeten (Malmo University, Sweden)**

Mark Boyle (National University of Ireland, Maynooth, Ireland)

Claire Mercer (London School of Economics and Political Science, UK)

Chair(s) **Mark Boyle (National University of Ireland, Maynooth, Ireland)**

Timetable Thursday 01 September 2016, Session 3 (14:40 - 16:20)

Room Skempton Building, Lecture Theatre 164

Session abstract The dismantling of national based 'immediately adjacent' city-hinterland relationships has been long in gestation; colonization after all put the entire world and its 'natural resources' under the control of imperial cities. Nevertheless, mechanisms of globalisation would appear to be further undoing the traditional city-hinterland relationship, creating new deployments, withdrawals, and penetrations of global capital into hinterlands, and carving out new multi-scalar and multi-city-multi-hinterland relations. At the same time, critical rural geographers, geo-computational scholars interested in (big) data visualisations, postcolonial scholars, assemblages

217 The City-Hinterland Nexus in Global Context: The dynamics of rural-urban connections in different global contexts (1)

theorists, and urbanists proclaiming the arrival of the age of planetary urbanisation have, in their different ways, been trying to find appropriate lexicons and cartographies to apprehend these geographically variegated de-territorialisations and re-territorialisations of the city-hinterland nexus. Against the backdrop of these material and intellectual shifts, the purpose of this session is to consider anew the status, meaning and implications of continuing to think in terms of cities and hinterlands and to map out an agenda for a new tradition of hinterland studies. The papers presented in these sessions will explore the dynamics of rural-urban connections in different global contexts

Linked Sessions [The City-Hinterland Nexus in Global Context: The dynamics of rural-urban connections in different global contexts \(2\)](#)

Contact organisers to request a change to session or paper details: AC2016@rgs.org

Blocking the bridge: the making (and the unmaking?) of Copenhagen's 'hinterland' in south Sweden

Guy Baeten (Malmo University, Sweden)

Looking at hinterland formation in a cross-border context, this paper addresses the consequences of the recent reestablishment of a proper national border between Sweden and Denmark. The idea of an 'Öresund region', including the construction of a bridge that incorporated the very south of Sweden into Copenhagen's hinterland, dates back to the 1990s when the alleged need for professional strategies to deal with heightened interurban competition forced cities to rethink their size (including hinterland), function and image. The Öresund region has since evolved into a highly integrated city-region with intense commuting across the bridge. The relative fixity of the Öresund region is now jeopardized by the flow of refugees entering Sweden from Denmark, resulting in the erection of border checkpoints that are splitting the region in two. Further, discussions about a potential name change to 'Greater Copenhagen' that would normalize the idea of a major city surrounded by a 'natural' hinterland, have culminated in intense political fights over regional 'ownership', Danish-Swedish power imbalances and political representation in regional governmental bodies. Following Jones' (2009) concept of 'phase space', this paper suggests, first, to think of hinterlands as only ever semi-coherent in their concrete realization and always constructed out of the tensions between spatial fixity and flow. Second, rather than fixed spaces, hinterlands should be understood as processes of permanent conflict and contestation, negotiation and compromise, following multiscalar shifts in geopolitical and geo-economic conditions. Finally, even though major city-regions are now often regarded as a prime spatial figure from where to participate in a globally competing world at the expense of the national state, the paper would like to point at the danger of underestimating the continuing constitutive role of national state borders in contemporary European geopolitics (O'Dowd, 2010).

Shanghai and the fraught periphery of China's big cities

Jiang Yanpeng (Australian National University, Australia)

Paul Waley (University of Leeds, UK)

Throughout much of the wider East Asian region, the urban edge has been the scene of large-scale speculative construction. In Indonesia, Cambodia, Vietnam and China, peasant farmers have had their land and livelihoods removed from them, often with scant compensation, in order to create space for various forms of satellite city, often walled and gated, enclaves for the prosperous managerial middle classes. This paper will start with an attempt to draw together some of the common threads that characterise these outbursts of speculative building on the edge of East Asian cities. The empirical section of the paper will look in more detail at the construction of a mammoth new business and transport hub on the western outskirts of Shanghai. Hongqiao is one of many such 'new cities' built on the periphery of China's major cities. It is, however, particularly noteworthy for its size and for its ambition as a western pivot to mirror Pudong in the east of Shanghai. The paper is built around research on the process of relocating 11,000 residents, and includes the results of a survey of the concerns of the displaced villagers prior to their relocation into purpose-built high-rise modern blocks. Finally the paper will place these events and the experiences of the displaced farmers and their families into a broader regional context, highlighting both distinctive institutional features and commonalities of process.

Urban-Rural Linkages: Issues and Challenges in Urban Services Provision in the Peri-Urban Areas of Gurgaon City, India

Bhawna Bali (TERI University, India)

The binary perspective on settlements being urban or rural has increasingly become diluted due to emergence of strong interaction and interdependence between the urban and rural areas resulting from rapid urbanization. As the frontiers of cities progressively encroach upon the surrounding countryside, there is irrevocable alteration of the socio-economic, cultural and natural environment of the rural areas. The villages whose agricultural lands have already been acquired and the villages which are facing imminent acquisition of their agricultural land are witnessing rapid transformations in the population, land use, natural and built environments. The study aims at assessing the existing situation of urban services, and governance issues in selected peri-urban areas of the major industrial and IT hub in northwestern India - Gurgaon City in the State of Haryana. The study is based on mixed methods approach with analyses of secondary data on the household amenities and facilities, and field work based information generated through semi-structured interviews and discussions with peri-urban residents. A lack of politico-administrative jurisdiction and weak governance institutions in peri-urban areas have contributed to degraded environments in the abadis (inhabited areas), unregulated building activities within and outside the abadis (inhabited areas) proliferate to the detriment of healthy living conditions, in particular the provision of basic services. In view of the heightened focus on making India clean (under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan), it is expected that the peri-urban areas will receive attention of planners, policy makers as well as researchers.

The drifter: Mapping the r/urban landscape of post-Apartheid South Africa in the quest for secure livelihoods, better lives and a clear identity

Paul Hebnick (Wageningen University, The Netherlands)

Lothar Smith (Radboud University Nijmegen, The Netherlands)

In this paper we seek to develop an argument indicating the importance of the notion of the 'drifter', which refers to those who are shifting, physically and/or mentally, between rural and urban domains, as part of an identity which is no longer outright agrarian nor wholly urbanite. The term drifter gives necessary emphasis to the agency of individuals and the social constellations they are part of, to explain how the dichotomy of rural and urban regions has become more and more problematic. These drifters play on hybrid thinking, derived from concomitant attachments to both rural and urban sites through an array of interrelating social, economic and cultural fields, to pursue their livelihoods and chase ambitions towards achieving certain identities. This results in heterogeneous attachments to both the rural and urban, with traditional cultural overtones such as the need to be 'home' in the village for rituals like the coming of age for young men mixing in happily with intensive use of social media, that provide new income opportunities, global connections, and the means to organize their degree of mobility. Empirically our focus is on South Africa, more particularly on actors deriving from the villages of Guquka and Koloni, two Xhosa villages located in the Eastern Cape.

