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### *Happy New Year 2017?*



Whenever the RGS-IBG annual meeting takes us to its London headquarters, Lowther Lodge reveals poignant mementos from illustrious geographers from the past. I'm drawn to the lists of individuals and organizations honoured by the Society. It's hard to imagine a more impactful paradigm shifter than Charles Darwin, a Christian who developed the theory of evolution. The zeal of travellers is exemplified by John Hanning Speke and Richard Burton who raced to find the source of the Nile River.

Doreen Massey (Wiki 2017) whose contributions included insights on the New International Economic Order (NIEO), was awarded the Victoria Medal in 1994. Her death in 2016 – a year marked by the June 23 referendum for UK Brexit from the European Union, and Donald Trump's November 8 presidential win in USA – summons new geographers to explain how politics, economics, technology, cities, ruralities and space intersect to generate jobs, hope and security for worried citizens:



<http://www.socialsciencespace.com/2013/02/podcastoreen-massey-on-space/>

Highlight your work by sending news & pix from events, fieldwork, books, etc. to Editor, RGRG Newsletter:  
[Bruce.Scholten@bopenworld.com](mailto:Bruce.Scholten@bopenworld.com) (<https://durham.academia.edu/BruceScholten>)

## 1. CCRI Winter School, January 12, 2017



Participants in the CCRI Winter School exude an 'early bird gets the worm' ethos.

## 2017 CCRI Winter School – 12<sup>th</sup> of January 2017– Oxstalls Campus

**Editor: CCRI's Winter School was one day, this year. The Final Agenda (below) shows customary scope and depth to the programme. Thanks to Damian Maye, Matt Reed, George Cusworth & Nick Lewis for info and photos.**

The 2017 edition of the CCRI's Winter School was held this year at Oxstalls Campus on the 12<sup>th</sup> of January. As in previous years, the event was held in association with Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers), Rural Geography Research Group, and the Rural Services Network. As has become a hallmark of the event, a vast range of topics and disciplines were representing, making for an entertaining and stimulating day.

Speakers from the Royal Agricultural University, University of Gloucestershire, Oxford Brookes and Plymouth University talked on WOOFing, on housing policy, on urban green spaces, on small-scale farming technologies in sub-Saharan Africa, on attitude change in the UK agricultural community, and on the (non)-nativeness of the ancient sweet chestnut. Each presentation was then followed with a chance for the floor to offer questions and recommendations for the speakers, all of whom were at different stages in their postgraduate research journey.

The day was drawn to a close with a panel discussion featuring academics from the CCRI on the transition from postgraduate research to professional research posts, and on the different research pitfalls commonly encountered by student researchers.

### Final Agenda – CCRI Winter School – 12<sup>th</sup> of January 2017– Oxstalls Campus

#### MORNING SESSION TAKING PLACE IN ROOM SS115.

10:00 – Welcomes and Introductions

10:20 – Presentation 1: Felipe da Silva Machado, Plymouth University, presenting research on Rural Change, Globalization and WOOFing

10:40 - Presentation 2: Tom Wilkins, University of Gloucestershire, presenting work investigating whether the housing views and ideologies of those working in the planning industry are reflective of those in the young population.

11:00 – Presentation 3: Adeola Alo, Royal Agricultural University, presenting work on 'Smallholder Farmers' Understanding of Climate Change – A Case Study of SW Nigeria

11:20 – Break

11:40 – Presentation 4: Jonathon Wilshaw, University of Gloucestershire, presenting on the question 'Are Urban Residents Disconnected from Nature?'

12:00 – Presentation 5: David Gimbe Tache Oxford Brookes University, presenting work on Corporate Social Responsibility and Transnational tourism corporations in the case of Kenya

12:20 Presentation 6: Nugun Patrick Jellason, Royal Agricultural University, talking on the topic of 'Enhancing Resilience of Sub-Saharan African Drylands' Smallholders to Climate Change

12:40 – Lunch.

#### RECONVENING IN THE GROWTH HUB, ALSO SITUATED AT OXSTALLS CAMPUS

1:30 – Presentation 7: George Cusworth, University of Gloucestershire, presenting on the question: 'How Has Participation in England's ELS Scheme Impacted the Farmer's Sense of Environmental Responsibility?'

1:50 – Presentation 8: Felipe De Silva Machado, Plymouth University, talking on: 'Understanding Rural Resilience: Discussion on Methodologies and Analyses'

2:10 – Presentation 10: Rob Jarman, University of Gloucestershire, talking on the history (i.e. native or alien) of the ancient sweet chestnut population of Britain

2:45 – Panel Discussion on Research and PhD Trouble Shooting

3:30 – Thanks and Farewells



Memento Glori: CCRI Winter School 2017.

## 2a. 2017 RGS-IBG conference, RGRG abstracts & calls-for-papers

This year's RGS-IBG international conference is held in London, 29th August to 1st September [2017]. The overall theme is **Decolonising geographical knowledges: opening geography out to the world** chaired by Sarah Radcliffe (Cambridge, UK):

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



- Sessions will take the form of presented papers, panels, practitioner forums, discussions or workshops. Innovative sessions and formats are encouraged.
- Sessions are 1 hour 40 minutes long. Most sessions will contain five 20-minute presentations which include time for questions, or four 20-minute presentations with discussion and questions at the end.
- Interactive short papers sessions (5 to 10 min presentations with plenary discussion at the end) usually accommodate up to 8 papers.
- A session may not normally occupy more than two timeslots in the conference programme. Any session organiser who thinks they will need more than two timeslots is encouraged to contact the conference organisers early on to discuss this.

