



SECTION | CONTENTS

1. RGS-IBG Cardiff 2018. RGRG abstract deadline Feb. 9, pages 2-6
2. RGS-IBG London 2017; AGM, social & photos; Mid-term conference; RTL & Rebecca Ford, pp. 6-11
3. IFOAM 2017 Delhi organic world congress by B.A. Scholten, pp. 12-15
4. Books: Henry Buller & Emma Roe on Food and Animal Welfare, p. 16



ANYONE THINKING RURAL POLICY IS TRIVIAL

in our urbanising era was not in New Delhi during the International Federation of Organic Agricultural Movements (IFOAM) organic world congress in New Delhi, 9-11. Nov. 2017. The umbrella group has 800 affiliates in 110 countries. Smog equal to 42 cigarettes a day scoured our lungs, as authorities shut schools and invoked emergency measures on traffic and construction. Why? Winds in the doldrums allowed smoke from farmers burning rice stubble to pollute the Delhi area for weeks.

Solution? IFOAM's Organic 3.0 policies, were designed, by a team led by outgoing Exec. Dir. Markus Arbenz, to proactively develop conservation agriculture (CA) with agribusiness and governments. Examples include cover crops between plantings - and cutting rice stalks closer to

the ground in India's northwest rice-wheat cropping zone, then mulching into the soil, rather than burning stubble and choking city folk. Peter Dixon of the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (<http://aciablog.blogspot.co.uk/2013/08/growing-more-food-efficiently-and.html>) notes low-till mulching 'Happy Seeders' have been developed in India, and can be towed by animals or tractors. Perhaps 10% of India's 500m farmers own tractors and share with neighbours to cut costs. Reportedly, farmers' unions are demanding central government subsidies for new mulchers. Clearly, India's rural politics are sully urban centres to an unhealthy degree. – Editor, BAS (bruce.scholten@btopenworld.com)

Giant male & female farmer figures graced IFOAM registration. Academics, activists, farmers, scientists and traders laced the 3000 attendees.

India is a major exporter of organic chickpeas, soy, etc. to Europe and USA.

**More IFOAM Delhi p. 10.
(Pix by Editor, BAS)**



Highlight impact! Email news & pix on events, books, etc. to Editor, RGRG Newsletter:
bruce.scholten@btopenworld.com (<https://durham.academia.edu/BruceScholten>)

1. RGS-IBG Cardiff 28-31st August 2018 annual meeting: RGRG abstracts by 9th February!

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



**Theme: Geographical landscapes /
changing landscapes of geography**

Conference Chair
Professor Paul Milbourne

Keith Halfacree writes to CRIT-GEOG-FORUM@JISCMAIL.AC.UK (22 Jan 2018)

Hi everyone (& it's a lot of you!) Here, in one neat package is a list and details of the sessions Rural Geography Research Group hopes to sponsor in Cardiff (at the RGS-IBG [Geography] Annual International Conference – see <http://www.rgs.org/WhatsOn/ConferencesAndSeminars/Annual+International+Conference/Timeline.htm> Please get sending your Abstracts to the convenors so we can make it a reality! **Deadline is 9th February 2018!**

Call for Abstracts: Rural Geography Research Group sponsored sessions 2018 RGS-IBG Annual Int'l Conf.

Title	Convenors	Co-Sponsor
New and emerging rural researchers	Fidel Budy (Aberystwyth University) & Andrew Maclaren (University of Aberdeen)	
Uncertain rural landscapes of leisure	Alison Caffyn (Cardiff University)	GLTRG
Food and drink heritage, rural tradition or novelty – challenges for responsible dev't	Eifiona Thomas Lane and Rebecca Jones (Prifysgol Bangor University)	FGWG
Landscapes of gentrification	Martin Phillips (University of Leicester) & Darren Smith (Loughborough University)	PGRG
Landscape, becoming and time. Past, present and future uses of the dwelling concept in Human Geography and beyond	Owain Jones (Bath Spa University) & Dan Keech (University of Gloucestershire)	HPGRG
Rural energy transitions: ruralising low-carbon energy and energising rural geographies	Matthias Naumann (Technical University of Dresden) & David Rudolph (Technical University of Denmark, Roskilde)	EGRG
Beyond mere signifiers: centring animals in the (re)production of rural landscapes	Keith Halfacree (Swansea University) & Fiona Williams (University of Chester)	

New and emerging rural researchers

Convenors: Fidel Budy (Aberystwyth University) & Andrew Maclaren (University of Aberdeen)

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. We hope this session can continue to be well attended, with discussion conducted in a friendly, welcoming and constructive manner, which is widely appreciated by all those attending.

Papers can be drawn 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 9th February 2018

Please send abstracts up to a maximum of 250 words and proposed titles (clearly stating name, institution, and contact details) to Fidel Budy (Fib9@aber.ac.uk) & Andrew S. Maclaren (andrew.maclaren@abdn.ac.uk).

Uncertain rural landscapes of leisure

Convenor: Alison Caffyn (Cardiff University)

Rural landscapes are under pressure from increasing global demands for energy, intensively grown produce and meat and other industrial processes. Local actors often contest the relative benefits and impacts from such developments such as jobs and income versus visual intrusion, noise, traffic, smell and loss of natural spaces or farmland. They express concerns over potential hazards and uncertainties such as accidents, leaks and pollution (Beck 1986; Callon *et al.* 2001).

