



## SECTION | CONTENTS | PAGE

1. RGRG NEWS since Cardiff AGM: RGRG migration to London; 2019 events: CCRI Winter School, ESRS Italy, ESRS Norway, Quad Vermont, RGS-IBG London; prizes; Committee 2018-19 photos: pages 2-3
2. RGRG 2019 sessions at RGS-IBG Cardiff: p4
3. Prof Terry Marsden on Neoliberalism, Brexit & carbon: p6
4. *Calendar Reminders* for 2019: ESRS Italy, Quad Vermont, RGS-IBG London: pp7-8
5. RGRG Committee Interim Meeting 30th Nov 2018: pp9-10
6. Books: End of Animal Farming? p11
7. More RGS-IBG Cardiff 2018 conference photos: p12



## EDITORIAL: RURAL GEOGRAPHY IN FLUX

Who was first to see snow blanket the peninsula above River Wear? Hunter-gatherers, or herders seeking a defensible spot for shelter? Legend says St. Cuthbert's disciples, fleeing Viking raids, took advice from the the skinny Dun Cow to bury their mentor atop it. South of Hadrian's Wall, this natural moat & bailey attracted investment in defensive works and the beginnings of Durham Castle and Cathedral over 920 years ago – partly financed by pilgrims to Cuthbert's shrine. Periurban agriculture continued; 19<sup>th</sup> century paintings depict crops and cows grazing near the viewpoint for my photo, Durham train station, and milch cows still graze up- and downriver of this World Heritage site.

In mid-20<sup>th</sup> century geography students marvelled at all the pink representing the British Empire on global maps. They heard Durham Palatinate was a feudal buffer state between England and Scotland, whose ecclesiastical power ebbed with the Acts of Union (c.1707) creating the United Kingdom. Things change. If Brexit occurs, time will tell if Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales remain more in the orbit of England or the European Union.

RGRG Newsletter changes too. In 2009, Mark Riley bequeathed the editorship to me at Durham, but soon it and RGRG archives move to a new WordPress format, based at RGS-IBG HQ in London, with the help of RGS-IBG's Dr Sarah Evans. Expect improved, centralised info from RGRG. Meanwhile, please keep sending rural research news & photos to us. The Dun Cow advises: 'Watch this space!'

– Editor BAS (<https://durham.academia.edu/BruceScholten>)



**BELOW: RGRG NEWS from the Cardiff meet, Megan Palmer-Abbs on 2019 events & more...**



**1a. RGRG NEWS since the AGM 29 Aug. 2018 (above). The Committee will soon put more RGRG info online such as personnel changes, events, dissertation prizes and jobs. RGS-IBG Professional Officer Dr Sarah Evans (left, at Cardiff) is advising on moving RGRG Newsletter to RGS-IBG HQ London, as well as digital archives from members everywhere, such as your scans of old awards, events and newsletters.**



Shortly after the annual RGS-IBG conference in Cardiff, new RGRG Secretary Dr Megan Palmer-Abbs wrote on 11 September 2018, 11:51: 'I have some new details...'

1. New Secretary contact details (also on membership page): Dr Megan Palmer-Abbs (**right**), Secretary for the Royal Geography Research Group (RGRG) Committee c/o The Brae, Rafford, FORRES, Moray, Scotland, IV36 2RU. 2RU. E: [meganpalmerabbs@btinternet.com](mailto:meganpalmerabbs@btinternet.com)
2. New committee members details & photos on page 3.
3. Calendar dates from AGM:



- CCRI Winter School (postgraduates) – provisionally 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> January 2019 – is sadly cancelled, due to PGR writing commitments. (Details from Dr Matt Reed ([mreed@glos.ac.uk](mailto:mreed@glos.ac.uk); <http://www.ccri.ac.uk/>).
- European Society for Rural Sociology Conference, Trondheim, Norway, June 25-28, 2019. Sure to be a major rural event – full details at: <https://esrs2019.no/>. More to follow... See page 7 and watch for the emails...
- Ninth Quadrennial Conference of British, Canadian and American Rural Geographers scheduled for July 13-19 2019 in Vermont, USA. Hosted by Peter Nelson (Middlebury College) and Cheryl Morse (University of Vermont). The conference theme is *Working Landscapes and Liveable Communities*. Further information on page 7.
- RGS-IBG Annual Conference: London, 28-30 August 2019. As ever, RGRG intends to have a full range of sessions. RGRG call for sessions is on page 8.