Session organisers are encouraged to consider more varied formats to allow for more discussion, but should ensure that they have sufficient confirmed contributors to allow the session to go ahead if one or two withdraw. For paper sessions, we will consider those with four papers provided there are contingencies for replacing papers should any of the papers be withdrawn. For sessions with fewer than five papers, all presenters must register by the early-bird registration deadline so that the session can be confirmed as going ahead for the programme.

***Find more events after the London section!***

## 2b. 2017 RGRG Sessions at the RGS-IBG int'l conference, London 29.Aug.- 01.Sep.

Keith Halfacree announced (12Jan17) sessions we are (co-)sponsoring for the 2017 annual RGS-IBG conference: <http://www.rgs.org/WhatsOn/ConferencesAndSeminars/Annual+International+Conference/Annual+international+conference.htm>

Title	Convenors	Co-Sponsors
New and Emerging Rural Researchers	Hannah Brooking (University of Leicester) & Andrew Maclaren (University of Aberdeen)	
Rural Cosmopolitanism: People, Localities, and Mobilities	Michael Woods & Rhys Jones (Aberystwyth University)	
Different and Diverse Knowledges of (Rural) Food Access and Security	Eifiona Thomas Lane and Rebecca Jones (Prifysgol Bangor University)	FGWG
The Impact of Brexit to Agriculture, Food and Rural Society	Gareth Enticott (Cardiff University) & Damian Maye (University of Gloucestershire)	FGWG
A Digital Rural? Exploring the Roles, Realities and Ruse of Digital Technology, Rurality and Change	Megan Palmer-Abbs (University of Aberdeen) and Fiona Williams (University of Chester)	DGWW
New and Emerging Research within the Green Economy	Daniel Casey (University of Sheffield), Tim Fewtrell (Loughborough University), Robert Hardie (University of Sheffield), Bowy Den Braber (University of Sheffield)	PGF
The Post-Industrial Countryside?	Darren P. Smith (Loughborough University)	
Decolonising Wild–Life: Critical Geographies of Rewilding	Cara Clancy (Plymouth University), Kim Ward (Plymouth University), Sophie Wynne-Jones (Bangor University) and Kieran O'Mahony (Cardiff University)	PyGyRG
What is rural? Ensuring a fair deal for rural communities	Keith Halfacree, University of Swansea & Sonja Rewhorn (Chester)	RGRG

### **New and Emerging Rural Researchers**

This annually held Rural Geography Research Group session looks to explore new and emerging ideas across rural geography by discussing the work of postgraduate and 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. Papers are welcome from any area of rural research: empirical, methodological or theoretical, from rural development, to culture, economy, farming, nature and policy. Deadline for submitting abstracts is Monday 13th February 2017

Those interested in contributing to this session, through the presentation of a maximum 15 minute paper, should email session conveners Hannah Brooking, University of Leicester ([hb110@leicester.ac.uk](mailto:hb110@leicester.ac.uk)) & Andrew Maclaren, University of Aberdeen ([andrew.maclaren@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:andrew.maclaren@abdn.ac.uk)), with the following:

- Title
- Abstract (max 250 words all inclusive)
- Author affiliation and email address

Any queries or questions please get in contact with Hannah and Andrew

### **Rural cosmopolitanism: people, localities, and mobilities**

Michael Woods and Rhys Dafydd Jones (Department of Geography and Earth Science, Aberystwyth University)

Popular narratives of the countryside emphasise its supposed stability and its perceived lack of change and diversity, constructed in opposition to dynamic urban spaces that are nodes in global networks. In this session we explore the ways in which rural spaces are – and have always been – diverse spaces of encounter, exchange, and interaction. The last quarter of a century has seen a proliferation of work exploring diversity in the countryside, with much work focussing on the experiences of minority ethnic groups in the countryside, particularly in the context of racism (Garland and Chakraborti, 2004), and a number of authors have started to develop the notion of ‘rural cosmopolitanism’, though in disparate ways (e.g. Gidwani and Sivaramakrishnan, 2003; Notar, 2008; Popke 2011). More work is needed on other strands of identity, the sites of encountering differences, and ways in which the countryside experiences cosmopolitanism. We particularly invite contributions that on the following themes:

- Ethnic and religious diversity in the countryside;
- Global mobilities and flows through rural spaces;
- Migration and return migration as drivers of rural cosmopolitanism;
- Rural sites of exchange and encounter;
- Tourists as cosmopolitan agents in rural places;
- Precarity and individual experiences of rural diversity;
- Rural institutions and accommodating diversity;
- Cosmopolitanism, consumption and everyday life in the countryside;
- Cosmopolitan politics of the rural;
- Cosmopolitanism and rural carcerality;
- Rural cosmopolitan methodologies;
- Rural cosmopolitanism as an ethical project;
- Policy implications.

Abstracts of no more than 250 words should be sent to both Mike ([zzp@aber.ac.uk](mailto:zzp@aber.ac.uk)) and Rhys ([rhj@aber.ac.uk](mailto:rhj@aber.ac.uk)) by the 31st January 2017.

### **Different and Diverse Knowledges of (Rural) Food Access and Security?**

Convenors: Eifiona Thomas Lane and Rebecca Jones (Prifysgol Bangor University)

Abstract

This two part session, framed around the tensions between rural production and consumption, naturally merges areas of current debate and concern across both traditional rural interests and emerging food geographies globally. The sessions will facilitate a broad interdisciplinary exploration of food from and within rural spaces and places, diversity and differences in experiences and knowledge of inaccessible, insecure and unaffordable food and paths towards enabling sufficiency and localised food (and drink?) justice.