Bringing the rural back in: postcolonial suburbs in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Claire Mercer (The London School of Economics and Political Science, UK)

African cities are becoming increasingly suburban, yet we know little about suburban spaces, how they are historically produced, and by whom. This paper argues that African suburbs can be usefully understood as postcolonial suburbs. The postcolonial suburb de-centres the Anglo-American suburban model and pays attention to the historical co-constitution of suburban space across colony and metropole. It draws attention to the colonial and postcolonial governmental policies on land and housing that make suburban development possible, but also attends to the everyday ways in which suburban spaces are built through the efforts of self-builders and their house-building projects. Using the case of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, the paper considers the ways in which postcolonial suburbs are both the same as the putative Anglo-American suburban model – low-density residential spaces on the edge of the city – but also different in significant ways. These low-density residential spaces towards the edge of the city are being shaped by Tanzania's new middle classes with their appetite for large houses and private cars. But these are not copies of suburban forms from elsewhere. Architecturally they are dominated by bungalows and villas, but these buildings are self-built rather than part of large planned housing schemes. Socially the suburbs are dominated by the middle classes, but these middle classes are oriented towards the countryside rather than towards the city. Drawing on interviews with a small number of suburban residents in Dar es Salaam, I show how self-build housing projects straddle the suburban and the rural in terms of economic investments and

social relations. The paper concludes by arguing that we need to bring the rural back in to our analysis of the city.

Nexus Thinking in an Energised Rural Geography (2)

Thursday Session 4 (16:50-18:30) Sheffield Building, Room 10

229 Nexus Thinking in an Energised Rural Geography (1)

Affiliation Energy Geographies Research Group
Rural Geography Research Group

Convenor(s) **Jen Dickie (University of Stirling, UK)**
Martin Phillips (University of Leicester, UK)

Chair(s) **Martin Phillips (University of Leicester, UK)**

Timetable Thursday 01 September 2016, Session 3 (14:40 - 16:20)

Room Sheffield Building, Room 10

Session abstract Energy has been a key, if often poorly recognised aspect of rurality. Rural areas, for example, have long been important sites of energy production, be this in the form of animal power and biomass, mineral based hydrocarbons, nuclear power, or renewable forms of energy. Whilst much of this production flows in various ways to urban centres, rural life and activities also involves the consumption of energy, with per capita levels of energy consumption being higher in rural areas than urban ones within many counties, including the UK. Growing energy demands have seen many rural areas become spaces of social contestation, with conventional, renewable and unconventional energy production all becoming the focus of resistance and protest. Concerns over the impact of energy consumption on the world's climate have not only added to contestations over energy production but have also raised questions about sustainability of current practices of energy consumption in the countryside. Rural areas, however, may also be important sites for the mitigation of the impacts of energy use, containing many forms of 'carbon sinks', although also being places impacted by some of the consequences of climate change. Such features suggest that there is a need to energise rural geography, developing a greater recognition of how energy acts to condition much of life in rural areas. Nexus thinking may well be a key aspect of an energised rural geography, because developments in energy production, distribution and consumption frequently connect in complex and often countervailing ways with many other constituents of rural space. Concerns, for example, have been expressed about the impacts of renewable energy production on the availability of land for food production, the quality of water supplies and the aesthetic value of rural landscapes, with the latter issues also being the focus of concern in relation to the extraction of unconventional hydrocarbons. Attempts to foster a transition to a low carbon economy may not only be difficult to implement, but also act to heighten transitions such as commuting and rural gentrification which further foster carbon energy dependencies. Papers in this session explore the value of nexus thinking to the study of energy related geographies in rural contexts. Papers explore the nexus relations and tensions across a range of energy networks and rural spaces within Australia, Denmark and India, as well as the UK

Linked Sessions [Nexus Thinking in an Energised Rural Geography \(2\)](#)

Contact organisers to request a change to session or paper details: AC2016@rgs.org

Energising rural geography: exploring the value of nexus thinking to a post-carbon rural studies

Jen Dickie (University of Stirling, UK)
Martin Phillips (University of Leicester, UK)

Energy has been a relatively neglected issue within studies of rural geography, being rarely mentioned in the textbooks and reviews of rural geography. This neglect is surprising given the significance of rural areas as locations for energy production and distribution, and concerns over high per capita energy use and associated greenhouse gas and other emissions. The emergence of nexus thinking may be seen to further emphasise the relative neglect of energy issues within rural studies,

given the prominence it has given to the intersection of energy with agricultural production, the quality of environmental resources, land use demands, and the social and cultural value of landscapes. Drawing on Urry's (2011) notion of a 'post-carbon sociology', this paper seeks to explore the potential of an 'energised rural studies', drawing attention to both the carbon dependency of many contemporary processes of rural change and the geography of attempts to transition towards a low or post-carbon future. The paper focuses attention on the presence 'radical ruralities' (Halfacree 2007) that have been animated by energy issues, what might be described as 'energised radical ruralities' and the energy literacies of more conventional rural communities. The paper concludes by reflecting on the nexus relations between the energised ruralities present within rural communities in the UK.

Low carbon governance: mobilising community energy through top-down support?

Marianna Markantoni (Scotland's Rural College, UK)

Community energy makes an important contribution to sustainable energy generation, reduction and management, and is a desirable feature of a low carbon future. Renewable community energy is increasingly gaining momentum even in the centralised UK energy market. The challenge of low carbon transitions is faced by multiple territorial governments, and requires inclusive governance arrangements in which a combination of actors work together to implement community strategies towards a climate resilient future. Low carbon governance is a multi-level and (co-)evolving process, especially in the complex interactions between actors of the core, inner periphery and civil periphery. The devolution of power within the UK has enabled Scotland to establish an ambitious policy agenda for renewable energy. By exploring an established national community energy programme (CARES), this study examines the interplay among different actors and looks into how multi-level governance can be strengthened. This paper combines multi-level and evolutionary governance theory to understand the extent to which top-down initiatives facilitate community renewable energy projects in rural areas and help drive wider system transformations. It concludes that in an evolving policy environment, top-down support for community energy is a necessary motivator. This requires the state to play a dominant role in directing low carbon transitions, while acting in concert with non-state, local and regional actors. If (rural) communities are to benefit from energy transitions, wider policies must be aligned with community needs, or else community energy will be pushed to the margins of the next energy revolution.