4. Dissertation Prizes



- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize: **Simon Bettley** (Liverpool): *Walking into life: a more-than-representational approach to group walking in Snowdonia*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: **Megan Blyth** (Edinburgh): *Senses of wildness and aesthetics of wind farms: a study of walkers' perceptions in the Scottish Borders*
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: **Naomi Jackson** (Exeter): *Consuming the rural landscape: Dartmoor National Park as a commodified and performative space*

Thanks - Dr Megan Palmer-Abbs PhD BSc (Open) Dip (Environmental Policy) MIED MRGS

**1b. Research Group Committee Members 2018-19:** Textured succession as Secretary Halfacree stops a year early to become an Ordinary Member, as Palmer-Abbs takes his place.

	<p><b>Rural Geography Research Group Committee Members 2018-2019, after vote in our Annual General Meeting (AGM), Aug. 29, 2018. At the annual international conference of the RGS-IBG, Cardiff, Wales.</b></p>	<p>Prof Nigel Walford Chair 2016-19 n.walford@kingston.ac.uk</p> 
<p>Dr Bruce A. Scholten (BAS) Newsletter Editor bruce.scholten@btopenworld.com</p> 	<p>Dr Megan Palmer-Abbs (MPA) Secretary 2018-21 meganpalmerabbs@abdn.ac.uk</p> 	<p>Dr Gareth Enticott Treasurer 2016-19 enticottg@cardiff.ac.uk</p> 
<p>Mr Andrew Maclaren Ordinary Member 2018-21 andrew.maclaren@abdn.ac.uk</p> 	<p>Ms Sonja Rewhorn C-Geog (netwkg) Ordinary Member 2016-19 s.rewhorn@chester.ac.uk</p> 	<p>Dr Fiona Williams Ordinary Member (Disserts) 2018-21 fiona.williams@chester.ac.uk</p> 
<p>Prof Damian Maye Ordinary Member 2016-19 dmaye@glos.ac.uk</p> 	<p>Dr Eifiona Thomas Lane Ordinary Member 2016-19 eifiona.thomaslane@bangor.ac.uk</p> 	<p>Dr Julie Urquhart Ordinary Member 2018-2021 jurquhart1@glos.ac.uk</p> 
<p>Mr Felipe da Silva Machado Postgrad Representative 2018-19 felipe.dasilvamachado@plymouth.ac.uk</p> 	<p>Mr Fidel Budy Postgraduate Representative 2018-19 fib9@aber.ac.uk</p> 	<p>Dr Keith Halfacree Ord Mem (co-opted) 2018-21 k.h.halfacree@swansea.ac.uk</p> 

**2. RGRG-linked SESSIONS, Cardiff 28-31 Aug. 2018. Please see RGRG Newsletter – Summer 2018 for details of participants and abstracts: <https://www.dur.ac.uk/geography/rgrg/newsletter/>**



**On Wednesday 29 Aug 2018, Eifiona Thomas Lane and Rebecca Jones (both at Prifysgol Bangor University, UK)** convened stimulating sessions dubbed (17, 47) ‘Food & drink heritage, rural tradition or novelty? Challenges for responsible development.’ Ruralities not committed to hyperproduction of food have gone beyond organic eggs and B & Bs into ‘Experiences from gastronomy within food tourism to more technical ventures in micro-brewing, artisan and lifestyle markets exemplifying this potential.’