We would very much welcome your abstracts of no more than 250 words focussing on one or more of the following themes but not limited by the themes listed - [eifiona.thomaslane@bangor.ac.uk](mailto:eifiona.thomaslane@bangor.ac.uk) or [rebecca.jones@bangor.ac.uk](mailto:rebecca.jones@bangor.ac.uk) by 12 mid-day on the 14th February 2017.

- Rural food deserts, local diets and justice
- Rural food poverty, well-being and the right to food
- Countryside Planning for more than food...
- Food insecurity and governance e.g. beyond CAP
- Localised markets and food access

- Community growing and re-localised food economies
- Diversity and new food sustainability
- Responsible food tourism?
- Diverse and different food knowledges, skills & experiences

### **The Impact of Brexit to Agriculture, Food and Rural Society**

Dr Gareth Enticott (Cardiff University) enticottg@cardiff.ac.uk

Dr Damian Maye (University of Gloucestershire) dmaye@glos.ac.uk

Brexit poses the most significant challenge to the future of rural areas of Great Britain. In the short term, Brexit has highlighted the reliance of the food system on cheap migrant labour and the complex ways we are connected to Europe (market, regulation and policy links in relation to farming, food supply and trade, for example). Longer term, decisions and choices will be made on systems of rural development, agricultural subsidies and ecosystem services.

In this session we invite papers that engage with the rural impact of Brexit: what are its immediate social and economic impacts? What are the key rural policy and governance impacts? What do we know and not know about the impact of Brexit to agriculture, food and rural society? What kinds of rural geographies and futures does Brexit offer? What are the implications of Brexit in terms of research agendas and knowledge generation? And what is the value of rural geography and its expertise in a post-Brexit world? In particular, we invite papers on the following topics:

- The role of geographical expertise in Brexit
- Conflicts and tensions following Brexit
- Brexit and the potential impacts to farming and the food system
- Post-referendum impacts to rural areas
- Possible post-Brexit rural futures for agriculture and rural development
- Experiences from other countries experiencing profound shifts in rural & agricultural governance (e.g. New Zealand)
- Impacts of Brexit to rural areas outside the UK
- Brexit, future research agendas and the future of rural geography

### **A Digital Rural? Exploring the roles, realities and rise of digital technology, rurality and change**

#### **Digital Geography Working Group (DGWG) & Rural Geography Research Group (RGRG) joint session**

**Convenors: Megan Palmer-Abbs (University of Aberdeen) & Dr Fiona Williams (University of Chester)**

With an unprecedented pace of change in the application of digital technology transforming lives, the drive for digital inclusion internationally, nationally and locally remains a key focus for many (United Nations, 2016). For the rural, new technologies present both opportunity and challenge in their application; from provision and accessibility of infrastructure to variable user engagement, and utility, of digital potential. The realities of digital transformation in the rural are more complex and uneven than widely-held perceptions of digital ubiquity might suggest.

We are interested in hearing how this digital-rural interface affects rural societies. Of particular interest is the dichotomy of access to digital technologies. Contributions are welcomed that; (1) progress understanding of digital winners and losers in the rural milieu; (2) exemplify digital innovation in the rural; (3) explore ramifications of inequity at the digital-rural interface and (4) provide scope to critique the dominant discourse that digital technology provision, access and use is a panacea for all ills. New technologies hold the potential to pivot rural society into new realms and/or simultaneously widen social exclusion. Nuances presented globally within and across rural societies are many. We welcome views from academics and practitioners in furthering understanding of this digital-rural interface.

Abstracts are requested of no longer than 200 words for presentations (15 minutes) followed by a QA session (5 mins). Please include proposed title, contact details, name of institution and send to:

[meganpalmerabbs@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:meganpalmerabbs@abdn.ac.uk) or [fiona.williams@chester.ac.uk](mailto:fiona.williams@chester.ac.uk) by no later than 10th February 2017 OK 22jan17

### **New and Emerging Research within the Green Economy**

Convenors: Daniel Casey (University of Sheffield, UK), Tim Fewtrell (Loughborough University, UK), Robert Hardie (University of Sheffield, UK), Bowyer Den Braber (Uni-Sheffield, UK)

The Green Economy (GE) is a concept which continues to grow in popularity. It is a means through which economic growth can be achieved whilst still protecting the environment (Jacobs, 2012). There has been growing research around ideas which grapple with the notion of what constitutes such an economy and societal transitions towards a GE. However, little consensus exists about what a GE actually entails (Wanner, 2015). The notion of a GE has become the focal point of many debates and featured in major international conferences, such as the Rio+20 United Nations Summit in June 2012 (UNCSD, 2012). The term GE has perhaps grown in popularity worldwide in order to mitigate against environmental externalities which may be brought about by the perfect storm with challenges arising from climate change, population growth and changing food

diets (Foresight, 2011).

Whilst theoretically the term has received much recent attention in academic literature practical examples of how to achieve a GE are lacking. We aim to decolonise geographical knowledge surrounding the GE and open research up to the world through calling for practical examples of how to achieve a GE from both a Global South and Global North setting.