Tourism and leisure are becoming entangled in the rhetoric; deployed by communities as a rationale for fighting perceived dissonant development. Examples include windfarms (Rudolph 2014), polytunnels (Evans 2013), fish farms (Nimmo *et al.* 2011) and pollution from industrial agriculture (Diaz *et al.* 2013). Such intrusive developments have been claimed to threaten rural visitor economies, yet evidence is scarce.

This session will explore contestations between post-industrial and newly industrialising rural land uses; how these issues are framed and what discourses and narratives are deployed by the actors. Might we be seeing a polarisation between play grounds such as protected landscapes and dumping grounds?

Papers are welcomed on questions including (but not exclusive to):

- How are every-day rural leisure landscapes changing?
- How do people materially experience industrialising rural landscapes?
- How are power and conflict performed in rural landscapes?
- How are rural leisure and tourism valued and represented in contested landscapes?
- Do tourism and leisure have a role to play in sustaining natural and rural spaces?
- Can intensive agri-food co-exist with agri-tourism?
- Is a multifunctional countryside delivering on food and energy as well as leisure achievable?
- What role do rural planning and policy play?

Deadline for submitting abstracts is 9th February 2018

Please send abstracts up to a maximum of 250 words and proposed titles (clearly stating name, institution, and contact details) to Alison Caffyn (CaffynA@cardiff.ac.uk).

Food and drink heritage, rural tradition or novelty – challenges for responsible development

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

Rural space has been traditionally recognised as spaces of food production and rich repositories of food and drink, traditions, heritage and provenance. Upon this foundation both well-known and newer forms of rural leisure and rural tourism offers have been developed. Experiences from gastronomy within food tourism to more technical ventures in micro-brewing, artisan and lifestyle markets exemplify this potential.

- How can these new forms of rural food and drink developments and experiences contribute towards and equitable and wider rural resilience in contrasting geographical contexts?
- Can such food and drink based development be mapped and trends understood? Should this be managed?
- How will these developments offer responsible modes of innovation?
- Is there academic potential in considering craft scale food or drink production and challenges to growth?
- Can new food and drink innovation be made sustainable e.g. more localised supply chains or trading networks?
- What consequences may changing rural food and drink-scapes have on accessibility of local foods for all?

This session will explore both traditional rural food and drink heritage, current issues and future possibilities for responsible rural development and building of rural resilience through the use of food and drink and will invite a diverse range of speakers to discuss cases studies and academic analysis. Interdisciplinary, holistic and empirical case study based presentations are invited from speakers excited by the questions above linked to food and drink geographies.

Contributions from a diverse range of new academic, practitioner developer, community organisations and new researchers are especially welcomed.

Deadline for submitting abstracts is 9th February 2018

Please send abstracts up to a maximum of 250 words and proposed titles (clearly stating name, institution, and contact details) to Eifiona Thomas Lane (eifiona.thomaslane@bangor.ac.uk) & Rebecca Jones (rebecca.jones@bangor.ac.uk).

Landscapes of gentrification

Convenors: Martin Phillips (University of Leicester) & Darren Smith (Loughborough University)

Landscapes have been 'a central, if rather neglected, aspect of gentrification' (Phillips 2018), being both identified as amongst its defining (e.g. Davidson and Lees 2005) and persistently remarked upon features (e.g. Mills 1988, Ghose 2004, Patch 2004; Papen 2012, Ye *et al.* 2015), and yet also discussed in a taken-for-granted manner with little or no reflection on the how the term landscape is being interpreted. This is despite the term landscape being a long-standing subject of debate within human geography and many associated disciplines. A key aim of this session is to foster increased reflection on how various conceptions of landscape have and can be connected to studies of gentrification. Phillips (2018), for instance, identifies how gentrification studies have, largely implicitly, employed notions of landscape as a visually observable material/physical world, as a space of social life and social relations of power, as a symbolic text or way of seeing, and, in a few cases, as lived/affective space. He adds, however, that may be other senses of landscape, 'lying within, between and beyond' these four sketched perspectives on landscapes of gentrification. Darling (2005) earlier argued for the possibility of identifying 'landscape-specific gentrification models', an argument that has not really been followed up within subsequent studies beyond Darling's own analysis of wilderness gentrification (see also Smith *et al.* 2018) and relatively isolated studies exploring gentrification within landscapes of agriculture (Sutherland 2002), the coast (Griffith 2000, Smith 2007, Freeman and Cheyne 2008, Colbourn and Jepson 2012, Thompson *et al.* 2016) and islands (Clark *et al.* 2007; Jackson 2005). We feel that there is an important need to bring together studies of landscape and gentrification in a more critically sustained and reflective manner. To this end we therefore invite contributions to a session or sessions focused on exploring urban and/or rural landscapes and gentrification.

Deadline for submitting abstracts is 9th February 2018

Please send abstracts up to a maximum of 250 words and proposed titles (clearly stating name, institution, and contact details) to Martin Phillips (mpp2@leicester.ac.uk) & Darren Smith (D.P.Smith@lboro.ac.uk).