**Fidel Christian Budy (left) & Andrew Maclaren (middle)** convened (244) New and Emerging Rural Researchers: Practices and Perceptions. On right are postgrads from NUS Singapore with Prof. Jon Rigg (moving to Bristol).



**Fidel Christian Budy & Andrew Maclaren report:**

The new and emerging researchers’ session sponsored by the Rural Geography Research Group (RGRG) ran again at the 2018 RGS-IBG International conference at Cardiff University, 28 August to 31 August 2018. The session was organised, as per the tradition of the research group, by postgraduate representatives on the RGRG committee, Andrew Maclaren (University of Aberdeen) and Fidel Budy (Aberystwyth University). The session had six speakers, four from the United Kingdom, one from Sweden and one from Singapore. The speakers analysed lived experiences with rural spaces in the Global North and South: issues of crime within the rural, unequal mobility, and conflict between locals and multinationals encroaching into the rural idyll with large housing, farming or poultry projects.

Ms Anjana Ramkumar (**NUS, below**) covered resistance, as farmers in Tami Nadu return to traditional variety (TV) seeds and local knowledge to compete with imports. Other papers prescribed place-based solutions to economic concerns, and unfreezing rural heritage landscape via tourism. Abstracts & contacts: <http://conference.rgs.org/AC2018/244>.



**Keith Halfacree (Swansea) and Fiona Williams (Chester) convened (93, 124) Beyond mere signifiers: centring animals in the (re)production of rural landscapes: (1) Within the farming environment and (2) Beyond the farming environment.**

Session 1 papers included Upland sheep: a curse or vital tool? by Lois Mansfield (Cumbria; slide below); Sheep-shaping in the (re)production of upland rural landscapes by Keith Halfacree (Swansea) and Fiona Williams (Chester), Animal landscapes: new old risks on the small farm by Dominic Duckett (James Hutton Institute), Eirini Ioanna Vlachopoulou (JHI) & Hilde Bjorkhaug (RURALIS – Institute for Rural & Regional Research, Norway); Philosophy, politics and technology morph dairyscapes by Bruce Scholten (Durham); More-than-human property relations in the reproduction of rural landscapes by Frode Flemsater (Centre for Rural Research, Norway), Katrina Brown (James Hutton Institute) and Katrina Ronningen (RURALIS – Institute for Rural & Regional Research UK).



Session 2 Beyond mere signifiers: centring animals in the (re)production of rural landscapes (2) - Beyond the farming environment papers included Animal landscapes: cultural geographies of honeybee health by Jacob Bull (Uppsala University, Sweden); Micro-habitats of insects and their effects on macro-landscapes by David Skydmore (Wrexham Glyndwr University, UK); Otter predation and the reproduction of rural landscape: conflict or consensus in the English countryside? by Daniel Allen and Simon Pemberton (both at Keele University, UK); Lost and hound: search dogs, people and the co-creation of rural landscapes by Richard Yarwood (Plymouth); Indigenous and Western knowledge systems in northern Manitoba: animals and humans in shared spatial territories by John (Jack) Lovell (University of Manitoba, Canada). **Note:** Keith & Fiona are working on a book proposal after a publisher's approach.

**Your scribe learned much from Lois Mansfield's talk on upland sheep (Slide used by permission). How would Guardian columnist George Monbiot – who advocates a return to a wild countryside - react to it?**



## UPLAND SHEEP: A CURSE OR VITAL TOOL?

Lois Mansfield, Principal Lecturer in Upland Resource Management,  
Lake District Campus, University of Cumbria



**Rural Energy Transitions: Ruralising Low-Carbon Energy and Energising Rural Geographies. At Cardiff, Matthias Naumann (Technical University of Dresden, Germany) and David Rudolph (Tech. Uni Denmark) convened sessions (139, 170) co-sponsored by EnGRG and RGRG in the impressive Main Chamber Council Chamber, Thurs 30 Aug 2018.**