This session will provide an informal and friendly atmosphere in which PhD students and early career researchers are encouraged to present their research. Following paper presentations there will be time for a group discussion. During this we hope to deconstruct the meaning of the term GE and what actually constitutes transitions towards a GE through the use of practical examples. The session will be chaired by researchers from the Green Economy Network and the Grantham Centre for Sustainable Futures at the University of Sheffield. We welcome empirically based paper submissions related to the following generalised themes, but not limited to:

- Practical transitions towards a Green Economy across the Global North and Global South
- Deconstructing perceived wisdoms surrounding the Green Economy
- Emerging governance structures for a Green Economy, e.g. institutions, partnerships etc.
- Achievability of a Green Economy
- Contestations and power struggles within a Green Economy
- Indigenous knowledges of a Green Economy

Please send abstracts up to a maximum of 250 words and proposed titles (clearly stating name, institution, and contact details) by Monday 6th February 2017 to [djcasey1@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:djcasey1@sheffield.ac.uk), [t.fewtrell@lboro.ac.uk](mailto:t.fewtrell@lboro.ac.uk), [rhardie1@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:rhardie1@sheffield.ac.uk) and [bdenbraber1@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:bdenbraber1@sheffield.ac.uk)

### **The post-industrial countryside?**

Darren P. Smith, Loughborough University, UK

45 years ago, Hugh Clout (1972) published his landmark text *Rural Geography: An Introductory Survey*. This compelling work revealed profound changes in the British countryside tied to marked population and socio-cultural changes, the restructuring of agriculture and forestry, the transformative effects of planning and changing manufacturing, transport, and housing. Many of the rural transformations identified by Clout chimed with urban counterparts, such as noted by Bell (1973, 1974) in his thesis of post-industrial urban societies. Indeed, the rural changes revealed by Clout's study had deep roots/routes in the broader societal transition from a goods (production/produce) to service economy, the growth of university-educated, white-collar, professional and creative classes, and the rising prominence of knowledge, technologies and science within societies, cultures and economies, per se.

Many of these driving forces clearly underpin processes that have reshaped rural places over the last three decades in profound ways, such as rural gentrification (Phillips, 1993) counter-urbanisation, (Halfacree, 2008), peri-urbanisation, post-productivism / pluriactivity / tourism, and the intensification of agriculture and forestry, and the penetration of science and enterprise parks in some rural places (Woods, 2005). For instance, agricultural barns, farm sheds/outbuildings, blacksmith and artisan workshops, small textile and corn mills, and dairies/bakeries have been reconfigured as family dwellings for middle class in-migrants, with many working in service economies within nearby metropolitan centres, and / or increasingly working from home using new cutting-edge technologies. Do these entrenched contemporary rural geographies signify The Post-Industrial Countryside? Yet, at the same time, rural places continue to be centres of (industrial)production, albeit in different guises and forms tied to agriculture, forestry, manufacturing, and other sectors.

In this session, wide-ranging papers which focus on the hallmarks of contemporary rural societies, economies, cultures and environments are sought which seek to debate/grapple with the contention of The Post-Industrial Countryside, and, acknowledging the critiques of the post-industrial thesis.

Expressions of interest and Abstracts of 150 words (maximum) should be sent to Darren P. Smith ([d.p.smith@lboro.ac.uk](mailto:d.p.smith@lboro.ac.uk)) by 10 February 2017.

### **Decolonising Wild–Life: Critical Geographies of Rewilding**

Session Organisers:

Cara Clancy	<a href="mailto:cara.clancy@plymouth.ac.uk">cara.clancy@plymouth.ac.uk</a>
Kim Ward	<a href="mailto:kim.ward@plymouth.ac.uk">kim.ward@plymouth.ac.uk</a>
Sophie Wynne-Jones	<a href="mailto:s.wynne-jones@bangor.ac.uk">s.wynne-jones@bangor.ac.uk</a>
Kieran O'Mahony	<a href="mailto:omahonyk@cardiff.ac.uk">omahonyk@cardiff.ac.uk</a>

For a long time, geographers and political ecologists have found fault with the 'fortress' model that has characterised much of conservation for the last century. The spatial demarcation of nature enacted in the form of protected areas (PAs) and national parks (NPs) has been shown to have (often violent) territorialising effects on both the human and non-human communities involved (Adams and Mulligan, 2003; Merchant, 1992, 2005; Brockington, 2002). In recent years, scholars have noted a wave of new interests within European and North American environmental conservation circles. These include shifts away from practices governance and control (often associated with wilderness creation) toward geographies of the 'wild' and 'unruly' (Lorimer and Driessen, 2014; Taylor, 2005; Whatmore, 1998). These moves have often been accompanied by a "new ecology" (Botkin, 1990) that emphasises disequilibrium in ecosystem dynamics and the unpredictable yet crucial role of nonhuman 'disturbance' within wider ecological assemblages (Zimmerer, 1998; Baker, 1989). In particular, rewilding is an emerging paradigm that fits these trends and has received much attention within both conservation and popular discourse. As noted by Jørgensen (2015), the term rewilding has been used in a myriad of ways within conservation, scientific, and academic literature and as such a broad range of activities is now identified within the rewilding umbrella. Therefore critical approaches are needed to understand how and why conservation and 'wild-life' is increasingly being framed in this way, the cultural and political factors influencing such moves, and the consequences of these framings for both human and non-human life.

This session seeks to critically engage with the nexus between post-colonial conservation and the development of rewilding initiatives at both the theoretical and practical level with cognisance of their historical precedence. In particular, to fully understanding these framings it is imperative that scholars examine and identify regimes of knowledge which can often monopolise rewilding discourse and practice, and critically examine and identify the centres of power (and those residing within) where decisions concerning rewilding are actually being made.

In addition this session also seeks to explore the role 'participation' plays in current rewilding discourse and practice. Participation as a key dimension for natural resource management has been endorsed by the international environmental community since Rio (1992) and in this session we are particularly interested in the interplay between discourse and institutions across levels of governance in producing participatory rewilding conservation initiatives, as well as the dynamics of participation 'on the ground'.

As such, we welcome papers that help to critically situate rewilding within these wider contexts and offer insights into the environmental knowledges that are being produced with and around such narratives, particularly as they contribute to ideas of post-colonial conservation and political ecologies of rewilding.