Landscape, becoming and time. Past, present and future uses of the dwelling concept in Human Geography and beyond

Convenors: Owain Jones (Bath Spa University) & Dan Keech (University of Gloucestershire)

The dwelling concept was set out by Heidegger in *Building, Dwelling, Thinking* (1959). It was an intrinsically geographic concept, exploring being in-the-world through landscape, time, memory, culture, mortality, and the spiritual. Dwelling accounts for enfolded space and time in qualitative, experiential terms of becoming-through-experience – 'poetic habituation'. It challenged rationalism, modernity, scientism (Malpas 2008). Dwelling had an influence of the humanistic/ phenomenological geographies of the 1970s and 1980s (e.g. Tuan 1977, Seamon 1993) and was further shaped by Ingold's 'taskscape' (1993, 1995, 2000, 2011), with foci on practice, relationality, non-human agency. This refreshed version, which left behind some of the more obscure/problematic aspects of Heideggerian dwelling, was taken up in new cultural geographies of the 1990s, which sought more performative and post-structurally infused accounts of becoming-in-place and landscape (Thrift 1999, Cloke and Jones 2001, Wylie 2003, Harrison 2007). Ingold latterly reconsidered his use of dwelling as a cornerstone of becoming (2011), although it remains in use as a concept across the discipline. Interpretations of dwelling seem relevant in relation to the normalisation of socio-political and ecological turbulence. Geographical identities, (multiple-)belongings and ecological (co-)consciousness to be iteratively built up in lived layerings that are mobile. **Papers are sought on dwelling and/as:**

· Landscape / place	· Gendered dwellings	· Migration / conflict
· Mobility	· In the Anthropocene	· Displacement
· Tourism	· Toxic dwelling	· Rural / urban dwelling.

Deadline for submitting abstracts is 9th February 2018

Please send abstracts up to a maximum of 250 words and proposed titles (clearly stating name, institution, and contact details) to Owain Jones (o.jones@bathspa.ac.uk) & Dan Keech (dkeech@glos.ac.uk).

Rural energy transitions: ruralising low-carbon energy and energising rural geographies

Convenors: Matthias Naumann (Technical University of Dresden) & David Rudolph (Technical University of Denmark, Roskilde)

Rural areas have increasingly gained importance for the successful implementation of energy transition, in particular as sites and resources for renewables, whilst low-carbon transition processes have emerged as a key driver for rural change. Regardless of the primary perspective, 'new energy landscapes are forged when and where energy transitions meet rural transitions' (Frantal *et al.* 2014, 3). While Huber and McCarthy (2017, 665) have recently predicted 'that any transition to such new geographies of energy production would necessarily involve powerful new claims on, struggles over, and massive new deployments of capital and labour in rural spaces in many locations around the world', such struggles have already become very real, as the vast research on the contested siting of renewables has shown (e.g. Fast 2013, Rand & Hoen 2017). However, the various dimensions of rural spaces and imaginations of rurality have rather remained underexplored in the geographies of energy transitions. Likewise, rural studies are only slowly considering the spatial manifestations of energy transition as an increasingly significant factor of rural change. Furthermore, this then also points to the need to discuss demands for energy democracy and justice in a rural context.

This session seeks to explore rural energy transitions by bringing together rural studies focusing on energy and socio-technical transitions and critical energy geographies considering various aspects of the rural. We therefore invite contributions that elucidate and discuss various rural dimensions of energy transitions.

Contributions may focus on but are not limited to the following three interrelated issues:

- Various expressions of the rural as the locational context of renewable energy production and supply;
- Rural contestations over energy transition, e.g. related to the siting of renewables, uneven development, fears of stigmatization and injustice;
- Emancipatory potentials of energy transition for rural areas, and the manifestations of energy democracy and energy justice in rural areas.

Deadline for submitting abstracts is 9th February 2018

Please send abstracts up to a maximum of 250 words and proposed titles (clearly stating name, institution, and contact details) to Matthias Naumann (matthias.naumann@tu-dresden.de) & David Rudolph (dp@dtu.dk).



The Innocent Eye Test, by Mark Tansey (1981 USA).
(Fair use: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1988/48/section/62>)

Beyond mere signifiers: centring animals in the (re)production of rural landscapes

Convenors: Keith Halfacree (Swansea University) & Fiona Williams (University of Chester)

In a 2014 review of animal geographies, Henry Buller reasserted the importance of social scientific understanding and emplacing of animals going 'beyond taking [them] as merely "signifiers" of human endeavour and meaning' (p.308). Within rural geography, an especially pertinent illustration of this importance comes in respect of how we understand the production and reproduction of **landscapes**. Conventionally interpreted primarily as representations to be gazed upon, from when one is out in the countryside to being inside the art gallery, the recent turn towards the more-than-representational instead foregrounds the everyday lived materiality of these spaces. Landscapes are seen as exerting agency but also, through a wide range of terms, being (re)produced, assembled, networked, dwelt and so on in complex and often messy ways. Bluntly put, rural landscapes are not simply 'wonders' of nature and /or humanity to gaze upon but complex and hybrid productions.

This session seeks papers that will tease out elements of how animals **actively** produce and reproduce rural landscapes with an emphasis on foregrounding the actions of the animals themselves. Of course, humans cannot be disentangled from much of this, so more combined Bourdieusian type accounts associating animals with humans through *habitus*, for example, are also welcome. The session seeks to centre animals through displacing more or less coherent rural spaces by the more selective representations, practices and lives performed as sheep spaces, deer spaces, eagle spaces, and so on.

An 'animals perspective' is especially valuable and even necessary in the context of a number of ongoing concerns regarding future rural landscapes. These include:

- Loss and significant decline of species biodiversity, including those essential for plant pollination and more general ecological survival;
- Potential UK upland policy changes to agricultural support in the wake of Brexit;
- The growth in interest in reintroducing top predators, re-wilding or nominally handing over large areas of land to non-human actors;
- Omni-present pressures on rural landscapes from tourism and other forms of development, which can be both rooted in and have implications for animal landscapes.