A decade ago researchers worried a global digital divide could impoverish the Global South. Since then, many developing country ruralites have leap-frogged old telephone wire technology with mobile phones that facilitate efficient information and supply lines. Now progress is also being made in mobile Low-Carbon Energy. Dr Dorice Agol (Uni-East Anglia, from Kisumu) gave a well-evidenced talk on The emerging renewable energy landscape in Kenya: Winners and losers. Agol (**right**) noted solar chargers for mobile phones work well, but kerosene still outranks solar in rural use. Presently, she is engaged in social surveys in rural Kenya.





#### 4. RGRG CALENDAR REMINDERS!



@RGRG\_Rural Call for XIII Conference on 'fragile areas' (Rovigo, Italy 22-23 Mar 2019) online: <http://www.areefragili.it/fragile-areas-2019>. Themes are rural populism. Keith Halfacree reminds us to submit abstracts in English or Italian by Dec 31, 2018 to Giorgio Osti ([giorgio.osti@dispes.units.it](mailto:giorgio.osti@dispes.units.it)) & Sara Morelli ([areefragili.rovigo@gmail.com](mailto:areefragili.rovigo@gmail.com)). Also: <http://www.areefragili.it/fragile-areas-2019>



#### Rural Quadrennial 2019 A University of Vermont blog



#### Working Landscapes & Livable Communities

Ninth Quadrennial Conference of British, Canadian, and American Rural Geographers

Vermont, USA  
July 13-19, 2019

#### **Working Landscapes, Livable Communities** July 13-19, 2019

Peter Nelson (Middlebury College) and Cheryl Morse (University of Vermont) are pleased to announce they will host the Ninth Quadrennial Conference of British, Canadian, and American Rural Geographers in Vermont, USA. (We also welcome applicants from New Zealand, Australia, and Ireland.) The meeting will take place Saturday, July 13- Friday, July 19, 2019. The conference theme is “*Working Landscapes and Livable Communities*.” We will spend time at the University of Vermont, Middlebury College, and the Mad River Valley. Field studies will take us to the Northeast Kingdom and Champlain Valley regions of the state.

Approximately 15 representatives from each of the three countries are invited to attend. Each participant will present original research that fits within one of several themes.

#### **Working Landscapes and Livable Communities**

- Socio-Environmental Systems
- Rural Methods and Ways of Knowing
- Rural Politics and Processes in the New Global (Dis)Order
- Migration, (Im)mobility, and Changing Rural Populations
- Relational Ruralities
- Collaborative Planning and Community Development

Procedures for application are on the “[How to apply](#)” page.

Please contact Cheryl Morse: [cheryl.morse@uvm.edu](mailto:cheryl.morse@uvm.edu) or Peter Nelson: [pbnelson@middlebury.edu](mailto:pbnelson@middlebury.edu) with questions.

#### **RGRG Secretary Megan Palmer-Abbs says: First, please see the 9<sup>th</sup> Quad conference website:**



<https://blog.uvm.edu/cemorse-ruralquadrennial2019/> and within this the ‘How to apply’ page <https://blog.uvm.edu/cemorse-ruralquadrennial2019/how-to-apply/>).

**Second, if you are thinking of applying, please send me the following information by 17<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2018:**

Name, Title of paper, Authors, Paper summary (incl. at least 5 key references) (ca. 250 words + key refs)  
Department & institution, Are you: 1) Lecturer-Professor, 2) Post-doc Researcher, 3) Postgrad?

**Third:** We are very keen to have postgrad and early career members of the delegation. In this respect, it is planned (N.B. still to be confirmed) that RGRG will provide some financial support for 1-2 postgrads.