A Happy Nexus? Anaerobic Digestion and the Matter of Scale in the UK and India

Debadayita Raha (The University of Derby, UK)

Sujatha Raman (The University of Nottingham, UK)

Sarah Jewitt (The University of Nottingham, UK)

This paper examines how the nexus between energy, food and waste is conceptualised in the case of anaerobic digestion (AD) technology in the UK and India. We unpack the scales at which this nexus is framed and by whom, and the implications for how benefits are distributed. AD is conventionally described as a multi-functional technique for breaking down biodegradable 'waste'. In theory, AD represents a 'happy' nexus – rather than a tradeoff - between waste management, renewable energy and socio-economic objectives. The biogas generated in the process can be used as heat energy or converted to electricity or biomethane for transport; the digestate at the end of conversion can be used as fertiliser. Yet, framed in this abstract way, the significance of specific scalar arrangements and valuations of outputs is obscured. In the UK, government support for AD is driven by energy policy, which has stimulated the rise of larger-scale plants and the addition of crop material to 'waste' to improve energy yield. Smaller on-farm and community-scale AD are of interest, but are as yet nascent. India has longstanding experience with small-scale AD/biogas plants, but their success varies by region. For example, in the state of Assam, rural households are faced with the challenge of insufficient water and organic waste to use as feedstock in their digesters. There is also growing interest in developing large scale plants for generating electricity in rural India. Whether these can deliver benefits to rural communities is yet to be determined. But our findings suggest the need to look beyond generic descriptions and examine how the AD nexus works in practice.

Landscapes, Metabolisms and Livelihoods: A Political-Industrial Ecology Analysis of Jatropha Biofuels

Jennifer Baka (The London School of Economics and Political Science, UK)

Political-industrial ecology is an emerging sub-field of human geography that seeks to simultaneously analyze the biophysical and political dimensions mediating human-environment interactions. I argue that the strengths of each field – in depth analysis of the material and energy flows over the life cycle production, in the case of industrial ecology, placed based analysis of the

politics of resource access and control, in the case of political ecology – address the deficiencies in the other. Further, I evaluate how the geographic concept of landscape – a way of seeing the world and the ecological concept of metabolism – the material and energetic throughput of production can be used as bridging concepts to connect the two fields. I develop the analysis through a case study of *Jatropha* biofuel promotion in South India. *Jatropha* biofuels have been widely promoted within India and elsewhere throughout the developing world over the last two decades because of the biofuel's alleged low carbon footprint and carbon debt in comparison with other biofuel feedstocks. Yet, these industrial ecology profiles do not reveal the land use struggles engendered by *Jatropha* promotion as a pre-existing *Prosopis* biomass energy economy in rural India has been uprooted, creating rural energy insecurity in order to make space for 'sustainable' *Jatropha*. In combination, a political-industrial ecology analysis of *Jatropha* unveils the visions of 'sustainable' energy provision embodied in carbon footprints/debts and the class struggles and uneven distribution of environmental costs and benefits that results when these visions are inscribed in rural communities.



Jatropha (2016)

Discussant / Emily Creamer (University of Edinburgh, UK)
[Wiki](#)

Friday 02 Sep 2016

Connecting food system sustainability and resilience through a geographical lens (1): Resilient Food Systems 1

Friday Session 1 (09:00-10:40) Sir Alexander Fleming Building, Room 120 [Session details](#)

273 Connecting food system sustainability and resilience through a geographical lens (1): Resilient Food Systems 1

Affiliation Rural Geography Research Group
 Food Geographies Working Group

Convenor(s) Damian Maye (University of Gloucestershire, UK)
 James Kirwan (University of Gloucestershire, UK)

Chair(s) Damian Maye (University of Gloucestershire, UK)

Timetable Friday 02 September 2016, Session 1 (09:00 - 10:40)

Room Sir Alexander Fleming Building, Room 120

Session abstract The aim of this session is to connect thinking and theoretical perspectives from resilience theory with food system sustainability approaches, discourses and assessment methodologies. Contributions from human and physical geography are encouraged, including evaluating the role and application of geographical perspectives and concepts that emphasise and apply resilience thinking in relation to geographies of food production and consumption. The external pressures driving the agri-food system are widely documented (e.g. climate change, price volatility, food insecurity, urbanisation), and procedures, processes and methods to evaluate food system sustainability well-known within agri-food geography (e.g. LCA, metabolic analysis, multi-criteria assessments, participatory analysis). However, critiques are emerging about the usefulness of sustainability as a framing concept for food system analysis. Missing within such assessments is an appreciation of the dynamic properties of sustainability performance and agri-food system transformation, and the need to link sustainability assessments to frameworks and approaches that capture change at a system level, as well as connect food provisioning with the use of key resources such as land, water and energy. Resilience thinking has much to offer in this regard, particularly through its focus on systems as having dynamic properties and its emphasis on drivers of change. Taking this perspective enables, for example, connections to be made between coping/adaptation strategies and mechanisms, as well as ideas related to social and community resilience and resilience ethics. This session provides an opportunity to explore how resilience thinking can be applied to geographies of agri-food sustainability and transformation, thereby facilitating resilience and adaptation, across a range of geographical perspectives and scales.

273

Connecting food system sustainability and resilience through a geographical lens (1): Resilient Food Systems 1

Papers might address one or more of the following themes: Applying resilience thinking and related... ..concepts to issues including vulnerability, transition, risk management, adaptation, and transformation; Approaches to resilience, such as: socio-ecological resilience, system resilience, regional resilience, social resilience, community resilience, and farm-level resilience; Sustainability science, post-normal science and resilience thinking; Resilience perspectives as a means to 'open up' agri-food sustainability concepts; Collective responsibility and resilience ethics; Drivers of change and coping strategies; Case studies and methodologies that examine resilience across the food chain at a range of geographical scales and spatial contexts, including the Global North and the Global South; AFNs, civic food networks, urban agriculture and resilience; Connections between food, other key resources and resilience framings; The role of policy in promoting agri-food sustainability through resilience

Linked Sessions [Connecting food system sustainability and resilience through a geographical lens \(2\): Resilient Food systems 2](#)

Contact organisers to request a change to session or paper details: AC2016@rgs.org

Adapting a social-ecological resilience framework for food systems

Jennifer Hodbod (Arizona State University, USA)

Hallie Eakin (Arizona State University, USA)

The purpose of applying social-ecological resilience thinking to food systems is twofold: First, to define those factors that help achieve a state in which food security for all and at all scales is possible. Second, to provide insights into how to maintain the system in this desirable regime. However, the resilience of food systems is distinct from the broader conceptualizations of resilience in social-ecological systems because of the fundamentally normative nature of food systems: humans need food to survive, and thus system stability is typically a primary policy objective for food system management. However, society also needs food systems that can intensify sustainably i.e., feed everybody equitably, provide livelihoods and avoid environmental degradation while responding flexibly to shocks and uncertainty. Today's failure in meeting food security objectives can be interpreted as the lack of current governance arrangements to consider the full and differential dimensions of food system functions – economic, ecological and social – at appropriate scales: in other words, the multifunctionality of food. We focus on functional and response diversity as two key attributes of resilient, multifunctional food systems; respectively, the number of different functional groups and the diversity of types of responses to disturbances within a functional group. Achieving food security will require functional redundancy and enhanced response diversity, creating multiple avenues to fulfill all food system objectives. We use the 2013-15 drought in California to unpack the potential differences between managing for a single function – economic profit – and multiple functions.

Socio-ecological resilience across scales - food production & consumption in Kenya

Lena Bloemertz (University of Basel, Switzerland)

This presentation will address issues of socio-ecological resilience across scales, by looking at food production and consumption in Kenya. Agri-food systems in many parts of rural Africa are closely related to livelihood resilience and a complex web of rural-urban connections, thereby offering a specific opportunity of studying transformations in agri-food systems and their relation to larger societal change.