Deadline for submitting abstracts is 9th February 2018

Please send abstracts up to a maximum of 250 words and proposed titles (clearly stating name, institution, and contact details) to Keith Halfacree (k.h.halfacree@swansea.ac.uk) & Fiona Williams (fiona.williams@chester.ac.uk).

2. RGS-IBG London 2017; AGM; Mid-term conf; RHT & Rebecca Ford; Social & Photo Contest

2a. RGS-IBG London AGM 30th August 2017



The Usual (& Some New) Researchers at the AGM 30th August 2017. (BAS pic)

2017 Rural Geography Research Group AGM

Wednesday 30th August 2017, 1.10pm to 2.25pm, Sir Alexander Fleming Building, Room 121

Draft Minutes by Keith Halfacree, September 2017

1. Apologies for Absence / Welcome

Apologies were received from Guy Robinson, Sonja Rewhorn and Charles Howie. Prof Nigel Walford and Dr Keith Halfacree welcomed a very good turnout (20+).

2. Minutes of the 2016 AGM

These were accepted as a fair account.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

None that are not raised elsewhere.

4. Chair's report

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

- Membership. Membership of the Group was 236 on 01/08/17, which is above average across all RGs; new members are welcomed regularly to contribute to its work.
- Postgraduates and early career. The link with the CCRI Winter School 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.
- Newsletters. Bruce Scholten has continued to edit our Newsletter and always welcomes contributions from across the whole membership; many thanks to him for producing two packed editions again this year. Many thanks to him for this work.
- Conferences: The Group is well represented again at this year's Annual Conference with eight themed sessions having 15 slots.
- 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. We look forward to their continued involvement with the Group in the future.

5. Treasurer's report 2016-17

Gareth Enticott presented his report. Overall, the balance remains healthy and £377 higher than this time last year. Statements for the two accounts between 01/08/16 and 31/07/17 are attached.

Balance (Statements Dated 02/08/17)

Cooperative Directplus Account - £1721.67

Business Select Instant Account - £30.05

Total Balance - £1751.72 (Total Balance in August 2016 was £1967.90)

Income and Outgoings

The main income in 2016-17 has been from the RGS (£400).

The main outgoings were for expenses for a committee meeting in January 2017 (£611.20) – distributed to recipients by the secretary. This was the most well attended committee meeting ever, hence the cost of travel expenses.

Outstanding Items

The two outstanding cheques for the 2015 dissertation prize were not cashed and have now been cancelled (costing £5). The 2016 dissertation prizes were distributed in August but not yet cashed. These amount to £120.

The meeting was very happy with the finances and thanked Gareth for his work. It was also suggested – once again - that over the next year we should seek to spend some of the accumulating monies, perhaps with a themed one-day seminar or similar event (not had one of these for a while)?

ACTION: explore options for one-day event (KH & all)

6. Committee elections

Only the two Postgraduate reps saw their terms of office end this year, and the meeting saw the following new members (re-)elected:

Postgraduate Representatives: Mr Andrew Maclaren (Aberdeen University) (re-elected), Mr Fidel Budy (Aberystwyth University). However, KH also proposed that we co-opt Ms Hannah Brooking (Leicester University), due to her active contribution to networking and social media for the group. This was agreed. The new committee is as follows:

Name	Email	Committee Position	Term dates
Prof Nigel Walford	n.walford@kingston.ac.uk	Chair	2016-2019
Dr Keith Halfacree	k.h.halfacree@swansea.ac.uk	Secretary	2016-2019
Dr Gareth Enticott	enticottg@Cardiff.ac.uk	Treasurer	2016-2019
Mr Fidel Budy	fib9@aber.ac.uk	Postgraduate representative	2017-2018
Mr Andrew Maclaren	andrew.maclaren@abdn.ac.uk	Postgraduate representative	2017-2018
Dr Bruce Scholten	bruce.scholten@bopenworld.com	Newsletter editor	2015-2018
Ms Sonja Rewhorn	s.rewhorn@chester.ac.uk	Ordinary member (networking)	2016-2019
Prof Michael Woods	zzp@aber.ac.uk	Ordinary member	2015-2018
Dr Fiona Williams	fiona.williams@chester.ac.uk	Ordinary member	2015-2018
Dr Damian Maye	dmaye@glos.ac.uk	Ordinary member	2016-2019
Mrs Megan Palmer-Abbs	meganpalmerabbs@abdn.ac.uk	Ordinary member	2015-2018
Dr Eifiona Thomas Lane	eifiona.thomaslane@bangor.ac.uk	Ordinary member	2016-2019
Ms Hannah Brooking	hb110@le.ac.uk	Co-opted member (networking)	2017-2020

7. Dissertation prizes

Dr Fiona Williams (FW) had agreed to take over the coordination of the judging of these prizes. She reported that again we had several submissions for the 2017 Undergraduate prize but none for the Masters prize.

The Undergraduate results for 2016 were as follows and the winners warmly congratulated!:

1st Prize Joe Young (Cambridge): *Commons in the community: perceptions and practices of transitioning commons in contemporary rural Romania*

2nd Prize Misaki Cydnee Beckett (LSE): *Emplacing the 'furusato' ageing experience. An exploration into the dimensions of place attachment for older people in rural central Japan*

3rd Prize Alexander MacDonald (Glasgow): *Crofting: community or individual?*

8. 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 – 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) – 10–11th January 2018 – please contact Matt Reed for further information on this excellent rural postgraduate event.
- IGU – Santiago de Compostella – July 2018
- RGS-IBG Annual Conference: Cardiff August 2018. 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.

