



**Royal Geographical Society**  
with IBG  
Advancing geography and geographical learning



**RGRG Newsletter \* Winter Dec.26, 2013:** [www.dur.ac.uk/geography/rgrg\\_newsletter/](http://www.dur.ac.uk/geography/rgrg_newsletter/)  
[Http://www.rgs.org/OurWork/Research+and+Higher+Education/ResearchGroups/Rural+Geography+Research+Group.htm](http://www.rgs.org/OurWork/Research+and+Higher+Education/ResearchGroups/Rural+Geography+Research+Group.htm)

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### **Happy Holidays!**

The RGS-IBG London meeting of 2013 seems barely done and dusted (details in *RGRG Newsletter* Summer 2013). Savour memories of 2013 events including RGRG participation in the annual CCRI Winter School, and a remarkable Anglo-German meeting in Bamberg, Germany. Then take a deep breath and answer the Call for Papers for an RGRG-DARG March 2014 joint seminar.



Cheers – Bruce  
Editor, *RGRG Newsletter*

Please send conference reports, photos & book news to editor:  
[bruce.scholten@btopenworld.com](mailto:bruce.scholten@btopenworld.com)  
<http://durham.academia.edu/BruceScholten>

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## 1. RGS-IBG Annual International Conference 2014

**Geographies of co-production**  
**26-29 August 2014**  
**Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) in London**



### **Call for sessions, papers and posters**

Apologies if you have received this notice more than once.

*Dear Colleague,*

The Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) is pleased to announce that the Call for Sessions, Papers and Posters has

### **AC2014 quick links**

[Conference website](#)

[Conference theme](#)

[Call for sessions,](#)

opened for its Annual International Conference 2014 (AC2014). The conference, which will be chaired by Professor Wendy Lerner (University of Bristol), will have as its theme ***Geographies of co-production***.

[papers and posters](#)

[Guidelines for participation](#)  
[Suggested session formats](#)

The conference is taking place in London in late August:

[Venue and location](#)

**Date:** Wednesday 27 to Friday 30 August 2014, with opening events on Tuesday 26 August

Email the organisers:  
[AC2014@rgs.org](mailto:AC2014@rgs.org)

**Location:** Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) and Imperial College London, South Kensington, London

**Website:** [www.rgs.org/AC2014](http://www.rgs.org/AC2014)

Find the Society on Twitter:  
[@RGS\\_IBG](#)  
[#RGSIBG14](#)

Members of the geographical and related communities are invited to propose sessions, papers and posters for the conference. The deadline for proposing a contribution for the conference is **Friday 21 February 2014**.

If you have any questions, please start by checking the conference website, [www.rgs.org/AC2014](http://www.rgs.org/AC2014). Otherwise, please don't hesitate to get in contact by emailing [AC2014@rgs.org](mailto:AC2014@rgs.org).

Stephanie Wyse  
Professional Officer, Conference & Research Groups

### Conference theme

The conference has a theme of '[Geographies of co-production](#)', which welcomes an exploration of the new encounters universities and researchers are having with commercialisation, open innovation, participatory social science, engaged arts, and public engagement, and how these are shaping research and funding agendas, institutional practices, and academic identities.

In this exploration, delegates are encouraged to reflect on: the challenges and new opportunities that arise when geographers reflect what we think we know against those who start from a different entry point and bring different perspectives to our field of knowledge; the challenges of multi-disciplinarity; how different communities might deploy each other's perspectives to create new understandings; collaborative knowledge making; dynamic locations for knowledge formation, novel forms of exchange and dissemination, and innovative methods for geographical research and teaching.

Innovative session formats that encourage greater interaction and discussion are encouraged.

### Key dates

Prospective delegates are asked to take note of the following key dates and deadlines:

- **Friday 21 February 2014** - Deadline for submitting sessions (with paper and author information, including abstracts), and paper or poster proposals for open sessions
- **End of March 2014** - Conference organisers confirm acceptance of sessions for the conference programme and commence scheduling. Registration opens.
- **Early May 2014** - Conference organisers publish the provisional programme and timetable for feedback. The programme is expected to reach "final" status by early July 2013.
- **13 June 2014** - Early-bird registration deadline, when those listed on the programme and attending (e.g. convenors, chairs, presenting authors) should be registered.

The AC2014 conference website has a full timeline of conference activities: [www.rgs.org/AC2014Timeline](http://www.rgs.org/AC2014Timeline)

[Http://www.rgs.org/WhatsOn/ConferencesAndSeminars/Annual+International+Conference/Annual+international+conference.htm](http://www.rgs.org/WhatsOn/ConferencesAndSeminars/Annual+International+Conference/Annual+international+conference.htm)

## 2. DARG & RGRG seminar 20 March 2014: Agriculture & Aquaculture in the Rural South: Pressures, opportunities & constraints.



*Joint DARG & RGRG day for candidates & recent post-doc researchers (Photos: Howie)*

20 March, 2014, Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester

By Charles Howie (chowie@rau.ac.uk)

**Purpose:** This seminar is about the place and importance of agriculture and aquaculture in the developing south. Comments at the AGMs of DARG and RGRG at the 2013 RGS-IBG Annual Conference indicated postgraduate students and early years researchers need more opportunities to present their work and network with others in this field. This seminar creates space for just that.

In many so-called developing countries, particularly in Asia, rural livelihoods are changing rapidly and agriculture is often only one part of a suite of activities; in parallel the scale of farm-based aquaculture is increasingly rapidly and projected to rise sharply. In sub-Saharan Africa, however, many households are still highly dependent on the use of natural resources and much potential exists for the development of both agricultural and aquaculture. In Africa the attainment of many millennium development goals is problematic, while population growth and climate change are predicted to impact negatively. This event is an opportunity to present work in progress in these fields.