***From personal involvement, these are excellent meetings with the combination of people, papers and field trip insights, so do apply... If we have more than 15 applications then the RGRG Committee will decide the final 15...***

Many thanks, Megan Palmer-Abbs (RGRG Secretary (MPA): [meganpalmerabbs@btinternet.com](mailto:meganpalmerabbs@btinternet.com))

## Rural Geography Research Group Sponsored Sessions. RGS-IBG Annual International Conference, London, Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> to Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2019

Rural Geographers Research Group (RGRG) welcomes submissions for the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG)



International Conference. The Conference will be held at the Royal Geographical Society, London from the 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> August (2019), with pre-conference workshops on Tuesday 27 August. Chair this year is Professor Esther Parr, (University of Glasgow, UK) and the conference theme is **Geographies of trouble / Geographies of hope**.

Session proposals are invited which reflect the Conference theme and the big debates arising in Rural Geography (e.g. popularism, migration, food insecurity, digitisation, etc). Given the conference location (London), we are keen to include wider professional groups (i.e. policy, NGO's, charities etc), as well as co-sponsored and interdisciplinary sessions. Traditional session formats are welcome but we are also keen to showcase new innovative session styles which bring space for discussion and collective thinking. The call is relevant to both experienced and early career professionals and researchers.

**The deadline** for session proposal submissions to RGRG is **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2018**. If you would like to be considered for sponsorship, please send the following information to Dr Megan Palmer-Abbs (MPA) at [meganpalmerabbs@btinternet.com](mailto:meganpalmerabbs@btinternet.com)



- Session title (up to 15 words)
- Name(s) and affiliation(s) of convener(s)
- Abstract (200-250 words)
- Proposed session format (e.g. paper session, panel discussion, discussant, workshop-style, number of papers/speakers, number of timeslots required)

**Further details can be found at** [https://www.rgs.org/research/annual-international-conference/programme-\(1\)/guidance-for-session-organisers/](https://www.rgs.org/research/annual-international-conference/programme-(1)/guidance-for-session-organisers/)

### Key dates and deadlines

- Deadline for Proposals to RGRG: Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2018
- Notification of session acceptance by RGRG committee: 11<sup>th</sup> January 2019
- Deadline for full session details to be sent by conveners to RGRG (including sequence of papers, paper titles, abstracts and full author details): 11<sup>th</sup> February
- Deadline for sponsored sessions sent by RGRG committee to RGS-IBG: 15<sup>th</sup> February 2019

We look forward to hearing from you. If you have specific questions or require further guidance please contact Megan.



*Lunch is pleasant in the RGS-IBG garden. Hyde Park, Royal Albert Hall and the Victoria & Albert Museum are just a few of urban Kensington's treasures awaiting rural geographers. (BAS photo 2017)*

## 5. Rural Geographers Research Group Committee

RGRG Interim Meeting 30<sup>th</sup> November 2018

RGS-IBG, London, Sunley Room, 2-3pm

Minutes (by MPA)

### Activity

1. **In attendance:** Prof, Nigel Walford (Chair), Dr Megan Palmer-Abbs, Secretary (aka MPA), Dr Fiona Williams (Dissertations) (part via skype), Prof. Damien Maye, Dr Julie Urquhart, Mr Andrew Maclaren, Mr Fidel Budy (PGR Rep), Mr Felipe de Silva (PGR rep), Dr Keith Halfacree (co-opted member).
2. **Apologies:** Dr Gareth Enticott (Treasurer), Dr Bruce Scholten (Newsletter Editor), Ms Sonja Rewhorn (networking), Dr Eifiona Thomas Lane.
3. **Feedback on RGS 2018 (Cardiff):** Nigel confirmed a healthy number of sessions and representatives at this year's Conference, which were diverse and furthered building capacities. The AGM had a healthy attendance with a few changes to the committee. Minutes have been drafted and will be circulated once Gareth confirms the financials. These need to be with Sarah Evans (RGS) before Christmas break.
4. **RGS International Conference 2019 (London):** Megan confirmed that the RGS had recently put out the call for sessions (2019). The final deadline for session proposals is 15 Feb 2019. It was agreed that the RGRG should confirm acceptance of sessions by mid-January to allow session conveners a timeous call for presenters and administration. The Committee also felt that some guidance (e.g. Conference theme, interdisciplinary sessions, and innovative session styles) should be highlighted.  