In order to discuss the impact of ongoing transformations in rural areas of Africa, changes in ecological, as well as social resilience and how they are related to each other will be discussed on different scales. The discussion on those relations will form the basis for a reflection on the utility of resilience as a concept for local and national evaluation and planning.

Reflexive governance, resilience ethics and changing understandings of food chain performance

James Kirwan (University of Gloucestershire, UK)

Damian Maye (University of Gloucestershire, UK)

Gianluca Brunori (University of Pisa, Italy)

There is a growing interest in the performance of food chains, which may have multiple dimensions, with understandings of performance often based on perceptions rather than realities; furthermore, these perceptions may be highly geographically and culturally contingent. This paper, in drawing on the findings of an EC-funded project GLAMUR, acknowledges the multiple meanings attributed to food chains by encompassing the perceptions of actors across four different spheres of debate (public, market, scientific and policy), as well as five dimensions (economic, social, environmental, health and ethical). The ethical dimension in relation to food chain performance tends to be normalised, discussed somewhat simplistically in terms of fair trade, labour relations and animal welfare. This paper seeks to go further than this, through examining the ethical component of the sustainability discourse as it is articulated (either implicitly or explicitly) across all five dimensions. Recognising ethics in this way facilitates understanding of how both individuals and organisations might be encouraged to be more reflexive and, in so doing, identify and negotiate their ethical responsibilities in relation to the performance of food chains.

The role of community self-organisation in transitions to resilient food systems

Moya Kneafsey (Coventry University, UK)

Luke Owen (Coventry University, UK)

Lopamudra P. Saxena (Coventry University, UK)

For those working within the agroecological paradigm, communities are regarded as sites where transformative pathways to food system resilience are implemented 'on the ground', and where transitions in peoples' lives physically take place (e.g. Kind 2008). In this context, 'self-organising' (SO) communities are understood as Complex Adaptive Systems (Espinosa et al 2011; Berkes & Ross 2013) and as active agents in their own well-being. Yet many critical questions remain about the extent to which SO communities are emerging in different contexts, and the form that they take. For example, what do SO communities look like and what conditions are needed for them to flourish? How can SO communities be constructed according to principles of social justice and inclusion? Are SO communities always resilient? Drawing from critical geographical scholarship concerning 'reflexive governance' and the politics of place (e.g. Goodman et al 2013), this paper explores the role of SO communities in transitions to resilient food systems. Informed by our experience of working with several community food initiatives in the UK, the paper provides a critical review of concepts and practices of community SO and raises questions about what resilient food systems and communities might look like in different contexts. More broadly, we argue that agroecological and geographical concepts have much to offer each other as we begin to map out the contribution that such interdisciplinary work can make to resilience thinking.

Food resilience: a new perspective to address the sustainability of the urban food system

Gwenn Pulliat (Aix Marseille University, France)

This presentation explores the role of small-scale urban and peri-urban agriculture in enhancing urban food resilience. Theoretically, it analyses the concept of "food resilience" and its pertinence: how does this dynamic concept, insisting on the people's adaptive capacities, give a new perspective to the building process of food security at the individual and community scales? The analytical part draws upon fieldwork undertaken in Hanoi (Vietnam), and launches a reflection on the role of urban agriculture in households' food resilience. This case study shows that agricultural practices are of major importance in low-income households' livelihoods. They manage their assets so as to combine various livelihoods – a condition to enhance their resilience (Gallopín 2006, Adger 2006) – and farming plays a specific role in this process (Zezza & Tasciotti, 2010). However, in a rapidly developing city, a shift occurs towards (1) the urbanization of former farmlands and (2) a more modernized and commercial peri-urban agriculture (planned urban food system). It seems detrimental to underprivileged households (raising a question of spatial justice in urban planning (Harvey 2008, Soja 2010)), and their practices – such as continuing to grow food on seized land – may be understood both as a resilience-building strategy (individual and community-based food system) and as a contestation against the shape of planned urban development. Therefore, what does "sustainability" mean for the urban food system – if the individual food resilience is threatened? The food resilience concept leads to a new look onto the sustainable food system framework. We will explore the hiatus between the urban policy towards the city food resilience and the actual practices towards individual food resilience.

Everyday Ruralities (1): The 'more-than' of everyday ruralities

Friday Session 1 (09:00-10:40) Sheffield Building, Room 6 [Click for session details](#)

289 Everyday Ruralities (1): The 'more-than' of everyday ruralities

Affiliation Rural Geography Research Group

Convenor(s) Keith Halfacree (Swansea University, UK)
Andrew Maclaren (University of Aberdeen, UK)

Chair(s) Andrew Maclaren (University of Aberdeen, UK)

Timetable Friday 02 September 2016, Session 1 (09:00 - 10:40)

Room Sherfield Building, Room 6

Session abstract Life happens; the everyday matters; people are living organisms not simply lumps of matter; the ordinary can be ordinary, the ordinary can be extraordinary... Academics are increasingly attending to these kinds of 'mundane matters' in scholarship, whether they feature as an explicit research aim or as a more secondary emergent feature of their original goal – the ubiquitous 'it wasn't what we were originally looking for but is clearly important'. This session seeks to address this overall concern in the context of the rural as a geographical nexus of the warp and weft of such everyday life. Rurality is by definition a nexus place. It presents a space through which to think through linkages between environmental and social domains. It is represented, practiced and lived in numerous often diverse ways but, crucially, how well these aspects merge or converge is highly variable. The congruence often implied by the idea of nexus may be critically lacking, as conflicting and conflicted ruralities may be more apparent. In the context of the conference's central theme of 'nexus thinking', this session looks to bring together scholarship that considers the everyday life of / in rural spaces and places, communities and landscapes. This includes a variety of engagements from a range of theoretical, methodological and empirical considerations.

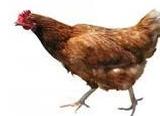
Linked Sessions [Everyday Ruralities \(2\): Nexus of lives lived](#)

Contact organisers to request a change to session or paper details: AC2016@rgs.org

Fragmentary Ruralities: performative ruins and materialities of the 'everyday' in the southern Peak District

George S. Jaramillo (University of Edinburgh, UK)

The former lead-mining moorlands of the Peak District conjure up imagery of pastoral farms, hardworking miners, a 'howling wilderness' and a walker's paradise. Yet, these images only present a particular 'way of seeing' the landscape. It is perhaps in the fragments of landscape that we can encounter the occluded practices and materialities of the rural Peak District landscape. This presentation argues that the rural landscape is a constellation (Benjamin 1974) of fragmentary practices made by the material and immaterial traces of the ruins abandoned, sites, and forgotten stories of the landscape (DeSilvey 2006, Gordillo 2014). I present these encounters and practices through a stitched together narrative of an alternative 'everyday' in this region. The landscape as constellation shifts the perspective towards the forgotten and repressed 'underground' fragments that constitute significant influences on the more overt components of the landscape. The aim is thus to 'attune' myself to different ways of practicing the ruralities of landscape, outside of the dominant pastoral and labour narratives.



