

CONTENTS

1. Calendar of Forthcoming Rural Conferences and events
2. Discussion Forum for ESRC Transdisciplinary Seminar Series on Sustainable Farmland Management
3. Recent Conference reports
4. Calls for papers
5. Postgraduate opportunities
6. New books
7. Items for next issue of newsletter and electronic communications

1. CALENDAR OF FORTHCOMING RURAL CONFERENCES & EVENTS

Date	Event	Contact
7-11 March, 2006	AAG 2006, Chicago,	http://www.aag.org/annualmeetings/index.cfm
5-7 April, 2006	The Plymouth Rural Futures Conference: The Rural Citizen: Governance, Culture And Wellbeing in the 21st Century, University of Plymouth.	admin@ruralfuturesconference.org www.ruralfuturesconference.org
15-21 May, 2006	Fifth British-French Rural Geography Symposium: New occupants and new residents in the European Countryside, Clermond Ferrand, France.	n.walford@kingston.ac.uk
30 August – 1 September, 2006	Royal Geographical Society with the Institute of British Geographers Annual Conference, Royal Geographical Society, London, 2006. RGRG Sessions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competing Knowledges and Uncertain Agricultural Futures • Wittgenstein's lion: knowing animals in human geography research • Emotional Geographies of Rurality • Postgraduate Research in Rural Geography 	http://www.rgs.org/template.php?page=AC2006 l.holloway@hull.ac.uk d.maye@coventry.ac.uk and d.watts@coventry.ac.uk H.Buller@exeter.ac.uk J.K.Little@exeter.ac.uk or O.Jones@exeter.ac.uk helen.moggridge@kcl.ac.uk

2. DISCUSSION FORUM FOR ESRC TRANSDISCIPLINARY SEMINAR SERIES ON SUSTAINABLE FARMLAND MANAGEMENT

Please find below details of how to join a Discussion Forum on Sustainable Farmland Management which has been developed to follow up discussions held during the six seminars in the ESRC Transdisciplinary Series on Sustainable Farmland Management.

There is a link from the first page of the Seminar Series website to the list:
<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/~lgzwww/general/news-events/>

or you can join by emailing
JOIN ESRC-TRANSDISCIPLINARY firstname lastname in the body of an email to jiscmail@jiscmail.ac.uk

We hope that the Discussion Forum will help continue and develop the critical thinking on Sustainable Farmland Management which has been prompted by the Series.

If you have any problems joining up, please contact Dr Susanne Seymour, Coordinator, ESRC Transdisciplinary Seminar Series on Sustainable Farmland Management (Susanne.Seymour@nottingham.ac.uk).

3. RECENT CONFERENCE REPORTS

3.1 SESSIONS AT ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY WITH THE INSTITUTE OF BRITISH GEOGRAPHERS ANNUAL CONFERENCE, ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, LONDON, 2005. "FLOWS AND SPACES IN A GLOBALISED WORLD". 31 AUGUST - 2 SEPTEMBER, 2005.

3.1.1 RGRG Sponsored Session: New and Emerging Researchers in Rural Geography

The session was designed to provide a supportive forum for postgraduate students currently engaged in rural research to present their ideas / findings. Five papers were presented. The first, by Kate Mahoney (Coventry University), examined the changing geography of organic vegetable production in England, based around some initial results from two case study farms in Oxfordshire and Leicestershire respectively. Using 'network diagrams' and other qualitative methods, Kate argued that epistemologically grounded research was necessary to examine the complex economic and social relations inherent within locally-embedded modes of organic production. The next paper, by Ruth Swetnam (Exeter University), examined notions of rural land use more generally, surveying evidence of landscape change in Britain from the 1930s. The paper used GIS, especially 'stability mapping' techniques, to identify changing land use dynamics in the countryside, including zones of high and low turnover.