Key themes include, but are not limited to:

- Postcolonial ecocriticism that connects discourses and practices of empire to rewilding
- Political ecologies of rewilding – e.g. the appropriation of 'cultural' land associated with the revalorisation of the wild
- Non-European perspectives on rewilding
- Examples of community-based rewilding and participation in novel conservation practice
- Typologies of participation: how people participate in rewilding initiatives
- Political ecology of participation in rewilding
- Rewilding research with the more-than-human world – novel, experimental and creative methods that are underpinned by political ecology or post-colonial theory

Please send abstracts of ~250 words to Cara Clancy [cara.clancy@plymouth.ac.uk](mailto:cara.clancy@plymouth.ac.uk) by 13th Feb 2017.

We welcome a range of paper formats and interventions – including shorter and more interactive modes of presentation, please get in touch to discuss any ideas or requirements you have. We are also working with the RGS to ensure guest passes for non-academic partners who wish to participate in the session.

### **What is rural? Ensuring a fair deal for rural communities**

Keith Halfacree, University of Swansea, [K.H.Halfacree@swansea.ac.uk](mailto:K.H.Halfacree@swansea.ac.uk)

Sonja Rewhorn, University of Chester, [s.rewhorn@chester.ac.uk](mailto:s.rewhorn@chester.ac.uk)

This session is inspired by the ongoing image-reality debate as to what is meant by rural and the implications from a possible lack of knowledge of the multifaceted complexities of rural by policy representatives in policy development to ensure a fair deal for rural communities from policy outcomes.

Knowledge/lack of knowledge of rural may be a barrier to effective rural representation in policy development processes across and within public, private and NGO sectors. The challenge can often sit within the institutional representation encouraging policy actors from across the rural-urban divide to *think rural* and ensure a fair policy deal for rural communities across socio-economic decisions. Rural communities are often recognized for their innovation to address difficulties, working despite of structures, for example accessing services, setting up micro-economies, enhancing community capacity and maintaining local governance. However, should the rural be reliant on the volunteer economy? It is therefore timely to discuss strengthening rural in socio-economic policy decisions. This session, within

the global, national and or local context(s), aims to debate research that considers the opportunities or otherwise of greater equitable decisions for strengthening policy development for rural communities.

Building on the dichotomy between urban and rural this session encourages geographers from across the discipline to participate in a discussion on a fair policy deal for rural. The session is not prescriptive, very much welcomes postgraduates and international papers. Areas of research that may wish to engage in this session may include;

- Policy development for rural communities
- Rural governance
- Social fairness for rural communities
- Policy justice for rural communities
- Fair policy outcomes in rural areas
- Representation of the rural
- Economic Equity

The session, which will debate research that could contribute to the academic – policy practitioner knowledge base will include a rural policy discussant who will respond to the papers and contribute the plenary to the session. Please send abstracts of **250 words** to Sonja Rewhorn [s.rewhorn@chester.ac.uk](mailto:s.rewhorn@chester.ac.uk) by **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2017**



**End of RGRG Abstracts for 2017 RGS-IBG int'l conference, London.**

### 1c. Other RGRG-related events. (Keith Halfacree noted 14Oct16)

Dear RGRG members - Please see below for details of five things (don't say we don't spoil you...) the RGS-IBG have asked us to promote:

1. Forum, 8 November: Achieving sustainable flood-risk management in the UK
2. Policy Forum, **29 November 2016**: Rescaling the UK's energy system
3. Geography Teacher Training Scholarships
4. Teaching in geography, earth & environ'l sciences: Workshop for early-career academics
5. Higher Education Research Group Jan. Writing Retreat to support Academic Prof. Devt.

**Thanks, Keith**

1. Forum, 8 November **2016**: Achieving sustainable flood-risk management in the UK

At this event we welcome all professionals in the broad field of flooding, including from practice, consultancy, policy and research. Expert panellists, chaired by the BBC's Roger Harrabin, will be drawing on significant insights from geography and other disciplines to question:

- How can we manage effectively flood risk in urban environments & our farmed landscapes?
- How can we build resilience within communities & what is the role of Central & Local Govt?
- What insights can research on river and landscape dynamics, an appreciation of space and place and an understanding of historical change bring to effective flood risk management?

<https://21stcenturychallenges.org/policy-network/policy-seminars/achieving-sustainable-flood-risk-management-in-the-uk-8th-november/>

2. Policy Forum, 29 Nov. **2016**: Rescaling the UK's energy system

The UK Government's overriding priorities with regards to energy policy are to deliver secure, reliable, clean, and affordable energy. This presents policy-makers in Government with a 'trilemma': how can the UK decarbonise its energy system to meet the legally binding targets under the Climate Change Act and international commitments, whilst ensuring both security of supply and that energy is affordable for consumers? Expert panellists at the Policy Forum event on 29 November will consider the dimensions of this 'trilemma' and how this can be delivered upon in the context of the UK's vote to leave the EU ('Brexit'). We look forward to welcoming all those with an interest or background in the energy sector to contribute to this discussion and knowledge exchange event.

This event is in partnership with UK Energy Research Centre

<https://21stcenturychallenges.org/rescaling-the-uks-energy-system-29-november/>

3. Geography Teacher Training Scholarships

Last year geography was identified as one of the subjects for which there is a shortage of teacher trainees. Last week, the Department for Education (DfE) announced that it will be supporting the Society to run a Geography Teacher Training Scholarship programme for geographers starting their teacher training in September 2017. This is particularly welcome given recent increases in the number of pupils studying GCSE and A Level geog.