Reading Everyday Ruralities: Introducing Chook-Lit
Barbara Pini (Griffith University, Australia)

This paper details the emergence of a new genre of women's writing that has only recently emerged in Australia, but has gone on to become an international phenomenon. The genre has been labelled 'chook-lit', as like its progenitor, chick-lit, it focuses on the romantic tribulations of contemporary single women in a comedic manner. Unlike chick-lit, which is set in global cities, chook-lit is set in rural communities. In general, chook-lit authors cast city life as distinctly different from rural living and in negative terms. At the same time they incorporate into their narratives many of the social economic and environmental problems facing rural Australia such as drought, suicide, environmental degradation, the mining/farming nexus, violence and drug and alcohol abuse. In this presentation I explore the strengths and limitations of using chook-lit as a portal to further knowledge about everyday ruralities. In doing so I revisit the arguments of feminist scholars of chick-lit who have taken

the genre seriously as a means to understand contemporary postfeminist politics along with a wide range of other social issues and anxieties.

(Re)Introducing Ruralities- rewilding and the nature of place
Kieran O'Mahony (Cardiff University, UK)

Rural areas have often been seen as the boundary between the cultural (city) and the natural (wild), yet they are also the locations where this traditionally accepted, spatial and philosophical dualism is most likely to become entangled, merge and break down. Within the context of conservation and environmental governance, rural areas thus become nexus places where debates over the management of the more-than-human, biosecurity and the nature of place are enacted. Using the return of wild boar to the British landscape as a case, this paper will consider how the increasingly popular theory of rewilding challenges established rural identities and landscapes, as well as the ways in which humans conceptualise and interact with "nature". In particular, the importance to rewilding of (re)introduced, keystone species, means existing local actors form new assemblages with unfamiliar nonhumans. These species may create new spatial and temporal landscapes, thus transgressing the established physical and metaphysical boundaries that define notions of place, and representations of rurality and wild. As rewilding becomes more established in both academic and public discourse, social science research into human-nonhuman interactions and the implications of "living-with" becomes ever important for both ethical and practical reasons. Critical to this is understanding how reintroduced species may disrupt and reconfigure relations within the rural nexus and contest ruralities. This paper will explore these considerations theoretically and through the early findings of research.



Sheep Cultures: Everyday Rural Lives through the Ovine More-than-Human
Keith Halfacree (Swansea University, UK)
Fiona Williams (University of Chester, UK)

Recent decades have seen considerable conceptual development and concomitant empirical support regarding how social science maps and interprets the rural. From an emphasis on people in place and what they do, to how these people and their places and practices are represented, scholarship is now legion. Moreover, following a period of relative eclipse, a recent neo-humanistic turn has returned attention to a third dimension of the rural, lives lived in rural places. And yet, all such studies of rurality have been strongly anthropocentric, foregrounding the human as object and subject. This appears unsatisfactory when it is noted how so much of what usually assembles around any notion of what comprises the rural as place, representation and/or experience is comprised of more-than-human elements. These elements merit greater prominence within ontological and epistemological aspects of rural research. Sheep, for one, certainly form a key component of rurality and how it is known. It is through taking these animals seriously that rurality is approached in this paper. While changing farming practices have seen the retreat of sheep in many traditional areas, such as the uplands, this is not ubiquitous. After briefly addressing the empirical presence of ovine assemblages within the contemporary rural landscape and illustrating the place of sheep within rural representations, the paper focuses on the place of sheep within everyday rural lives. It draws briefly on emergent features taken from data gathered 'in the wild' for an ethnographic study but predominantly reflects upon 'sheep cultures' encountered through one author's experiences as researcher, farmer, and administrator for one of the UK's Sheep Societies. The paper concludes that foregrounding more-than-human elements – here, sheep – and then bringing in the human helps to reinforce and reiterate how rural places can indeed be multidimensional nexus places for the playing out of grounded and multiply entangled everyday lives.

Connecting food system sustainability and resilience through a geographical lens (2): Resilient Food systems 2

Friday Session 2 (11:10-12:50) Sir Alexander Fleming Building, Room 120 [Session details](#)

303 Connecting food system sustainability and resilience through a geographical lens (2): Resilient Food systems 2

Affiliation Rural Geography Research Group
Food Geographies Working Group

303 Connecting food system sustainability and resilience through a geographical lens (2): Resilient Food systems 2

Convenor(s) **Damian Maye (University of Gloucestershire, UK)**
James Kirwan (University of Gloucestershire, UK)

Chair(s) **Damian Maye (University of Gloucestershire, UK)**

Timetable Friday 02 September 2016, Session 2 (11:10 - 12:50)

Room Sir Alexander Fleming Building, Room 120

Session abstract The aim of this session is to connect thinking and theoretical perspectives from resilience theory with food system sustainability approaches, discourses and assessment methodologies. Contributions from human and physical geography are encouraged, including evaluating the role and application of geographical perspectives and concepts that emphasise and apply resilience thinking in relation to geographies of food production and consumption. The external pressures driving the agri-food system are widely documented (e.g. climate change, price volatility, food insecurity, urbanisation), and procedures, processes and methods to evaluate food system sustainability well-known within agri-food geography (e.g. LCA, metabolic analysis, multi-criteria assessments, participatory analysis). However, critiques are emerging about the usefulness of sustainability as a framing concept for food system analysis. Missing within such assessments is an appreciation of the dynamic properties of sustainability performance and agri-food system transformation, and the need to link sustainability assessments to... frameworks and approaches that capture change at a system level, as well as connect food provisioning with the use of key resources such as land, water and energy. Resilience thinking has much to offer in this regard, particularly through its focus on systems as having dynamic properties and its emphasis on drivers of change. Taking this perspective enables, for example, connections to be made between coping/adaption strategies and mechanisms, as well as ideas related to social and community resilience and resilience ethics. This session provides an opportunity to explore how resilience thinking can be applied to geographies of agri-food sustainability and transformation, thereby facilitating resilience and adaptation, across a range of geographical perspectives and scales. Papers might address one or more of the following themes: Applying resilience thinking and related concepts to issues including vulnerability, transition, risk management, adaptation, and transformation; Approaches to resilience, such as: socio-ecological resilience, system resilience, regional resilience, social resilience, community resilience, and farm-level resilience; Sustainability science, post-normal science and resilience thinking; Resilience perspectives as a means to 'open up' agri-food sustainability concepts; Collective responsibility and resilience ethics; Drivers of change and coping strategies; Case studies and methodologies that examine resilience across the food chain at a range of geographical scales and spatial contexts, including the Global North and the Global South; AFNs, civic food networks, urban agriculture and resilience; Connections between food, other key resources and resilience framings; The role of policy in promoting agri-food sustainability through resilience

Linked Sessions [Connecting food system sustainability and resilience through a geographical lens \(1\): Resilient Food Systems 1](#)

Contact organisers to request a change to session or paper details: AC2016@rgs.org

Spatio-economic modelling of agricultural resilience

Rob Berry (University of Gloucestershire, UK)

Mauro Viganì (University of Gloucestershire, UK)

The aim of this paper is to investigate the impact of agricultural land diversity on the stability of farm performance. The planned approach will build on previous research in this area (Abson et al., 2013) by combining GIS-based spatial analysis and economic modelling to advance understanding of the relationship between the heterogeneity of agricultural landscapes and the resilience of agricultural returns. Using case studies in Italy and/or the United Kingdom, the project will further test the hypothesis that "...decreasing land-use diversity results in landscapes that provide higher, but more volatile economic returns" (Abson et al., 2013 p. 1). High-resolution land cover data will be combined with other geospatial environmental datasets (e.g. climate, soils) within a GIS framework to calculate

indices of agricultural landscape diversity and agricultural vulnerability at various spatial scales within each study area sub-region. The resulting indices will then be spatially joined to a time-series of economic datasets on agricultural/farm performance (e.g. Farm Business Survey) in order to provide a multi-dimensional analysis (e.g. impact assessment models, geographically weighted regression) of the links between landscape diversity, environmental vulnerability and the resilience of agricultural production. It is hoped that the results of this work will prove useful for informing strategic thinking on land-food nexus issues.