The next two papers explored 'geographies of rurality' from a local community and national policy perspective. The former, by Marion Moser (Lancaster

University), considered the changes local rural primary schools are making in response to recent government policy. Using two case studies from geographically contrasting locations, Marion argued that place was a powerful tool that could aid policy debates about school-community relationships in rural locales. The latter, by Gemma Hobson (Leeds University), examined definitions of rurality employed by public institutions in England since the 1980s. Gemma argued that evolving (policy and academic) definitions define what counts as 'rural England'. Four main classifications were identified and 'tested out' by comparing two contrasting local authorities: Devon and Bradford Metropolitan District. The final paper in the session, presented by Damian Maye (Coventry University), returned to the theme of food and provided a review of the 'alternativeness' concept within agricultural geography. The paper argued that more explicit recognition of conceptual differences was needed in the literature, especially between farm-centric definitions and those focused on urban and rural societies more generally.

The five papers thus provided a lively insight into current postgraduate research in rural geography, especially methodological engagements with qualitative and quantitative methods and the implications for the interpretation and understanding of 'rural space'.

Damian Maye, Coventry University

3.1.2 RGRG Co-Sponsored Session with the Developing Areas Research Group: Young rural lives: Global perspectives on rural childhood and youth

The 'Young Rural Lives: Global Perspectives on Childhood and Youth' session on 1 September at the RGS-IBG conference saw 12 papers presented by contributors who travelled to London from Finland, Norway, Denmark, Tanzania/Australia, Malawi, New Zealand, Scotland and the UK. The session was designed by the convenors (Sam Punch, Stirling; Ruth Panelli, Otago and Elsbeth Robson, Keele/Malawi) to be a springboard for a book that they are contracted to edit for Routledge. Presenters were encouraged to prepare draft chapters ahead of the conference which were pre-circulated among the presenters and convenors. On the day at the conference, hard copies of (most) the papers were available. Presenters were encouraged to talk for just ten minutes to summarise their paper and then to spend the remaining ten minutes on the links between the papers. The session stretched over the whole of the second day of the conference and, given the tropical temperature, the long break in the middle of the day, in which superb packed lunches were enjoyed in the garden of Lowther Lodge, was appreciated. The presenters talked about their research with young people in the global North (UK, NZ, US, Finland, Norway) and the global South (Uganda, Kenya, Bolivia, Malawi, Lesotho, Zimbabwe). Interesting links and contrasts were made identifying commonalities and differences. The themes of identities, agency and power were explored. The session was followed by an informal gathering of some of the participants at a local restaurant for dinner.

The convenors found the conference proved a very effective vehicle for holding a book workshop. It was certainly beneficial to get so many potential chapter authors together in one place. Useful discussions emerged which will feed into the collaboratively written book chapters.

The support of RGRG in sponsoring the session is most appreciated and was acknowledged in the convenors' opening and closing remarks.

Elsbeth Robson (College of Medicine, Malawi and Brunel University)

3.1.3 RGRG Co-sponsored session with Economic Geography Research Group: New geographies of food: constructing 'alternative' food systems

The 2005 RGS/IBG had four sessions dedicated to 'new geographies of food'. This combined an EGRG session on organic food chains and three sessions convened on behalf of the RGRG on alternative food systems. The latter form the basis of this conference report. Sixteen papers were presented which collectively examined how alternative food systems are conceptualised, how alternative food chains are constructed, and how 'other' voices are represented within the alternativeness debate.

The first session (co-convened with the EGRG) included four papers dedicated to conceptualising alternative food systems. In a lively presentation, Larch Maxey (Swansea University), based on case study work with farmers and consumers in southwest Wales, argued that sustainability, rather than 'alternativeness', is best suited as a conceptual frame to consider contemporary food system changes. In an equally critical vein, Lewis Holloway (University of Hull) and colleagues presented a paper on 'possible food economies' that outlined a series of 'analytical fields' in an attempt to make more instructive sense of alternativeness. The key concern was the need to avoid separating alternative and conventional food systems as dichotomous ideals. Chris Kjeldsen (Aalborg University) next outlined a 'relational network approach' to explore alternative/organic food networks in Denmark. In the final paper, Keith Spiller (University of Durham) used social embeddedness to examine farmers' markets in the North East of England. This involved a detailed survey of the 'everyday practices' embodied in the actions of both consumers and producers attending local markets in the region.