**Key note speaker:** Professor Dave Little, Institute of Aquaculture, University of Stirling, Scotland. Expert agriculturalist to be confirmed.

**Registration:** Please submit your abstract of 250 words or less to Charles Howie, chowie@rau.ac.uk by 30 Jan. 2014. I will be in touch with you by the end of January 2014.

**Email plans to attend to Karen Rial-Lovera:**

**Karen.Rial-Lovera@student.rac.ac.uk**

(<http://www.devgeorg.org.uk/?p=834#&panel1-3>) by 1st March 2014. Karen will supply details of how to reach the University. The nearest train station is Kemble, if several people arrive around 10am we will try to provide transport to Cirencester. Alternatively find regular, frequent National Express coach service from Victoria coach station, via Heathrow central bus station.

**Cost:** We expect the day to cost £12, inclusive of buffet lunch, teas & coffees. This will be confirmed at the end of January 2014. Looking forward to hearing from lots of you



Charles Howie, Visiting Fellow, RAU. Adviser

Faculty of Agriculture and Natural Resources, An Giang University, Vietnam: [chowie@rau.ac.uk](mailto:chowie@rau.ac.uk)



### 3. CCRI WINTER SCHOOL 2013



13 November 2013

By Julie Ingram

Countryside and Community Research Institute  
University of Gloucestershire

*Editor: Damian Maye tells us RGRG representation at this year's Winter School was not as strong as previous years but it still went very well. Here is a short report from Julie Ingram, who organised the Winter School with Carol Kambites.*

CCRI hosted another successful Winter School for postgraduate research students on November 13th. This event, which is now a regular fixture in the CCRI calendar, provides a friendly environment for students to present their research.

There was a good range of presentations from PhD and MSc students, both from CCRI and other institutions, all on the general theme of rural issues. Students welcomed CCRI staff feedback and comments on their work.

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### 4. Rurality - New Perspectives and Themes

15-16 November 2013 Bamberg, Germany.

By Daniel Keech  
Research Assistant



Countryside and Community Research Institute (CCRI)  
University of Gloucestershire

(Photo: CCRI: <http://www.ccri.ac.uk/keech/>)

Six RGRG members attended an international conference which, in significant part, began life as an idea at the RGS-IBG conference in London in 2011.

*Rurality - New Perspectives and Themes* was as stimulating as hoped in Bamberg, Germany. The conference explored and shared concepts of rural geography and rural life across national and disciplinary borders.

Themes discussed included local identity and food; the importance of religion in the construction of rural spaces and market functions; the role of Chinese rural clan loyalty in the development of North American cities; rural places as crucibles of political extremism; historical rural tourism; and the use of art in connecting urban and rural landscapes. Contributions came from Ecuador, Japan, Brazil, India and a range of European countries, providing evidence that *the rural* endows a rich and distinctive arena for scholarship.

Keith Halfacree, Mike Woods, Rebecca Wheeler, Rhys Jones, Jesse Heley, Guy Robinson and Dan Keech attended from RGRG and gave presentations. RGRG is grateful to RGS-IBG for contributing towards attendance costs of ECRs. The conference was funded by the Fritz Thyssen Foundation.

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## 5. Professor Brian Ilbery retires at end of 2013

By Bruce Scholten (Photo: CCRI: <http://www.ccri.ac.uk/latestnews/>)

Tectonic shifts in rural geography are not always due to fracking. One significant move is Professor Brian Ilbery's shift to retirement. Anyone concerned with the problems of family farms and rural development in the UK, US, Germany or elsewhere should explore the work of Brian and his students.



The CCRI website touches on just some of his accomplishments:

'His research has been extensive within the areas of agriculture and food, from the intricacies of land tenure, the business of farm diversification and the study of animal and plant disease, to the broader issues of how we produce and consume food, agricultural change and rural policy. He has been a prolific and much respected author in all of these areas. He has held many public positions, working with the Regional Development Agencies and research councils internationally and currently sits on the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council's 'Bioscience for Society' Strategy Panel and is an Advisory Board Member at the Royal Agricultural University'. Closer to home Brian will be particularly missed for his wisdom, patience, encouragement and commitment as his large number of successful PhD students, as well as his colleagues, will testify. His legacy is considerable and we all wish him a very long and happy retirement.'

## 6. GEORge: Reading to rule?



*Our sub-editor offers unsolicited advice.*

One reason many of us turn to academia is because, as youngsters, we loved to read. This came to mind recently when a younger colleague – we'll call him Sherman - became full-time faculty at a northeast university. After decades of juggling study, teaching and PhD fieldwork he grasped the brass ring - a full-time job. Then came a shock. His coveted new post (37.5 hours weekly by EU rules) keeps him busier than ever. He moans that never again will he have time to read fiction.

GEORge has a tip. Put a book on the bedside stand. Genre doesn't matter (*50 Shades of Clay* is OK). Whether it's classics or Nordic Noir, it must have an attractive cover. Each day Sherman can look forward to a bedtime story. No matter that, when workload reaches the actual 55-70 hours per week, he'll be lucky to read a page per night before collapse. Anticipation is underrated.

**RGRG Newsletter invites contributions to the Summer 2014 edition. Deadline is 15<sup>th</sup> July.**  
**With subject line 'RGRG News' please email reports & photos from AAG or RGRG events, awards, book reviews & features to Editor: [bruce.scholten@btopenworld.com](mailto:bruce.scholten@btopenworld.com)**



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