Others? Please contact RGRG Secretary (k.h.halfacree@swansea.ac.uk) w/details; he will circulate on mailing list.

ACTION: publicise and attend these events (all)

9. RGS Research Groups Forum

Hannah Brooking was able to attend this event on behalf of RGRG and presented a report to the AGM. It is hoped some ideas from this can be discussed at the next Committee meeting.

10. Networking

RGRG sponsored the attendance of Rich Gorman (Cardiff University) at a Rural Geographies session at the PGF's 2017 RGS-IBG Midterm Conference hosted by Cardiff University in April 2017. Keith Halfacree also attended the session and introduced the RGRG, and Rich wrote a short report published in the RGRG Summer Newsletter.

11. Membership issues

Keith Halfacree 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)

12. Newsletter [Bruce adds 28Jan18: RGRG migration to resume when RGS-IBG IT person returns.]

Bruce Scholten gave a report on his editing of the Newsletter and his continuing efforts to transfer the RGRG website and archives to a more permanent site, hopefully at RGS. Although Bruce has been liaising with RGS on this, there still seems a way to go. Not least as he also has quite a bit of work to in editing the Newsletter, RGRG again calls for someone to work with Bruce on this and possible then become future Newsletter editor...

ACTION: find a volunteer to work with Bruce on Archive issues (all)

13. AOB

There was an interesting contribution from historical geographer Rebecca Ford, the new editor of *Rural History Today*. Rebecca drew attention to her publication and encourages RGRG members to think of contributing to this publication. Details can be found at: <http://www.bahs.org.uk/RHT.html>.

Minutes by Keith Halfacree, September 2017



RGS-IBG Discovery 2017 BAS

2b. Rural History Today: Editor Rebecca Ford calls for submissions



At the 30th Aug. 2017 AGM, RGRG member Rebecca Ford told us she has taken over as editor of Rural History Today. The bi-annual magazine is published by the British Agricultural History Society (<http://www.bahs.org.uk/>).

Rebecca is an historical / cultural geographer. She is keen to widen the content of Rural History Today and expand its range of contributors, so that it reflects the 'Today' in the publication's title as much as the 'History'. Rebecca is looking forward to receiving features on scholarly research, historical perspectives on contemporary rural life, interviews, exhibitions, book reviews and

conference reports. Contact: rebeccaford@btinternet.com & <http://www.bahs.org.uk/RHT.html>



Lunch & drinks at RGS-IBG HQ are welcome breaks. But night time is also right for socialising.



2c. RGRG Photo Contest & Social organised by Sonja Rewhorn

Alison Caffyn won for best 2017 photos of finding the rural in urban London. Sonja Rewhorn and assistant judges enjoyed Caffyn's photos, of a 'Spanish pig (sausage) finding its way to Kensington', and 'Stray hawthorn invading the Natural History Museum Gardens.' But 'Cow lurking in bushes' moovingly portrayed the popularity of farmers' markets for affluent, quality-conscious urban consumers.



Alison Caffyn's 'Cow lurking in bushes' won the RGRG 2017 photo competition at The Queen's Arms pub.

2d. RGRG rural social at The Queen's Arms Kensington 31st August 2017



The Queen's Arms pub is near Imperial College. Sonja Rewhorn (middle) organised photos & fun.



A good time was had by all. Fiona, Keith and Damian had window seats as Martha walked in.



Durham's Gordon McLeod dropped in. London is 9m people? Rural quietude ruled after the RGRG social.

2e. NEWS: RGS Mid-Term Conference: More support to postgrads!

From: Willment, Nina (2013) [Nina.Willment.2013@live.rhul.ac.uk]

Sent: 24 January 2018 13:29 **To:** Halfacree K.H.

Subject: Re: RGS Mid-Term Conference

Hi Keith, No worries at all! Thanks for your reply and hope this email falls into the pile of good distractions! That is great news about the Rural Geography Research Group providing a bursary for one student. There is a choice of sponsoring one students conference fees which would be £60 or sponsoring one students full conference fee and two nights' accommodation including breakfast for the duration of the conference which is £128. Please can you let me know which of these options you would like to go for? Please would it be possible for the Rural Geography Research Group to please share both the conference and the bursary on all of your social media channels when it has been finalised?

- Thanks! Nina

[Halfacree K. H. <k.h.halfacree@swansea.ac.uk>](mailto:k.h.halfacree@swansea.ac.uk) To [Willment, Nina \(2013\)](#) CC [Gareth Enticott](#) [Fiona Williams](#) [Eifiona Lane Palmerabbs](#), [Megan M n.walford@kingston.ac.uk](#) and 7 more...

25 Jan at 9:20 AM

Dear Nina [Willment] Having consulted with the RGRG Committee (copied in to this reply), we have some good news for you. In short, we are prepared to support: 1 full fee to a final year PhD (must be presenting at the conference) & 1 conference fee to a 'new starter' (presenting not required 'though would be nice') => £128 + £60 = £188. We are trying to foreground our PG members a bit more and this works well with this. We would obviously prefer the recipients of the bursaries to be RGRG members but will accept presently 'prospective' members. If you can forward some text about the conference I will indeed send it to our mailing list and Twitter site.

All the best, Keith

More photos from RGS-IBG London Conference 2017



Michael Woods & colleagues relaxing.



Left: Book fair with David Stonestreet & colleague. Food Geographies 367 presenters closed Friday. Meanwhile, across Exhibition Road, the Victoria & Albert Museum extended its Pink Floyd run.