The second session contained six papers dedicated to alternative food chains. The first, by Peter Jackson (Sheffield University), Polly Russell (The British Library, London) and Neil Ward (Newcastle University), started at the retail end of the chain and examined the way mainstream retailers appropriate 'alternative' discourses in their food marketing strategies. Using Marks and Spencer's Oakham White Chicken as an example, it was argued that marketing and the 'narratives behind food' are often as important as the food itself. The next three papers focused on food chain governance. The first, by

Brian Ilbery and Damian Maye (Coventry University) examined the nature of institutional links to support local/alternative food economies in the Scottish-English borders. Using 'institutional food maps', two different sets of institutional processes appeared to be operating either side of the international border. Catherine Walkley (University of Wales, Aberystwyth) provided an account of institutional support in West Wales. Noting a clear lack of support for downstream members in the food chain, the paper questioned the likely effectiveness of institutions charged with promoting integrated modes of rural development. James Kirwan and Carolyn Foster (University of Gloucestershire) next provided a critical examination of the Cornwall Food Programme. Using the prism of actor network theory, they recalled the various stages the public procurement initiative had gone through (from problematisation to mobilisation) and noted the need for 'commonality of interest' to avoid destabilising such networks. The last two papers in the session focused on production. The first of these, by Jane Ricketts-Hein (Coventry University), examined Northamptonshire's local food economy. Echoing earlier messages about imagery, it was argued that selling food as 'locally embedded' is not always as simple as it seems, especially in a county that is little known for its cultural heritage. The final paper in the session, by David Watts and Brian Ilbery (Coventry University), introduced some findings from specialist producers in the West Midlands. Concerned with two problematic concepts - food quality and business networks - the paper advanced two key arguments. First, the importance of 'integrity' in terms of product sourcing; and secondly, the importance of 'trust based' rather than 'reliance based' relationships as variables that distinguish local specialist producers as 'alternative'.

The third session contained six papers dedicated to representing alternative voices. It continued the food chain narrative from the previous session, with the first three papers concerned primarily with consumption. Carol Morris (University of Exeter) and James Kirwan (University of Gloucestershire) examined the place of vegetarianism within the alternative food economy and argued that its position is somewhat ambiguous. On the one hand, vegetarianism is one of the oldest forms of 'reflexive consumption', with an established position in the popular imagination as an alternative practice. On the other hand, modern vegetarianism is increasingly dependent on the global agro-food system and is often associated with highly processed foods. On this basis, they argued that it may be sustainable livestock production and meat eating that constitutes the 'new militancy'. Esmeralda Luis (New University of Lisbon) next examined changing diets in Portugal. The paper recorded the erosion of the traditional Mediterranean diet, its replacement by globalised 'fast food cultures' and, more recently, growing consumer demand for organic/territorially certified products. Ana Firmino (New University of Lisbon) next argued for the need to distinguish the 'excellence' of organic production. In an interesting piece, scientific tests that measure excellence were reviewed (e.g., sensitive crystallisation) as future tools to define new quality parameters. Richard Spalding (University of the West of England) then adopted a community focus. Using case study material from a regeneration project on the north Bristol urban fringe, he argued that this particular scale of analysis has real potential as a site for alternative possibilities. The last two

papers in the session offered a very welcome developing world voice. The first by Caryn Abrahams outlined a case study of alternative food networks in Johannesburg. This included a survey of street vendors and specialty foods (including such delicacies as chicken feet!) from some of the city's poorest quarters. The paper argued that alternative food networks in South Africa are markedly different from those identified in the United States and Europe and thus called for more geographically sensitive conceptualisations. The second paper, by Tony Binns, David Bek (University of Otago) and Etienne Nel (Rhodes University), examined alternative food networks in two rural communities in South Africa's West Coast region. This included an interesting case study of red-bush tea as an international fair trade product, which has so far generated additional employment and income for the local community.