These scholarships will provide trainees with significant financial and professional support, including £27,500 tax-free funding, additional continuing professional development opportunities, a residential fieldwork course, teaching and learning materials, Postgraduate Fellowship of the Society, networking events and other support to complement their training programme. There will be 80 scholarships available, with applications opening in **November 2016**. These are open to all eligible candidates regardless of career stage – whether a third year undergraduate, a postgraduate student, or a recent or long time graduate.

Eligibility

- a strong commitment to the educational value that studying geography can bring to young people and be able to demonstrate your interest in this alongside any relevant experience
- an excellent proven (or predicted) academic record in geography, holding either a first or 2:1 Hons degree, or a Masters or PhD
- secured a training place on either an eligible non-salaried school or university-led geography course in England for the 2017/18 academic year
- met the bursary eligibility criteria – visit Get Into Teaching for more information

Further details can be found at [www.rgs.org/scholarships](http://www.rgs.org/scholarships). For more information and to register for updates, please contact [scholarships@rgs.org](mailto:scholarships@rgs.org).

4. Teaching in geography, earth and environmental sciences: Workshop for early-career academics

The Society is hosting a two-day workshop (Monday 28 and Tuesday 29 November 2016) for early-career academics in geography, earth and environmental sciences who are interested in developing their teaching skills and networking with others at the same career stage. It will include a range of workshops covering such topics as: fieldwork, data skills, assessment and feedback, strategies for large-group teaching, course design, applying for professional recognition and planning for career progression.

Workshop leaders include Professor Jo Bullard (Loughborough) and Professor Gordon Curry (Glasgow) and a range of academics from across the GEES disciplines. It is being developed and delivered in collaboration with the Institution of Environmental Sciences, the Geological Society and the British Society for Geomorphology. More information, including a link to registration, is online at [www.rgs.org/TeachingGEES](http://www.rgs.org/TeachingGEES)

5. Higher Education Research Group January Writing Retreat to support Academic Professional Development  
Deadline 31st October **2016**.

The retreat will provide structured writing time in a supportive community of scholars. As well as a productive few days, research has shown that this model leads to increased productivity after the retreat (Murray and Newton 2009). The retreat can support academic professional development in two ways:

- By providing dedicated time for concentrating on writing for publication supporting research outputs.
  - By providing time and discipline-based support for writing HEA (and HEA-accredited) fellowship applications.
- Senior and Principal Fellows of the HEA with experience mentoring applicants and reviewing application in institutions will be available to provide feedback on applications.

The retreat is being run by The Higher Education Research Group (HERG), a research group of the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG). More information is available on the HERG website, including an application form. Where departments book five or more places a 10% saving will be made. (Places will cost £200 rather than £220.)

Please circulate details of the retreat within your department. If you have any further questions, please contact the HERG chair, Dr Sarah Dyer ([s.dyer@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:s.dyer@exeter.ac.uk)).

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• **1. Upcoming in Germany & Poland=> RGRG list: 3 items**

Halfacree K. H. <[k.h.halfacree@swansea.ac.uk](mailto:k.h.halfacree@swansea.ac.uk)> To Halfacree K. H. CC 'Anna-Barbara Heindl'

6Oct16 Today at 13:28

**Dear RGRG members**, three bits of information I draw your attention to (details below):

1. **New rural geographies in Europe conference, Germany June 2017** – I encourage you to come to this. I know money and time are tight but it promises to be an excellent meeting of rural geographers from many European countries in a great location... Latest addition: Andrew Copus (James Hutton Institute, Aberdeen) as a keynote speaker...

2. Rural Services Network, free seminars across England – yes, **FREE!**

3. RGS-IBG Annual Conference – call for session proposals

Thanks, Keith

**1. New rural geographies in Europe conference, Germany June 2017**

Dear colleagues across Europe, the German Rural Geography Group and the Johann Heinrich von Thünen Institute are pleased to invite you to the conference:

**New rural geographies in Europe: actors, processes, policies. Braunschweig,FRG, June 14-17 2017.**

The Call for Papers is still open. Please find it attached to this e-mail. There we also provide a preliminary list of potential thematic sessions. Your abstract(s) (maximum 2 per author, only one as main author) might correspond to these sessional frames. However, any other abstract matching the general topics mentioned in the CfP is equally welcome. Further information is provided on the conference website: [www.ruralgeo2017.de](http://www.ruralgeo2017.de). Abstracts must be uploaded on the website by October 31, 2016.

Please disseminate this information in your national and regional research communities (and beyond, if you like). **Any requests relating to the conference should be sent to:** [ruralgeo2017@thuenen.de](mailto:ruralgeo2017@thuenen.de) We are looking forward to meeting you (again) next year in Germany!

Kind regards,

Annett Steinführer and Anna-Barbara Heindl (local organisers)  
Ulrike Grabski-Kieron (co-speaker of the German Rural Geography Group)  
Ingo Mose (co-speaker of the German Rural Geography Group)

**2. Rural Services Network, free seminars across England.**

The Rural Services Network (RSN) are again running a series of free seminars across England during the academic year 2016 / 2017.

For more information and booking details please use the RSN link <http://www.rsonline.org.uk/area-forums-free-seminars/seminar-programme-2016-2017> (from Sonja Rewhorn: [s.rewhorn@chester.ac.uk](mailto:s.rewhorn@chester.ac.uk))

**3. RGS-IBG 2017 Annual Conference, themed Decolonizing Geographical Knowledges.**



RGS-IBG staffer Annette guided 2016 conference goers in Lowther Lodge. Book fair in background (BAS 2016).