3a. IFOAM organic world congress New Delhi 9-11th November 2017 by Bruce A. Scholten



Related IFOAM articles by Scholten in Odairy-Nodpa online
(10.Nov.17 http://www.nodpa.com/list_serv.shtml),
and Rural History Today (2018 spring).

India's 300m middle class includes many woman farmers at smoggy IFOAM (<https://owc.ifoam.bio/2017/owc>)

The International Federation of Organic Agricultural Movements (IFOAM) is an umbrella organisation of about 800 affiliates in 110 countries. Britain's Lady Eve Balfour, and Sir Albert Howard who had worked in India, were influenced by Rudolf Steiner's biodynamic ideas in Europe. Balfour and Howard established the Soil Association in 1946, and IFOAM in 1972, while influencing US organic pioneer J.I. Rodale.

Their views were not in line with globalising macroactors such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Organic Programme. NOP rules (banning chemicals and GMOs) were written to be scale neutral, but family-scale farmers argue the government polices them closely, but uses kid gloves in monitoring and enforcing organic rules for agribusiness and factory farms. What I dubbed the USDA Organic Pasture War (Scholten 2014 US Organic Dairy Politics: 75-117) may determine whether agribusiness runs family farms out of certified organic dairy farming, as their 10,000 cow megadairies depressed family incomes in conventional dairying. Bitter disputes focus on animal welfare – cattle or poultry - in confinement or pasture systems.

Few small dairy farmers believe 10- or 15,000 cow dairies can logistically pasture so many cows. So they breathed a sigh of relief in 2010, when USDA-NOP issued its final Pasture Rule, requiring that cows graze on pasture a minimum of 120 days per year (more if conditions are practicable), eating a least 30% of their dry matter intake on grass. Things came to a head with a Washington Post (1May17) article titled 'Why your "organic" milk may not be organic.' Reporter Peter Whoriskey had observed a Texan megadairy for eight days in good weather, never seeing over 10% of its 15,000 cows outside. At IFOAM-Delhi, I had an unexpected opportunity to interview Miles McEvoy, who had been NOP head at the time of these USDA-NOP actions. It was a chance for a geographer to 'have the ear of the minister.' The following interview, and responses by critics, illustrate the debate. - BAS



Above: IFOAM extolled women & appropriate tech like rototillers.



Aurora Organic megadairy. Critics claim AOD ignores pasture for feedlots. (Source: Cornucopia.org c.2014)

Ex-USDA organics head Miles McEvoy at IFOAM, Delhi, 9th Nov. 2017, by Bruce A. Scholten (BAS)



‘I’m Miles McEvoy of the United States. I directed the USDA National Organic Program (NOP) till about a month ago.’ This comment startled me, seeing Mr. McEvoy dressed in sandals with a new beard, looking more relaxed than the last time I’d seen him, clean-shaven in a blazer, emceeing a springtime 2013 meeting of the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) in Portland, Oregon.

IFOAM congregated in the huge congress centre of Greater Noida, near New Delhi, India. Despite smog, the mood was upbeat, making common cause with foodies as well as farmers, while honouring farmers’ ability to innovate, and make continuous improvements in crops and livestock, rather than simply meet minimums on chemicals or inputs. Speakers kept warning colleagues, ‘We organics folks are just 1-to-2% of people.’ Led out-going Exec. Director Markus Arbenz, IFOAM’s Organics 3.0 policy team emphasised. A few progressive veterans of 1968-to-present German Green Party and Greenpeace *Fundis* claimed the fundamental way to stop Germany’s atomic power plants, or Monsanto’s merger with Syngenta was

marching in the streets. But others such as Miles McEvoy were *Realos*, focusing realistically on possible compromises with like-minded groups.

As usual, the hot topics of guaranteeing organic quality hinged on questions of certification, surprise inspections, and materials permitted in organic production, as well as handling and processing (soybeans processed with Hexane, cosmetics and textiles being special concerns). Roy Subayasachi, from India’s National Dairy Development Board, said consumers needed faith in the holistic system, such as his NDDDB which showed the world its Anand model of Amul brand dairy farmers’ cooperatives. (The next day I was scheduled to propose NDDDB organize organic milk powder from hill farmers, but that’s another story. See also my book ‘India’s White Revolution’ on the subject (2010, Tauris, London).

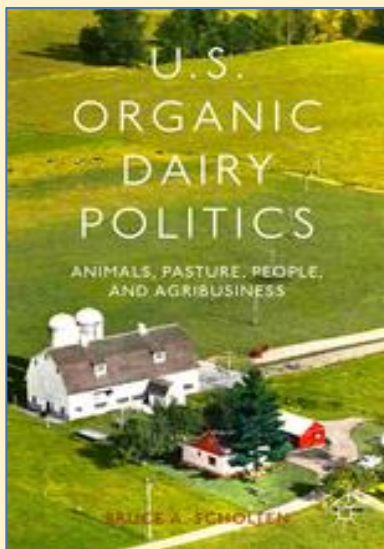
BAS (Bruce): After the session I introduced myself to McEvoy as an American academic attached to Durham University Geography Department in the UK, asking: **‘Mr. McEvoy, what do you think of Peter Whoriskey’s recent articles in the Washington Post?’** On May 1, 2017, Whoriskey’s breakthrough headline was: [‘Why your ‘organic’ milk may not be organic’](#), raising questions in consumers’ minds: If new megadairies built in Texas by corporations such as Aurora Organic Dairy did not graze more than 10% of their cows on a sunny but mild summer afternoon, is their milk organic? A 2010 USDA Pasture Rule made 120 days per year grazing, and 30% dry matter intake from pasture, minimum criteria for organically certified dairy cows. U.S. purists claimed that the letter and the spirit of the 2010 Pasture Rule (as well as the 1990 Organic Foods Production Act passed by Vermont Sen. Patrick Leahy, with assistance from Kathleen Merrigan and others),

required cows to be grazing any day it wasn't too hot or muddy on cow pastures. But pasturing cows from a 10- or 15,000 cow megadairy has logistics problems undreamed of on a 90 cow Mom & Pop family dairy farm.