Within the diversity of presentations some common themes abound, including most notably: *the role of language* (in terms of terminology and manufacturing meaning), *the significance of networks* (including both human and non-human actors) and *the need to consider issues of morality/moral judgements* (in terms of political progressiveness, power and sustainability). Overall then, this session was a highly productive and informative set of papers that hopefully provide some useful conceptual and empirical insights as part of an ongoing series of exciting conversations dedicated to understanding the socio-spatial configurations of alternative agro-food networks. An edited collection, based around some of the above papers (with additional North American/Australian contributions), is currently under preparation for Elsevier.

Damian Maye (Coventry University) and Lewis Holloway (University of Hull)

3.1.4 RGRG Co-Sponsored Session with the Political Geography Research Group: Power in the Countryside

Co organised by Henry Buller of the RGRG and Mike Woods of the Political Geography Study Group, the Power and the Countryside session at the IBG 2005, running over two days, brought together some 20 speakers under three themes, 'Governance, Leadership and Community', 'Class, Gender, Labour and Social Movements' and 'Nature, Environment and Planning'. Papers within these themes ranged widely drawing upon research in a number of different countries. Papers on local governance, presented by Bill Edwards, Mark Goodwin, Michael Woods, Graham Gardner and Catherine Walkley affirmed the critical importance of rural studies in the development of new understandings of political processes, while later papers on nature and power, drawing upon Deleuze and Foucault, also reaffirmed the vantage point that rural studies offer for the analysis of shifting society/nature relations. Although the session did not, as its organisers had perhaps secretly hoped, herald the arrival of a revived, yet more nuanced, political economy approach to the construction and operation of power relations in the countryside, it did explore a number of vistas of research upon which such a revival might ultimately be constructed.

Henry Buller (University of Exeter).

3.1.5 RGRG Sponsored Session: Rural Dwelling / Country Dwellings

A central theme in the work of the philosopher Martin Heidegger was that of dwelling, understood as 'to reside or to stay, to dwell at peace, to be content or at home in a place' (Urry, 2000:131). He lamented how, in modern society, people no longer dwell in an authentic sense in the world. More optimistically, he felt that this dislocation was not necessarily irreversible. The aim of this session was to examine the extent to which rurality and rural places today are implicated with dwelling. Clearly this theme is a huge topic, but the 14 papers delivered gave some very useful insights into the fecundity of exploring this aspect of rurality.

The session was split into two, with the first half focusing on more theoretical arguments. Owain Jones (University of Exeter) kicked off proceedings with a discussion of dwelling as the 'heart' of discourses of the rural idyll, drawing key inspiration from the seminal work of Bakhtin, Ingold and Williams. His paper moved on from considering filmic visions of 'authentic' rural life, as depicted in *Tree of Wooden Clogs*, for example, to consider how it can be made concrete in the built environment of rural places. David Crouch (University of Derby) was up next, contrasting dynamic and culturally processual ideas of encounter and dwelling, drawn from his own work and that of Ingold, with Heidegger's more static sense of dwelling. It was argued that dwelling is a desire practiced bodily, through which lay geographies are mobilised and negotiated, and ideas of nature and landscape refigured. James Mackenzie (Open University) followed, with a discussion of the question of rural dwelling in the writing of the anthropologist, Hugh Brody. In *The Other Side of Eden*, Brody suggested that farmers are the true migrants and hunter-gatherers are truly settled, since the hunter-gatherer just replaces itself and relates to its territory by knowing it as it is. This took us nicely to the paper by Lewis Holloway (University of Hull) and Keith Halfacree (Swansea University) on back-to-the-land lifestyles in contemporary Britain. They argued that this seemingly resurgent movement attempts to establish more rooted connections with particular locations and the socio-ecological components of small-scale farming. Drawing on research undertaken on the gentrification of rural natures, Martin Phillips, Sue Page and Eirini Saratsi (University of Leicester) again utilised some ideas of Ingold. Specifically, their 'living perspective' highlighted how gentrifiers reconstruct the flora and fauna of village spaces, and how human and natural actants dwell and live together and apart in these spaces. Seeking a rural residence was also the theme of the next paper, where Maria Jesus Rivera (Swansea University) explored the extent to which, in some socio-spatial contexts, the lure of country dwellings can be related to the search for a sense of oneness with nature. Evidence was presented from her research in Pamplona, Spain. This Spanish migration perspective was to be complemented by the paper of Ricard Moren-Alegret (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona), although he had to present in the second session instead. Ricard discussed the relation that foreign

immigrants settled in rural areas and small towns of Spain have with the places they move to.