**2. RGRG Annual General Meeting 2016 *Last summer!***

**2016 Rural Geography Research Group AGM**

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016, 1.30pm to 2.25pm, Sir Alexander Fleming Building, Room 121

**Draft Minutes**

**1. Apologies for Absence / Welcome**

Apologies were received from Gareth Enticott, Rory Hill, Sonja Rewhorn, Bruce Scholten

Prof Nigel Walford and Dr Keith Halfacree welcomed a fair turnout, although this might have been better if the AGM had not clashed with the Food Geographers Working Group AGM, given our overlapping membership.

**ACTION:** Try to avoid this clash next year (KH)

## 2. Minutes of the 2015 AGM

These were accepted as a fair account.

## 3. Matters arising from the minutes

None that are not raised elsewhere.

## 4. Chair's report

NW thanked members of the group for attending the AGM and for their substantial contribution to the RGS-IBG Annual Conference. He provided an oral report on the Group's main activities over the previous year. The following bullet points summarise his report:

- Membership. Membership of the Group continues to be above average for RGS Research Groups and new members are welcomed to carry forward its work.
- Postgraduates and early career. The link with the CCRI Winter School (Editor: reported in this issue) continues to provide an excellent opportunity for postgraduate and early career 'rural' researchers to interact with each other and to exchange ideas and experience in an informal setting.
- Postgraduate committee members. The RGRG's two postgraduate representatives have again made a valued contribution to the work of the RGRG and to sessions in the Annual Conference in particular.
- Newsletters. Bruce Scholten has continued to edit our Newsletter and produced two bumper editions again this year. Many thanks to him for this work.
- Prizes. Many thanks also go to Richard Yarwood for having looked after our prizes this year in conjunction with other members of the Committee. He has continued to liaise with Riverford Organics who sponsor the Undergraduate Dissertation Prizes.
- Conferences: Apart from organising or co-organising some nine sessions with about 16 slots for papers at the present Annual Conference, we are looking forward to the Second European Rural Geography Conference in Germany in June 2017 and several other events to be discussed later.
- Committee. The Chair thanks all members of the RGRG Committee for their work over the past year with especial thanks to those whose terms of office were coming to an end. He hoped that they would continue to serve the Group in the future and maintain its prominence within the RGS-IBG set-up.

## 5. Treasurer's report 2015-16

Overall, the balance of our account remains healthy and is in fact £377 higher than this time last year. Statements for the two accounts between 31/08/15 and 31/08/15 were circulated and are available on request.

### Balance

*Statements Dated 15/8/16*

Cooperative Directplus Account - £1937.87

Business Select Instant Account - £30.03

Total Balance - **£1967.90**

(Balance in August 2015 was £1590.10)

### Income and Outgoings

The main income in 2015-16 has been from the RGS (£370) and sponsorship from Riverford Organics (£120) for the dissertation prize (see notes below).

The main outgoings are for expenses (£372.25) – which were redistributed to recipients by the secretary, and the dissertation prizes (see below).

### Outstanding Items

Two cheques remain to be cashed, both for dissertation prizes (only the £50 prize has been cashed). This also happened last year when a £40 prize was not cashed – that cheque still has not been cashed. We might want to look into alternative ways of paying dissertation prizes given that 50% of these prizes over the last 2 years seemingly have not reached the award winner. *Dr Gareth Enticott, 31<sup>st</sup> Aug. 2016.*

The meeting was very happy with the finances and thanked Gareth for his work. It was also suggested that over the next year we should seek to spend some of the accumulating monies, perhaps with a themed 1-day seminar or similar event (we haven't had one for a while)? **ACTION:** explore options for 1-day event (KH)

**RGRG Committee Positions & Term Dates after AGM vote, London, Sep. 1, 2016:**

<https://www.dur.ac.uk/geography/rgrg/committee/>

<p>Professor Nigel Walford Chair 2016-19 <a href="mailto:n.walford@kingston.ac.uk">n.walford@kingston.ac.uk</a></p> 	<p>Dr Keith Halfacree Secretary 2016-19 <a href="mailto:k.h.halfacree@swansea.ac.uk">k.h.halfacree@swansea.ac.uk</a></p> 	<p>Dr Gareth Enticott Treasurer 2016-19 <a href="mailto:enticottg@cardiff.ac.uk">enticottg@cardiff.ac.uk</a></p> 
<p>Mr Andrew Maclaren Postgraduate Rep. 2016-17 <a href="mailto:andrew.maclaren@abdn.ac.uk">andrew.maclaren@abdn.ac.uk</a></p> 	<p>Ms Hannah Brooking Postgraduate Rep. 2016-17 <a href="mailto:hb110@le.ac.uk">hb110@le.ac.uk</a></p> 	<p>Dr Bruce Scholten Newsletter Editor 2015-18 <a href="mailto:bruce.scholten@btopenworld.com">bruce.scholten@btopenworld.com</a> and <a href="mailto:B.A.Scholten@durham.ac.uk">B.A.Scholten@durham.ac.uk</a></p> 
<p>Dr Fiona Williams Ordinary member 2015-18 <a href="mailto:fiona.williams@abdn.ac.uk">fiona.williams@abdn.ac.uk</a></p> 	<p>Professor Michael Woods Ordinary member 2015-18 <a href="mailto:zpz@aber.ac.uk">zpz@aber.ac.uk</a></p> 	<p>Ms Sonja Rewhorn C-Geog (netwkg) Ordinary member 2016-19 <a href="mailto:s.rewhorn@chester.ac.uk">s.rewhorn@chester.ac.uk</a></p> 
<p>Dr Damian Maye Ordinary member 2016-2019 <a href="mailto:dmaye@glos.ac.uk">dmaye@glos.ac.uk</a></p> 	<p>Mrs Megan Palmer-Abbs Ordinary member 2015-18 <a href="mailto:meganpalmerabbs@abdn.ac.uk">meganpalmerabbs@abdn.ac.uk</a></p> 	<p>Dr Eifiona Thomas Lane Ordinary Member 2016-19 <a href="mailto:eifiona.thomaslane@bangor.ac.uk">eifiona.thomaslane@bangor.ac.uk</a></p> 