Miles McEvoy had told the fishbowl discussion group, 'In USA the organic market is growing to \$50 billion a year. We can't keep up with demand.' This left me wondering about a recent cyclical but painful glut in organic milk surpluses. A few organic dairy farmers had been cut by their processors. Only a few weeks previously had organic farmers been able to stop selling precious milk to the cheaper-paying conventional market. It's true that US organic dairies have a hard time sourcing domestic fodder, but India has become a huge cheap supplier of organic soy and chickpeas. The trouble was fraud – some was claimed to be conventional, and sold at dearer prices as organic.

Miles McEvoy (MM): 'In USA there is fraud in the system, but there is fraud in any system, and we need more resources to fight it.' He asked how long I'd been in Britain.

BAS: '25 years,' and I gave him a flyer from U.S. Organic Dairy Politics: Pasture, Animals, People, and Agribusiness (Palgrave-Springer NYC, 2014).



Miles McEvoy (MM): 'I've never seen this book.

BAS: 'For years I agonized over whether or not Aurora Organic Dairy (AOD in Colorado and Texas) properly grazed their cows. I worry less about Horizon Organic Dairy these days.'

MM: 'They met the USDA standards.'

BAS: 'So what about Peter Whoriskey's articles in Washington Post?'

MM: 'Peter Whoriskey's articles were based on a drive-by investigation. It wasn't an audit. His articles are sensationalist.'

BAS: 'He was in Texas 8 days,' and didn't see over 10% of that 10,000 cow plus herd on pasture.

MM: 'He was outside 8 days. It wasn't an audit. Whoriskey's not a dairy farmer. One of the photos wasn't even an organic farm.'

BAS: 'I heard he got one wrong. But why are there questions about Aurora honouring the USDA Organic Pasture Rule?'

MM: 'Because Mark Kastel of the Cornucopia Institute is good at distorting information. They highlight any mis-compliance with the rules, and ignore the long list of enforcement. Look at the National Organic Program page – there have been big fines. People have gone to jail!'

BAS: 'I'm familiar with the NOP page. I suppose my loyalty lies with small family farms like the one I grew up on near Lynden, Washington, USA.'

MM: 'I think Mark Kastel's for small farms too.'

BAS: 'When Mr. Obama was elected we hoped for an Age of Enforcement.'

MM: 'We [at USDA] did too. There's a lot of enforcement going on and it's a good story.'

BAS: 'But USDA is short on resources [for monitoring and enforcing compliance] ... Now I'm starting a book on Dairy Animal Welfare in America, Europe and India.'

MM: 'Keep watching animal welfare in the States. It's needed. The Trump administration is hostile to it.'

BAS: 'It's good to see you here at IFOAM Delhi 2017.'

MM: 'Good to see you too.'

Responses to this interview follow on next page...

My IFOAM Delhi report 'Bus-man's holiday for McEvoy' appeared 10th Nov. 2017 on USA Odairy online network - managed by Ed Maltby of NODPA New England Organic Dairy Producers. Below are comments.

Ex-Nodpa president Kathie Arnold replied.

Sent: Friday, November 17, 2017 2:39 PM

Subject: Re: Miles McEvoy next life

"MM: 'He was outside 8 days. It wasn't an audit. Whoriskey's not a dairy farmer.'"

And Miles McEvoy is obviously no dairy farmer either. At least Peter Whoriskey has some concept of reality - that there is no way that thousands of cows on one operation can achieve a minimum of 30% dry matter intake from pasture for at least 120 days. Any dairy farmer that grazes animals knows that from experience. It makes my blood boil that the NOP audits are so rigged (calling ahead to make an appointment rather than doing a surprise inspection) for these mega operations that it makes a mockery of compliance with the pasture rule.

- Kathie

Francis Thicke recently finished a multi-year term of the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB).

On 11/18/2017 08:22 AM, Francis Thicke wrote: I was the one who asked the head of NOP Compliance if they inspected Aurora unannounced, or if they made an appointment. The head of NOP Compliance told me that they made an appointment "because of (NOP) budget constraints." Apparently, the NOP was not so concerned about the budget constraints of the family-scale organic dairy farmers who are fulfilling the grazing rule but are taking a big economic hit because of organic milk surpluses, caused in part by "organic" CAFO dairies.

I agree with Kathie that any grazing organic dairy farmer with a bit of common sense has to be suspicious--and disgusted--that the compelling evidence presented by the Washington Post investigative reporter was brushed aside based on a pre-scheduled audit of Aurora's records. Anyone who believes that Aurora would present records showing noncompliance with the grazing rule during a scheduled appointment with an auditor--regardless of whether or not the records were accurate--is a fool.

- Francis

Jim Goodman was one of the first certified dairy farmers in USA.