After a four and a half hour break (!), the second half began with Mary Cawley (National University of Ireland, Galway), Desmond Gillmor and Roisin Kelly (Trinity College Dublin) using interview material to consider the changing sense of 'dwelling' among host communities in Irish rural tourism areas. Concepts of change in and threats to the experience of 'dwelling' among established populations were explored critically. Marie Mahon (National University of Ireland, Galway) kept us with the theme of changing Irish rural residential experience. She considered the extent to which perceptions of 'rural' as part of actual lived experience played a role in developing a sense of 'connectedness' to the place of residence. Although kindly agreeing to swap places with Ricard, Nick Gallent (University College London) was originally to speak next. His paper returned us to the often thorny topic of second homes, questioning the attachment to an essentialist and nostalgic sense of rurality that he saw underpinning much critique of second home buyers. Julien Aldhuy (Université de Pau et des pays de l'Adour) introduced a fascinating French project that is seeking to analyse the role of the spatial categories in the identity construction. A key theme here is what he called 'urban being but thinking itself rural', which contains a strong dwelling dimension. Identifying what he saw as the recent research neglect of the family farmer, Matthew Reed (University of Exeter) discussed how Devon family farmers created their dwelling places by simultaneously referring backwards and forwards through time to construct the farmed environment around them. Such performance was also central to Lene Møller Madsen's (Centre for Forest, Landscape and Planning, Frederiksberg) comments on Danish farm cultures. Attention was given to four places of performance: the stable, the kitchen table, at a meeting with the county council and at an agricultural show. Finally, although less centrally concerned with dwelling than the other papers, Rae Dufty (University of New South Wales, Sydney) discussed the governmentalities of rural public housing in Australia. The paper outlined the role of public housing spaces in the evolution of governing knowledges, looking at how administrators and tenants of public housing negotiated broader policy changes in the provision of this form of welfare.

I would like to thank all the presenters of the papers and especially Matt Reed, who helped me by chairing the first session. Clearly, this review does not do justice to the material presented in the whole session and interested readers are invited to contact the speakers – independently or through me – if they would like copies of the papers.

Dr Keith Halfacree, Department of Geography, Swansea University, Singleton Park, Swansea, SA2 8PP.UK. Email: k.h.halfacree@swansea.ac.uk

4. CALL FOR PAPERS

4.1 THE PLYMOUTH RURAL FUTURES CONFERENCE: THE RURAL CITIZEN: GOVERNANCE, CULTURE AND WELLBEING IN THE 21ST CENTURY, THE UNIVERSITY OF PLYMOUTH, UNITED KINGDOM, 4-7 APRIL 2006. www.ruralfuturesconference.org

This conference is shaping up nicely, with some excellent keynote speakers, a good number and range of contributed papers and symposia, and considerable interest in the professional as well as the academic field. Our aim to encourage cross-discipline involvement is being realised with, for instance, active involvement from the arts and the health communities. Several organisations, including the Commission for Rural Communities and the Devon Rural Network, have agreed to provide bursaries to allow attendance of a number of 'rural citizens' who might otherwise not be able to afford to come, including people working in small voluntary organisations. Although the call for oral papers is now closed, the organisers are still able to accept proposals for poster papers. There is still scope, too, for workshops which are participatory in nature and, preferably, catering for the interests of non-academic practitioners in the rural development field. The conference website is at www.ruralfuturesconference.org.

4.2 SESSIONS AT ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY WITH THE INSTITUTE OF BRITISH GEOGRAPHERS ANNUAL CONFERENCE, ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, LONDON, 2006. 'GLOBAL SOCIAL JUSTICE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY'. 30 AUGUST - 1 SEPTEMBER, 2006.