## 6. Committee elections (photos above)

A large number of Committee members saw their terms of office end this year. This included all three 'principal' officers of the group, which came as something of a shock to some as a few years back RGRG had managed to stagger these to facilitate continuity. It was thus suggested that one or more of the incoming Chair, Secretary and Treasurer not go the full three year term to get us back to a more stable structure. It was also suggested that 'shadowing' of key roles on the Committee might be introduced. **ACTION:** explore options for staggering Committee and shadowing (KH)

The following new members of the Committee were (re-)elected in the meeting:

Chair: Professor Nigel Walford (re-elected)

Secretary: Dr Keith Halfacree (re-elected)

Treasurer: Dr Gareth Enticott (re-elected)

Postgraduate Representatives: Ms Hannah Brooking (re-elected), Mr Andrew Maclaren (Aberdeen Univ.)

Ordinary Members: Ms Sonja Rewhorn (re-elected), Dr Damian Maye (CCRI, University of Gloucestershire), Dr Eifiona Thomas Lane (Bangor University)

It is noted that there were several re-elections this year and it is hoped that more people will volunteer to serve on the Committee in the future. **ACTION:** encourage greater engagement with being on the RGRG Committee from RGRG members (All!).

### 1. Partnerships

Unfortunately, Sonja was unable to attend the AGM. However, she continues to develop links between the RGRG and other (non- 'academic') rural groups, if through nothing else than getting our name known a bit more. Links with the Rural Services Network have been particularly pursued. **ACTION:** carry on developing links between RGRG and other 'rural' groups (SR & all)

### 2. Future events

Once again, there are a number of events directly relevant to RGRG members taking place over the next year, including:

- RGRG Social, with photographic competition – now a regular event at the annual conference – again organised by Sonja (thanks) – tonight at the Queen's Arms from 7.30pm...
- CCRI Winter School (postgrads) – 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> January 2017. [Below find report via Maye, Lewis & Reed] on this excellent rural postgraduate event.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> European Rural Geography conference: 'New rural geographies in Europe: actors, processes, policies', Thünen Institute in Braunschweig (Brunswick), Germany, June 14-17, 2017 <https://www.ruralgeo2017.de/>
- XXVII European Society for Rural Sociology Congress: 'Uneven processes of rural change', Kraków, Poland, July 24<sup>th</sup>–27<sup>th</sup> 2017: see <http://www.esrs2017.confer.uj.edu.pl/>
- RGS-IBG Annual Conference: London, 29<sup>th</sup> August – 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017 - As ever, RGRG intends to have as full a range of sessions at this as possible. Calls for sessions will be posted on the mailing list shortly.

Any other events? If so, please contact RGRG Secretary ([k.h.halfacree@swansea.ac.uk](mailto:k.h.halfacree@swansea.ac.uk)) with details and he will circulate via mailing list. **ACTION:** publicise and attend these events (all).

### 3. Membership issues

KH reported that membership remains at around 250 members, almost all RGS-IBG members, who count towards the size of our subvention. We request an annual fee of £10 from non-RGS members.

**ACTION:** encourage people to join RGRG (all)



## RGRG Undergraduate prizes

We congratulate the 2015 winners who won organic boxes from Riverford Organic Farmers Ltd. Dr Richard Yarwood (RY, [R.Yarwood@plymouth.ac.uk](mailto:R.Yarwood@plymouth.ac.uk), pictured) reported that we again had several submissions for the Undergraduate prize but none for the Masters prize. He also again coordinated, and did most of the judging, and maintained sponsorship of the prizes from Riverford (<https://www.facebook.com/riverford>).



Richard is leaving RGRG Committee at this AGM but he very kindly agreed to stay in charge of judging the dissertations for the 2016 prize. After discussion, it was suggested another member of the Committee shadow Richard this year with the intention of taking charge of the judging in 2017.

**ACTION:** find Committee member willing to shadow Richard Yarwood (KH).

The Undergraduate results were as follows and the winners warmly congratulated:

1<sup>st</sup> Prize

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

Joint 2<sup>nd</sup>:

**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



**1. AOB**

KH suggested it might also be useful if someone were to shadow the Newsletter Editor job, presently undertaken by Dr Bruce Scholten [s.2008].  
- **Keith Halfacree, September 2016**

**RGRG Photo Contest at the RGS-IBG 2016 meeting**



Thanks to Sonja Rewhorn for organizing the 3rd annual rural-in-the urban shoot, and busy Damian Maye for judging. Winner was Bruce Scholten, who shot the plastic cow at Babylon Restaurant atop the legendary Biba design centre – one of London’s hidden oases (<http://www.virginlimitededition.com/en/the-roof-gardens/babylon-restaurant>). Someday RGRG might hold its AGM at Babylon. More funding is needed!

<p>Rural Geography Research Group (RGRG)</p>	<p><b>Royal Geographical Society</b> with IBG</p> <p>Advancing geography and geographical learning</p>	
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**Deadline 30<sup>th</sup> July 2017. RGRG Newsletter invites submissions for the pre-RGS-IBG meeting issue.**

Send conference-related abstracts, text & pix – and book notices to RGRG Newsletter:

[Bruce.Scholten@bopenworld.com](mailto:Bruce.Scholten@bopenworld.com)

Thanks! to Steven Allan, Web Coordinator at Durham University Geography Department who’s assisted the editor 2009-17. Photo credits include Wiki, universities, institutions, publishers, and B.A. Scholten.