The Committee discussed our guest invitations remit (up to 6 days' worth) and the potential to invite from a wide spectrum of practitioners (i.e. policy, NGOs, Charities etc) given the accessible conference location (i.e. London). Encouragement to include diverse and prominent individuals to participate was given (e.g. as co-conveners, panel members etc). To be highlighted in call for sessions.

A call for participants should be recirculated for the CCRI Winter School.
5. **Conferences and Grant Applications:** Megan confirmed that two applications were submitted to RGS for conference support for PGRs/ECRs. These were the European Rural Sociology Conference (ERSC) June 2019 in Trondheim and the Ninth Quadrennial Conference of British, Canadian and American Rural Geographers July 13-19 2019 in Vermont, USA. The RGS were inundated with a high calibre of grant applications this year and could not offer the full grants requested (£1, 000.00). However, they have offered £350.00 to be allocated in accordance with the submission criteria but are happy that the RGRG uses its discretion as to how best to allocate funds. This must be match funded by the RGRG (i.e. £350 from our funds). In discussion, it was agreed that three £250.00 grants could be offered but that a final decision would be made upon receipt of applications.
6. **PhDs/ECRs events and opportunities:** A number of items were discussed (PGR Forum, short papers (2 pages) and a writing retreat), it was agreed that these should be furthered by relevant persons.
  - a. Organise paper submission and include papers on the new RGRG website (and potentially a journal special addition) in addition to the RGS Conference Sessions.
  - b. PGR Forum (Manchester) potential to sponsor one person (circa £100-£150).
  - c. It is hoped to give a small contribution for expenses for the potential writing retreat. It was decided that no funding will be allocated but that the Committee will review this decision if funds allow.

### Action

**Gareth to confirm financials/ Megan to circulate minutes for approval/ Committee to agree minutes asap for submission to RGS.**