4.2.1 Rural Geography Research Group: Competing Knowledges and Uncertain Agricultural Futures

Convenors: Lewis Holloway (University of Hull), Damian Maye (Coventry University), David Watts (Coventry University)

Key changes in the agricultural policy regime in Europe, driven by global trade policy negotiation, are causing conditions of uncertainty for farmers and others with interests in rural land management, with important implications for how rural land is managed and how agricultural businesses are structured. Crucially, the introduction of the Single Farm Payment is seen as a turning point in the relationship between individual farm businesses and the European state, yet its effects on farming and the countryside are by no means predictable. The supposed 'decoupling' of agricultural production from agricultural support mechanisms and the increasing policy focus on wider issues of rural development have produced a situation where many involved in agriculture are rethinking the ways they farm, or indeed whether they should continue in farming at all. This process is happening, too, in a context where farmers are urged to become more oriented towards specific markets and to take into account the effects of their agricultural practices on the farmed environment. Simultaneously, others interested in rural land use are

suggesting possible alternative trajectories of change in how the countryside is conceptualised and managed. There is thus a range of potentially competing knowledges (agricultural, environmental, rural development, policy, etc.) being brought to bear on the future of the European farmed countryside. Against this context of uncertainty and change, we seek papers that address that following inter-linked questions:

- How are these changes forcing us to reconceptualise agriculture and its role in the countryside?
- What are the effects of these changes for the production of different rural spaces and their associated economies and communities?
- How are 'traditional' farming knowledges and practices being restructured in relation to this context of political economic change, and what other knowledges and practices are implicated?

Please send abstracts (max. 200 words) for papers addressing these and related questions by 31 January, 2006 to: Lewis Holloway, Department of Geography, University of Hull, Hull, HU6 7RX (Email: l.holloway@hull.ac.uk), Damian Maye, Coventry University, Coventry, CV1 5FB (Email: d.maye@coventry.ac.uk), and David Watts, Coventry University, Coventry, CV1 5FB (Email: d.watts@coventry.ac.uk).

4.2.2 Rural Geography Research Group: Wittgenstein's lion: knowing animals in human geography research

Convenor: Henry Buller, University of Exeter

Wittgenstein's aphorism, "If a lion could talk, we could not understand him" sets an infamous limit to our knowing animals. Recent writings on posthumanism and, more specifically, animal geographies, however, call for new theoretical, ethical and methodological engagements with non-human animals. Such writings raise a fundamental epistemological challenge: how do we do this? How can social scientists and geographers get closer to knowing animals (be they wild animals, companion animals, farm animals, laboratory animals...) and thereby understand (and act upon) the relational symmetries, and spaces, that (co)operate between human and non-human, humanity and animality, subjects and objects, species and species, us and them? The Rural Geography Research Group invites papers from geographers who are thinking about and doing research into such themes as animal 'becomings', immanencies and understandings, from the animal other's knowing of us, to being bats or cows and the potential of 'soft' anthropocentrism. While we are particularly interested in exploring such issues and their epistemologies within the broad context of rurality, we welcome papers from all socio-natural configurations. Possible areas of interest might include the investigation of:

- Animals, ethics and spatiality
- Animal embodiments
- Animals as 'other'
- Animals and emotions/affect

- Animals and 'more than' representational theories
- Animals in networks and human-nonhuman animal relationality
- Forms of animal agency
- Animals and the rural (and urban/rural)
- Differing animals types and their geographies - bodies, scales, spaces
- Animal/human cohabitations
- Hybridisation

Please send abstracts for papers (max. 200 words), by the 31 January, 2006 to: Professor Henry Buller, Department of Geography, University of Exeter, Amory Building, Rennes Drive, Exeter EX4 4RJ. Email: H.Buller@exeter.ac.uk

4.2.3 Rural Geography Research Group: Emotional Geographies of Rurality

Convenors: Jo Little and Owain Jones, Department of Geography, University of Exeter.