Making the connections between medium and small-scale dairy farmers and inshore fishers: a resilience perspective

James Kirwan (University of Gloucestershire, UK)

Damian Maye (University of Gloucestershire, UK)

Mauro Vigani (University of Gloucestershire, UK)

Dilshaad Bundhoo (University of Gloucestershire, UK)

At first sight it might appear incongruous to try and make connections between dairy farmers and inshore fishers, but in reality they face many of the same issues. These include an ageing working population, a lack of inter-generational succession, regulatory pressures (via either the CAP or the CFP), access to finance, environmental restrictions, and an underlying struggle to remain financially viable in the face of price volatility and uncertain access to markets. As such, both groups of producers are inherently exposed to high levels of risk, as well as having a potentially limited ability to manage and mitigate that risk. This paper adopts a resilience perspective to examine the underlying conditions confronting these two groups of primary food producers, as well as the range of strategies they employ as they seek to overcome their vulnerability. In doing so, it is important to consider the scale at which this is done and to focus on the specifics of place rather than generalities. This paper, in drawing on case study work conducted in the South-West of England (inshore fisheries) and Cheshire / Staffordshire (medium and small-scale dairy farmers) as part of the EU-funded H2020 project, SUFISA (Sustainable finance for sustainable agriculture and fisheries), compares conditions and mitigation strategies adopted by both sets of actors. The analysis reveals some sector differences but also a common pool of resilience strategies, including: pluriactivity, diversification and intensification; but also, on occasions, maladaptation and exit from the industry. A key finding is that in both cases the producers' high level of dependency on natural resources, as well as relative insignificance as economic actors, exposes them to high levels of risk and uncertainty and potentially low levels of resilience.

Bouncing Back to Before? The Persistence of Food Insecurity amid Resilient Livelihoods in the Eastern Province of Sierra Leone

Jerram Bateman (University of Otago, New Zealand)

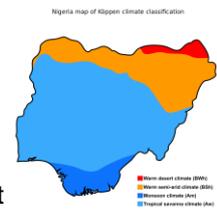
Etienne Nel (University of Otago, New Zealand)

Tony Binns (University of Otago, New Zealand)

In recent decades, Sierra Leone has been stalked by social, economic and environmental instability. Thirty years of often corrupt and dysfunctional governance led to a brutal civil war throughout the 1990s, which resulted in more than 50,000 deaths, and the displacement of over half the population; climate change has created uncertainty regarding the sustainability of traditional agricultural practices; and communicable diseases such as malaria and Lassa Fever remain constant threats, while the recent Ebola epidemic has had a significant impact on the predominantly agricultural population's ability to generate a livelihood. Throughout this time, rural communities within Sierra Leone have demonstrated remarkable resilience, adapting livelihood strategies in order to mitigate the impact of each challenge, which has enabled reasonably rapid recovery in times of relative stability. Despite such resilience, however, nearly half of households in Sierra Leone are classified as food insecure. Further, field research undertaken in 1974 and 2014 in Panguma and Kayima, two small towns in the Eastern Province of Sierra Leone, has uncovered little change in the manifestation and magnitude of food insecurity over that time. As such, this paper argues that resilience, in itself, is not sufficient to ensure food security within vulnerable communities, and that resilience thinking may even be detrimental in some contexts, as both internal and external actors can

become resigned to the food system 'bouncing back' to its previous capacity, rather than seeking to improve it.

Farmer knowledge and attitudes towards climate change adaptation in the northern Nigerian drylands
Nugun Patrick Jellason (Royal Agricultural University, UK)
Richard Baines (Royal Agricultural University, UK)
John Conway (Royal Agricultural University, UK)



1 Wki map 2016

Studies on climate change scenarios for Nigeria show maximum temperatures increasing, length of rainy season shortened and time of rainfall onset prolonged across the country most especially in the north Western part where it is mostly dry (Abiodun et al., 2011). Researchers argue that dryland farmers of northern Nigeria are knowledgeable and experienced enough to manage their dry conditions (Mortimore and Adam 1999; Mortimore and Tiffen, 1995) often showing a return to normal state of the production and pastoral systems after stress as a sign of persistence and resilience (Mortimore, 1998). However, the predicted increasing impacts of climate change will test this resilience and sub-Saharan African smallholders in different ways that are likely to be beyond the experience of these smallholders. Hence the need to augment their knowledge with external expertise in order to build resilience into their production systems going forward (Frank and Penrose Buckley, 2012; Danjuma et al. 2014). In the past, development project failures based on science-based external intervention for dryland management only, has created an environmental distrust in such activities. However, by acknowledging the collective knowledge of local farmers to adapt to their environment allied to additional training for adaptation could be more appropriate (Mortimore, 1998). This paper aims to appraise to what extent external knowledge can augment farmer indigenous knowledge for climate change adaptation and mitigation in the drylands of northern Nigeria. The overall goal of science based evidence forming the foundation to social science engagement favours the use of mixed methods approach to investigate this issue in a pragmatic way.

Discussant

Gareth Enticott (Cardiff University, UK)

Discussant

Everyday Ruralities (2): Nexus of lives lived

Friday Session 2 (11:10-12:50) Sherfield Building, Room 6 [Click for session details](#)

261 Nexus Thinking in an Energised Rural Geography (2)

Affiliation Energy Geographies Research Group
 Rural Geography Research Group

Convenor(s) **Jen Dickie (University of Stirling, UK)**
Martin Phillips (University of Leicester, UK)

Chair(s) **Jen Dickie (University of Stirling, UK)**

Timetable Thursday 01 September 2016, Session 4 (16:50 - 18:30)