To ODAIRY@LISTSERV.NODPA.COM

19/11/17 at 2:16 AM

I tell people, **think about this**, how can thousands of cows possibly be on pasture and walk the distance from milking parlour to pasture? Granted these pastures are irrigated and should be lush, but thousands of cows? My 45 cows need at least 20-30 minutes to get to the barn from the furthest pastures, cows generally do not gallop well.

I think there are too many people advocating for more organic acres at any cost--- and one of the costs will clearly be the integrity of organic.

And Francis, thank you for your work, time and frustration.

- Jim Goodman

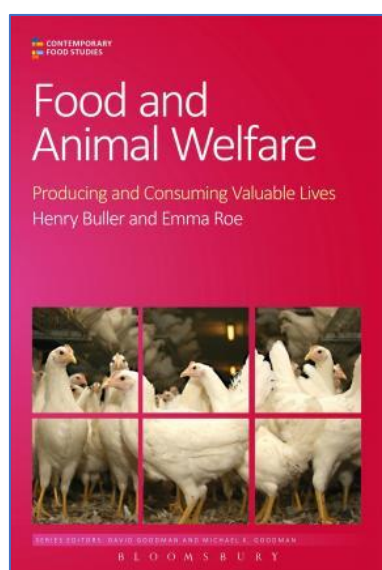


IFOAM Delhi 2017 was über-stimulating. Next congress is Moscow 2020. (BAS pix)



IFOAM farmers save ancient seeds.

4. BOOKS – Henry Buller & Emma Roe volume out June 2018



Former head of our RGRG rural geographers group, Henry Buller and social and cultural geographer Emma Roe have collaborated on what must be one of the most anticipated books of 2018. As Keith Halfacree and Fiona Williams note in the CFP (above) for their session 'Beyond mere signifiers' for the 2018 RGS-IBG meeting in Cardiff: 'In a 2014 review of animal geographies, Henry Buller reasserted the importance of social scientific understanding and emplacing of animals going 'beyond taking [them] as merely "signifiers" of human endeavour and meaning.' The January 2018 decision by the Trump administration to abandon Organic Livestock & Poultry Practices (OLPP) rules, that had been painstakingly negotiated by farmer, consumer and the Obama administration, does not bode well for animal welfare.

With world population projected at 10b by 2015, demand for meat has swept cattle and poultry from landscapes, crowding them into confinement for faster growth. The St. Paul Declaration at a 2006 US meeting of the International Federation of Organic Agricultural Movements called for the instinctive behaviours of sentient animals to be respected. Such include grazing pasture by bovines and scratching for

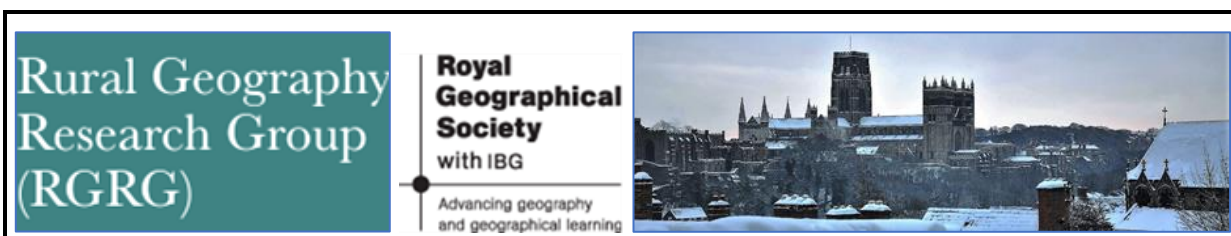
insects by poultry. But defence of animals by vegans competes with, for example, bacon or sausage fetishes that appear to be part of performing manhood, or support of a favourite football teams. More ethical, environmental and other concerns will surely be interrogated in this volume. – BAS, Editor

Food and Animal Welfare: Producing and Consuming Valuable Lives.

<https://www.bookdepository.com/Food-and-Animal-Welfare-Professor-Henry-Buller-Emma-Roe/9780857857071?ref=grid-view&qid=1517401142841&sr=1-4>

Publication date 14 Jun 2018. London: Bloomsbury Publishing PLC. Imprint Berg Publishers
20 bw illus 240 pages. ISBN10 085785707X and ISBN13 9780857857071.

Publisher's note: Drawing together the latest research and a range of case studies, Henry Buller and Emma Roe guide readers on a fascinating journey through animal welfare issues 'from farm to fork'. Animal welfare offers a vital lens through which to explore the economies, culture and politics of food. This is the first text to provide a much-needed overview of this strongly debated area of the food industry. Buller and Roe explore how animal welfare is defined, advocated, assessed and implemented by farmers, veterinarians, distributors, and consumers. From the practicalities and limitations of establishing a basic standard of care for livestock, to the ethics of selling welfare as a product in the supermarket, this indispensable book offers empirical insights into a key aspect of the global food system: the lives, deaths, and consumption of animals which are at the core of the food chain. It is a must-read for students and scholars of animal welfare, agro-food studies and human-animal relations in disciplines such as geography, politics, anthropology, and sociology as well as animal behaviour, psychology and veterinary science.



Content welcome to the pre-RGS-IBG Cardiff conference issue: Deadline 15th July 2017.
Send rural text, pix & book notices to RGRG Newsletter: bruce.scholten@btopenworld.com

Photos: BA Scholten (BAS); Bloomsbury; Cornucopia.org; R. Ford, K. Halfacree; M. Tansey; U. Cardiff.
Thanks! since 2009 to Steven Allan, Comms Tech in Durham University Geography Department.