This session will explore the co-constitutive relations between emotions and people in rural spaces. Recent years have seen a growing interest in emotional geographies in attempts to articulate and understand the experience of people in particular places. Such work has sought to show the different ways of incorporating emotion into academic studies in focusing, for example, on memory, senses, health and therapy and in emphasising the performative and the local. While many of the issues studied within rural geography are strongly underpinned by emotions (work, for example on ways of interpreting the landscape, experiences of community and relationships with nature) there has been little explicit attempt to foreground emotions within such work, particularly in a theoretical context. In addition, related work on affect (in which emotion plays a central but not exclusive part) has largely been set explicitly within the city (notably in the work of Thrift) but, of course, the rural will also be a just as powerfully affective space (or set of spaces)

This session provides an opportunity for a direct focus on emotional geographies of rurality, to write emotions back into existing approaches to understanding rural society and culture and to develop new conceptual directions.

Papers are invited from any area of rural geography but particular encouraged from those working on the following:

- Emotion, marginalisation and the rural community
- Memory and the countryside
- Nature and rurality
- Animals and emotion
- Fear, belonging and the rural
- Affective ruralities

- Rurality, dwelling and emotion
- Therapeutic ruralities (The rural as a place of retreat, refuge and recuperation)
- New rural formations and their emotional dimensions (e.g wind farms).

Please send abstracts for papers (max. 200 words), by the 31 January, 2006 to: Dr Jo Little or Owain Jones, Department of Geography, University of Exeter, Amory Building, Rennes Drive, Exeter EX4 4RJ. Email: J.K.Little@exeter.ac.uk or O.Jones@exeter.ac.uk

4.2.4 Post Graduate Forum and the Rural Geography Research Group: Postgraduate Research in Rural Geography

Convenors: Helen Moggridge (PGF) and Kate Mahoney (RGRG)

This session provides an opportunity for postgraduates in the field of rural geography to present their research findings in an informal and supportive atmosphere. The session acts as a platform for postgraduates to showcase their research-in-progress, as well as to obtain feedback from their peers and more established academics. Papers are encouraged from students at any stage of their research (including Masters students) and from any aspect of rural geography.

Please send abstracts for papers (max. 200 words), by 31 January, 2006 to: Helen Moggridge, Researcher, Department of Geography, Kings College London, Strand, London WC2R 2LS. Tel: 020 7848 2239; Fax: 020 7848 2287; Email: helen.moggridge@kcl.ac.uk

5. POSTGRADUATE OPPORTUNITIES

5.1 MSc Rural Development at the University of Plymouth

The University of Plymouth is building on ten years of experience with its part-time Rural Management postgraduate scheme in offering a newly-designed full-time MSc in Rural Development. This programme is a 12-month course, which is intended for a combination of UK and European recent graduates, and students from further afield looking for mid-career development. The programme aims to develop an understanding of rural development as a process which integrates activities relating to the economy, environment, society and culture in balancing the needs of people and planet. While having a strong theoretical grounding, the course is geared to developing abilities to engage directly with rural development issues. This programme is designed with the expectation that students will learn from each other, and will be able to transfer ideas and practices between different cultures. The course will start in September 2006. Contact: ssb.graduateoffice@plymouth.ac.uk or

telephone: 01752 232864. Further information can be found at <http://www.plymouth.ac.uk/courses/course.asp?id=3077&page=1&al=2>

Susie Bissell, University of Plymouth

6. NEW BOOKS

CABI Publishing are pleased to offer a 20% discount on the following title:

Rural Change and Sustainability: Agriculture, the Environment and Communities Edited by *S J Essex, University of Plymouth, UK, and A W Gilg, University of Exeter, and R Yarwood, University of Plymouth, UK with J Smithers, University of Guelph and R Wilson, Gettysburg College*

August 2005 380 pages Hardback ISBN 0 85199 082 7

Special Discount Price: £52.00 (Normal Price: £65.00)

This book draws upon selected, revised and edited papers from a conference of rural geographers from the UK, USA and Canada, held at the Universities of Plymouth and Exeter. It focuses on rural regions, which are facing conflicting demands, pressures and challenges, which themselves have far-reaching implications for rural space and society. Throughout the book the reader will gain a better understanding of key themes, including agricultural change, environmental issues, rural communities, governance and globalization, and rural responses to these.