Room Sherfield Building, Room 10

Session abstract Energy has been a key, if often poorly recognised aspect of rurality. Rural areas, for example, have long been important sites of energy production, be this in the form of animal power and biomass, mineral based hydrocarbons, nuclear power, or renewable forms of energy. Whilst much of this production flows in various ways to urban centres, rural life and activities also involves the consumption of energy, with per capita levels of energy consumption being higher in rural areas than urban ones within many counties, including the UK. Growing energy demands have seen many rural areas become spaces of social contestation, with conventional, renewable and unconventional energy production all becoming the focus of resistance and protest. Concerns over the impact of energy consumption of the world's climate have not only added to contestations over energy production but have also raised questions about sustainability of current practices of energy consumption in the countryside. Rural areas, however, may also be important sites for the mitigation of the impacts of energy... use, containing many forms of 'carbon sinks', although also being places impacted by some of the consequences of climate change. Such features suggest that there is a need to energise rural geography, developing a greater recognition of how energy acts to condition much of life in rural areas. Nexus thinking may well be a

261 **Nexus Thinking in an Energised Rural Geography (2)**

key aspect of an energised rural geography, because developments in energy production, distribution and consumption frequently connect in complex and often countervailing ways with many other constituents of rural space. Concerns, for example, have been expressed about the impacts of renewable energy production on the availability of land for food production, the quality of water supplies and the aesthetic value of rural landscapes, with the latter issues also being the focus of concern in relation to the extraction of unconventional hydrocarbons. Attempts to foster a transition to a low carbon economy may not only be difficult to implement, but also act to heighten transitions such as commuting and rural gentrification which further foster carbon energy dependencies. Papers in this session explore the value of nexus thinking to the study of energy related geographies in rural contexts. Papers explore the nexus relations and tensions across a range of energy networks and rural spaces within Australia, Denmark and India, as well as the UK

Linked
Sessions

[Nexus Thinking in an Energised Rural Geography \(1\)](#)

Contact the conference organisers to request a change to session or paper details: AC2016@rgs.org

When worlds collide: nexuses and fractures in rural engagements with energy science, governance and place impacts

Ian Bailey (Plymouth University, UK)

Magdalini Kechagia (Plymouth University, UK)

Nichola Harmer (Plymouth University, UK)

Recent years have seen significant interest in the roll-out of 'new' energy technologies, such as small-scale wind and solar farms and hydraulic fracturing, in rural areas. Place attachment has become a well-established lens for analysing the cognitive and affective processes through which rural residents form opinions on siting decisions for these technologies. Drawing on recent UK experiences with renewable energy and fracking proposals, I argue for two extensions of this approach to further explorations of nexuses and ruptures created by the deployment of new energy technologies in rural areas. The first concerns the partial 're-disaggregation' of place attachment to deepen understandings of how some disruptions to the valued attributes of rural places become alleviated as developments are assimilated into the fabric of local meanings, while others continue to be seen (by some) as discordant with rural place-based values. The second explores the broader challenges to rural communities emanating from nexuses between: (i) the place-disruptive potential of 'new' energy technologies; (ii) understandings of these technologies and the pressures driving their expansion; and (iii) comprehensions of – and the ability to navigate – the governance processes through which decisions are made on whether, in what forms, and where such technologies should be located. Sustained analysis of such nexuses and areas of fragmentation, I argue, are crucial in developing fuller understandings of the implications of energy transitions for rural areas and their residents.

Values and assumptions in bioenergy debates: A politics of knowledge analysis of 'waste' and marginality within UK agricultural systems

Rebecca Whittle (Lancaster University, UK)

Neil Simcock (The University of Manchester, UK)

Hanneke Mol (Northumbria University, UK)

Vasiliki Petousi (University of Crete, Greece)

Irini Theodorakopoulou (Greek Agricultural Organisation DIMITRA)

Eugenia Petropoulou (University of Crete, Greece)

Bioenergy is often presented as a long-term, environmentally beneficent and economically viable source of low-carbon energy (IEA, 2012; Sims, 2002; Welfe et al, 2014). In the EU, mandatory targets set by the Renewable Energy Directive (EC, 2009) established that, by 2020, 20 per cent of the EU's overall energy supply should come from renewables, with slightly differentiated individual targets for each Member State. However, concerns have been raised over the adverse consequences that land use change to bioenergy crop production may provoke. Such concerns have pushed the debate toward the idea of growing bioenergy crops on so-called 'marginal land'. For example, Fargione (2008: 14) writes that tensions between biofuel production and food security can be lifted by targeting 'idle agricultural land, marginal lands, wastes and residues and intensification of current production'. The idea that 'waste' products and 'marginal' land can be utilised in this way is a

seductive proposition for policy makers looking for solutions to the apparent conflict of interest between food and energy security. However, as noted by Shortall (2013), the reality is more complex than this, as the concept and discourse of marginal land are the subjects of considerable controversy themselves. In this paper, we combine policy analysis with qualitative data from UK farmers and stakeholders to examine how concepts of waste and marginality are understood and mobilized within agricultural systems in relation to biofuels development. Our results reveal complex interrelationships, not only between food and fuel production but also between the ecological sustainability of the countryside and the financial viability of farming in the UK.



(Official website of Denmark 2016)

Making space for wind farms: Practices of territorial stigmatisation in rural Denmark

David Rudolph (Technical University of Denmark, Denmark)

Julia Kirch Kirkegaard (Technical University of Denmark, Denmark)

Whilst issues of siting wind farms have mostly revolved around their public acceptance resulting from an unequal distribution of local costs and benefits, the perceived fairness of the planning process and the disruption of places, the challenge of finding adequate locations and getting access to the land for large wind projects in the first place is becoming increasingly significant. This matter becomes particularly relevant in small countries with relatively mature wind energy sectors, such as Denmark. Although the Danish Renewable Energy Act provides unique measures that allow for greater community involvement and ownership of wind farms, access to diminishing spatial resources reflects a key concern for developers, while putting the role of private landowners at the core of successful projects. By drawing on case studies from rural Northern Denmark it will be demonstrated how narratives of territorial stigmatisation are mobilised and aligned by developers and municipalities in order to make space for and legitimise large wind farm projects in rural areas. In doing so, the paper will illustrate how stigmatisation practices are embedded in discourses of rurality as 'Outskirts-Denmark' that generate a division between areas of energy production and consumption. In more practical terms, it will be shown that 'new development practices' of mapping suitable areas, and purchasing and demolishing properties in marginalised rural areas may not only reflect mechanisms of an evolved wind energy industry, but also allow wind farm developers to avoid conflicts by expediting depopulation.

Coal Seam Gas – Villain or Saviour ? Competing visions of land use in Narrabri Shire, NSW, Australia

Meg Sherval (The University of Newcastle, Australia)

Land is central to the present and future livelihood of rural communities in Australia. It is also fundamental to physical and emotional well-being, a sense of community and a sense of self. Land uses reflect social and economic interests at local, regional and national scales, and, as Labin et al. (2001:266) argue, land use and land cover change is driven by 'individual and social responses to economic conditions, mediated by institutional factors'. In Australia, battlelines have recently been drawn across rural spaces as governments seek to accommodate a burgeoning hydrocarbon industry in the form of coal seam gas (CSG) extraction. While this industry is welcomed by some, it is also feared by others including farmers who question its legitimacy and the potential danger it may pose to local water sources, agricultural produce and long-term human health. Essentially, these land use conflicts reflect the competing visions and ambitions held by various stakeholders who are fighting not only to ensure their version of the region's future but also to redefine the long-term character of the local region and its community.