**Megan put out call for sessions**

**Megan (MPA) to recirculate**

**MPA to circulate call for grant applications**

**Fidel & Felipe to further PGR Forum, Papers & RGS Conference sessions**

**Eifiona to further the writing retreat**

- a. **Update News & Communications:** Bruce (BAS) confirmed agreement that the RGS team has agreed to host the RGRG website on their portal; this includes RGRG archives. Megan is to liaise with Bruce/Sarah Evans (RGS) to further the website move. Bruce emailed a draft Winter Newsletter for comment (notes from the Committee Meeting will be forwarded by Megan for inclusion). **Megan /Bruce to continue liaison with RGS**
- b. Megan confirmed that the RGS hosted RGRG Dropbox is now in place and in-use, and that she will be developing the DropBox files (e.g. minutes, grants etc) as the year continues. **Megan and other RGRG subscribers to access and use.**
- c. Megan suggested that the development of a RGRG JISCMail hosted by RGS would make communications easier. The committee agreed that a 'RGRG members only' account would be best (e.g. via RGS & RGRG only membership lists). It was felt that this should go live along with the new website. **Megan to review JISCMail and set up with RGS.**
7. **Networking/Social Media:** There was no update on Social Media/Networking activity, but it was agreed by the Committee that a collective effort should be made to re-invigorate social media activity. Andrew offered to support Sonja if required. **Megan to contact Sonja**
8. **Update Finance:** In lieu of Gareth's absence, Megan and Keith felt that the following was a fair representation of current accounts, but that assurance would be sought from Gareth. Current account balance circa £1,000 (post meeting check indicates this may be in the region of £1,700), income to be received Dec 18: RGS subvention £410.00 & RGS Grant award £350.00. **Gareth to confirm account balance**
9. **Nominations for Awards:** The Committee briefly discussed the RGS nominations awards. It was decided that all members should review the awards <https://www.rgs.org/about/medals-award/> and submit one nominee each with a brief supporting statement. The Committee would decide the most appropriate nomination, and then the proposer would complete the appropriate application process (e.g. proposal abstract (250 words), CV from nominated person, minimum of two additional proposers and a supporting statement from each). **Committee to review requirements and respond**
10. **Update Dissertation Prize:** Fiona thanked the Committee members for their support in reviewing the dissertation submissions for 2018/19 (Damien Maye, Nigel Walford, Keith Halfacree & Eifiona Thomas Lane) and gave an update on the dissertation prize winners. Winners this year are as follows:
1. **Barnaby Morrissey:** *To what extent is the performance of community in rural spaces gendered?*
  2. **Thomas Latham:** *An investigation into the effects of pheasant and partridge management on ground flora in lowland woodlands near Saffron Walden.*
  3. **Samuel Gibb:** *"A Place I like to be ..." The Geographies of Young People on Family Farms in Somerset.*
- The Masters dissertation prize is yet to be decided, as only one submission was made. It was agreed by the Committee that at least two reviewers (possibly three) should be allocated to ensure that standards are met. Nigel suggested that the submission should be of 'distinction standard' to achieve award status. Fiona is to circulate the submission to the Committee after which the most appropriate reviewers will be selected. **Fiona to circulate submission to committee**
- Chair/Fiona to liaise on best reviewers**
11. **Any Other Business:**  
In lieu of updating signatories for the RGRG account, please send travel expense receipts to Keith for the RGS interim meeting. Contact details can be found at <https://www.dur.ac.uk/geography/rgrg/membership/>. **All**
- Megan and Gareth are to organise the transference of RGRG accounts signatory from Keith to Megan.



Megan Palmer-Abbs,  
RGRG Secretary,  
Dec 2018

## 6. BOOKS: Will Richard Branson & Bill Gates' investments in a meatless future pay off?

Food & ag activist Goldie Caughlan alerts us to a challenging book.

### *The End of Animal Farming: How Scientists, Entrepreneurs, and Activists Are Building an Animal-Free Food System.*

By Jacy Reese (November 6, 2018)

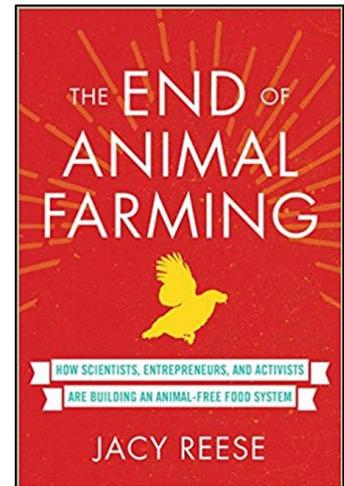
Beacon Press: 24 Farnsworth Street, Boston, MA 02210-1409 USA..

Weblink: <https://www.amazon.com/End-Animal-Farming-Entrepreneurs-Animal-Free/dp/0807019453>

**Bruce Scholten comments: Consider this book after *Food and Animal Welfare* (2018 Bloomsbury) by former RGRG Chair Henry Buller and Emma Roe.**

In our Age of the Anthropocene, blame for climate change initially fell on carbon industries and transport. But *Livestock's Long Shadow* (UN-FAO 2006 Steinfeld et al) cast more blame on livestock farming. Before going further, three admissions.

First, during the Vietnam War, I attended Unitarian Churches near Seattle, safe places for people of all faiths – or none - to discuss politics and all else. Recently, social media have hosted scientifically-based pieces by the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations on climate, environment, and animal welfare. Unexpectedly, the UUAC turned up again, when Goldie Caughlan (**photo below**), retired from Puget Consumer Coops but perpetual food & ag networker, mentioned *The End of Animal Farming* from Beacon Press. *Voila!* Investigation revealed it is published under the auspices of the UUAC. Hercule Poirot might have guessed we share fellow travellers.