Discussant / Darren McCauley (University of St Andrews, UK) / Discussant



Isn't that a publisher at an RGRG session in Imperial College (BAS 2011).

3. Undergraduate dissertation winners of Riverford boxes



Richard Yarwood congratulates the 2015 winners, who won organic boxes from Riverford Organic Farmers Ltd. Please contact Richard for next year's competition: R.Yarwood@plymouth.ac.uk



FRiverford box (BAS 2016)

First Prize: Henry Hamilton (Durham): Barriers to the Sustainability of Community Owned Former Sporting Estates

Joint Second: Iain Ross (Cambridge): 'We are nothing': Rural Communities, The City and Professionals in Northern Peru'

Katharine Sherratt (UCL): Exploring the impact of rural financial insecurity on access to sanitation: a multi-dimensional approach, in Karnataka, India

Kudos to the winners! Many thanks to Riverford for their kind sponsorship of the dissertation prizes.

Pictured is Nick with the July box. Your editor has long enjoyed boxes from Riverford and its predecessor in Durham, Butterby, which was a case study in his thesis.

Riverford's RYou may recall Riverford founder Guy Watson with Mike Goodman, Damian Maye, Lewis Holloway, Tim Lang, Tom Macmillan et al on the 2007 Ethical Foodscapes panel (Bottom).

See: <http://www.kcl.ac.uk/sspp/departments/geography/research/Research-Domains/Contested-Development/GoodmanetalWP29.pdf>

4. BOOKS

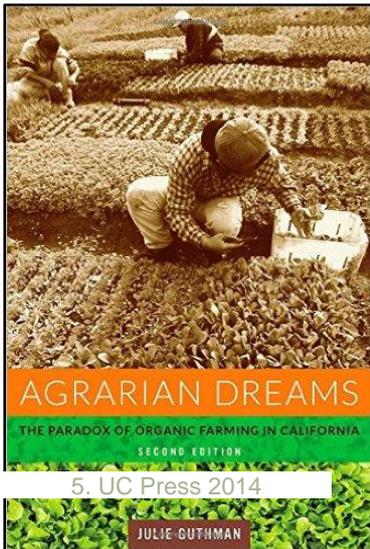
Agrarian Dreams: The Paradox of Organic Farming in California

By Julie Guthman. Berkeley: University of California Press. 2000, 2004. Updated 2nd edition 2014.

Sociological Perspectives of Organic Agriculture

Edited by Georgina C. Holt & Matthew. Oxfordshire, UK; Cambridge, MA, USA: CABI 2006.

In 2004 RGRG members welcomed the paperback edition of Julie Guthman's (2000) *Agrarian Dreams*



Dreams, in the run-up to our papers in Georgina C. Holt & Matthew Reed's workshop at the International Rural Sociology Association (IRSA) XI Congress in Trondheim, Norway that year. It also informed their edited book, *Sociological Perspectives of Organic Agriculture* (2007 CABI), in which the conventionalisation and modernisation of organics was questioned.

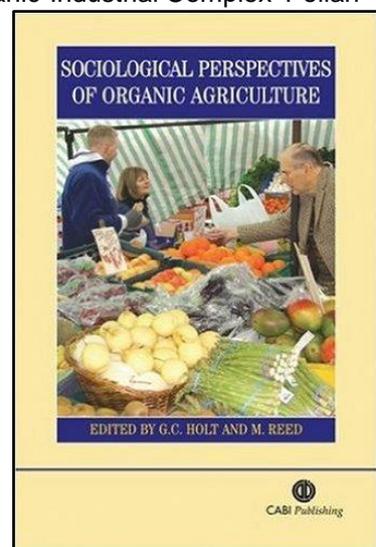
US food writer Michael Pollan declared: 'Agrarian Dreams throws a cold shower of reality over the dream of organic agriculture in California, demonstrating all that is lost when organic farming goes industrial. This is a challenging book, and until we can answer the hard questions Julie Guthman poses, a genuinely sustainable agriculture will elude us.'

The publishers add: 'This second edition includes a thorough investigation of the federal organic program, a discussion of how the certification arena has continued to grow and change since its implementation, and an up-to-date guide to the structure of the organic farming sector. *Agrarian Dreams* delivers an indispensable examination of organic farming in California and will appeal to readers in a variety of areas, including food studies, agriculture, environmental studies, anthropology, sociology, geography, and history.'

In his 2001 New York Times Magazine (2001) article 'Behind the Organic-Industrial Complex' Pollan described 'organic industrial' products as those purely grown to attract economic premiums, rather than eschew small networks and community supported agriculture (CSA). In California, Guthman saw monoculture replacing crop rotation in the 'yuppie organic lettuce' sector, needing regular top-ups of outsourced compost. Organic strawberries relied on methyl bromide, a health concern for migrant labour which Guthman will discuss in London.

Not that the US National Organic Program (NOP) is bereft of all ideals and achievements. For example, Organic Valley cooperative of 1200 dairy farms is arguably kinder to the environment, animal longevity and farm family incomes than intensive mega-dairies (Scholten 2014 U.S. Organic Dairy Politics).

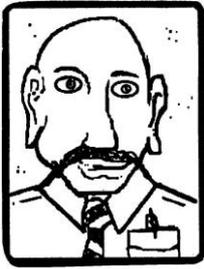
You might say 'The price of organics is eternal vigilance.' Thus, one of Guthman's contributions is challenging scholars to ruthlessly interrogate terms such as 'organic', 'sustainable', 'local' and - the greatest dissembler of all - 'natural.'



Don't miss Julie Guthmans RGS-IBG plenary Weds 31 August 2016, 13.10 in Ondaatje Theatre titled 'Did the pathogen speak? Plants, chemicals, land and workers in the making and unmaking of California's strawberry industry.' See: <http://conference.rgs.org/AC2016/66>

- Editor BAS

5. GEORge's View: BRexit – who buys it? (Humour)



RGRG Newsletter sub-editor George is on compassionate leave. Always proud of his bulldog heritage, George had disapproved the fracas that passes for the 2016 US presidential election with Republican nominee, real estate tycoon Donald Trump, exchanging corruption charges with Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton, his main rival after Clinton used underhand tactics to marginalise social democratic contender Bernie Sanders.

Unfortunately, George was nonplussed when a test of his mitochondrial DNA revealed North American genetics on his mother's side. Friends reassured him that his hero Winston Churchill shared the same trait. All was well until the BRexit vote to leave the European Union on June 24 – the last day we saw George. Vicious internet memes declared: 'Brits lose the right to claim Yanks are dumber.' He took it badly, and seemed preoccupied when leaving the office. If you see George, please alert the editor. George's column may resume in a future issue.

Rural Geography
Research Group
(RGRG)



RGRG Newsletter invites submissions for the Winter 2016 issue: Deadline 21.Nov.16.

Send text & pix from your RGS-IBG conference sessions, other events & book reviews to:

Bruce.Scholten@btopenworld.com



Thanks! to Steven Allan, Web Coordinator at Durham University Geography Department who's assisted the editor 2009-16. Photo credits include universities, institutions, publishers, DeLaval, ESRS & B.A. Scholten.