Second, I grew up in family-scale, pasture dairy farming, and have seen contented, long-lived cows support family livelihoods around the world. In 1950-60 Pacific Northwest USA, Darigold farmers' coop sustained many small farmers after the Carnation company cancelled their contracts. Darigold enabled all my cousins to finish high school and attend college if they wished. In the 1980s, farmers asked Congress for supply management, akin to Canadian and EU milk quotas. It was denied as 'socialist' by Reagan-Bush administrations.

My research on *U.S. Organic Dairy Politics* (2014 Palgrave) traced restructuring from small pastured herds to 10,000-cow confined megadairies, where nearly half of cows go to slaughter by age 4 as they are too ill-conditioned to bear a second calf. In 1988, traditional US grazers regrouped in Organic Valley coop, now with 2000 farms. Decreasing longevity of dairy cows is an issue, but so are small farmer livelihoods, foundering under a wave of surplus milk from factory farms. Reality bit at Thanksgiving 2018, when head of the National Family Farm Coalition, Jim (**below**) and wife Rebecca Goodman had to sell the Wisconsin family's 45 cows.

Third, I've not yet read Jacy Reese's book. *Is the future meatless?* Perhaps, but it's a big world, and hard to believe people in the Green Hills of India will not supply protein-rich animal milch to vegetarians indefinitely. Certainly, my work on what I call Fairer Dairy Trade encounters the same climate, demographic, health, ethical, sentience and political-economic issues as Reese's book.



### ***Publisher's description of *The End of Animal Farming*.***

**Beacon Press:** Michael Pollan's *The Omnivore's Dilemma* and Jonathan Safran Foer's *Eating Animals* brought widespread attention to the disturbing realities of factory farming. ***The End of Animal Farming* pushes this conversation forward by outlining a strategic roadmap to a humane, ethical, and efficient food system in which slaughterhouses are obsolete—where the tastes of even the most die-hard meat eater are satisfied by innovative food technologies like cultured meats and plant-based protein. Social scientist and animal advocate Jacy Reese analyzes the social forces leading us toward the downfall of animal agriculture, the technology making this change possible for the meat-hungry public, and the activism driving consumer demand for plant-based and cultured foods.**

Reese contextualizes the issue of factory farming—the inhumane system of industrial farming that 95 percent of farmed animals endure—as part of humanity's expanding moral circle. Humanity increasingly treats nonhuman animals, from household pets to orca whales, with respect and kindness, and Reese argues that farmed animals are the next step. Reese applies an analytical lens of "effective altruism," the burgeoning philosophy of using evidence-based research to maximize one's positive impact in the world, in order to better understand which strategies can help expand the moral circle now and in the future. *The End of Animal Farming* is not a scolding treatise or a prescription for an ascetic diet.

Reese invites readers—vegan and non-vegan—to consider one of the most important and transformational social movements of the coming decades.

**7. MORE RGS-IBG CARDIFF 2018 CONFERENCE & CITY PHOTOS (BAS).**





**Royal Geographical Society with IBG**

Advancing geography and geographical learning



**RGRG Newsletter Archive: [www.dur.ac.uk/geography/rgrg/](http://www.dur.ac.uk/geography/rgrg/)**

**Deadline 15<sup>th</sup> June 2019 for summer pre-RGS-IBG meeting issue of RGRG Newsletter.**

Send conference reports, text, pix and book notices to Editor [bruce.scholten@btopenworld.com](mailto:bruce.scholten@btopenworld.com)

**Thanks! to Steven Allan, Web Coordinator at Durham University Geography Department, assisting RGRG 2009-18. Photo credits include Creative Commons, Wiki, universities, institutions, publishers, Scholten (BAS).**