CONTENTS

- Rural Change and Sustainability: Key themes, Andrew Gilg, Stephen Essex and Richard Yarwood

Part 1: Agriculture Responses

- Fordism rampant: the model and reality, as applied to production, processing and distribution in the North American agro-food system, Michael Troughton, University of Western Ontario
- Feedlot Growth in Southern Alberta: A Neo-Fordist Interpretation, Ian MacLachlan, University of Lethbridge
- People and Hogs: Agricultural Restructuring and the Contested Countryside in Agro-Manitoba, Douglas Ramsey, John Everitt and Lydenn Behm, Brandon University
- Global Markets, Local Foods: the paradoxes of aquaculture, Joan Marshall, McGill School of Environment
- Alternative or conventional? An examination of specialist livestock production systems in the Scottish-English borders, Brian Ilbery and Damian Maye, Coventry University

- Agritourism: Selling traditions of local food production, family, and rural Americana to maintain family farming heritage, Deborah Che, Gregory Veeck, and Ann Veeck, Western Michigan University
- Re-imagining agriculture: making the case for farming at the agricultural show, Lewis Holloway, University of Hull

Part 2: Environmental Issues

- Stewardship, 'Proper' Farming and Environmental Gain: Contrasting Experiences of Agri-Environmental Schemes in Canada and the EU, Guy M. Robinson, Kingston University
- Stemming the urban tide: policy and attitudinal changes for saving the Canadian countryside, Hugh J Gayler, Brock University
- Vulnerability and Sustainability Concerns for the U.S. High Plains, Lisa M. Butler Harrington, Kansas State University
- Environmental Ghost Towns, Chris Mayla, Eastern Michigan University

Part 3: Communities

- Interpreting Family Farm Change and the Agricultural Importance of Rural Communities: Evidence from Ontario, Canada, John Smithers, University of Guelph
- Engagement with the Land: Redemption of the Rural Residence Fantasy?, Kirsten Valentine Cadieux, University of Toronto
- Mammoth Cave National Park and Rural Economic Development, Katie Algeo, Western Kentucky University
- Assessing Variation in Rural America's Housing Stock: Case Studies from Growing and Declining Areas, Holly R. Barcus, Morehead State University
- The Geography of Housing Needs of Low Income Persons in Rural Canada, David Bruce, Mount Allison University
- Social Change in Rural North Carolina, Owen J. Furuseth, University of North Carolina, Charlotte

Part 4: Governance

- Finding the 'Region' in Rural Regional Governance, Ann K. Deakin, State University of New York Fredonia
- Corporate-community relations in the tourism sector: A stakeholder perspective, Alison M Gill and Peter W Williams, Simon Fraser University
- Resource Town Transition: Debates After Closure, Greg Halseth, University of Northern British Columbia
- Narratives of community-based resource management in the American West, Randall K. Wilson, Gettysburg College
- Youth, Partnerships and Participation, Christine Corcoran, University of Birmingham
- Conclusion John Smithers, University of Guelph and Randall Wilson, Gettysburg College

To obtain your discount simply quote reference **JCZ20** when placing your order by phone, fax, email or via our online bookshop: www.cabi-publishing.org/bookshop

CABI Publishing, CAB International, Wallingford, Oxfordshire, OX10 8DE, UK.
Tel: +44 1491 832111 Fax: +44 1491 829292 E-mail: orders@cabi.org

Schmied, D. and Wilson, O. (Eds.) (2005) *The Countryside in the 21st Century: Anglo-German Perspectives*, Bayreuter Geowissenschaftliche Arbeiten, Volume 26, Naturwissenschaftliche Gesellschaft Bayreuth e.V. ISBN 3-9809181-5-7

This edited proceedings (in English) brings together a collection of papers by German and British rural geographers that were presented at the first Anglo-German rural geography conference in Bayreuth, September 2002. The sixteen contributions consider contemporary aspects of rural social, economic and environmental change in Britain and Germany, including: rural and regional development, conversion of redundant farm buildings, second homes, local foods, land use decision-making, rural accessibility and post-productivism. This collection serves to highlight similarities and differences in issues of concern and research approaches between the two countries.

Contents

- 1 Rural Geography in Britain and Germany: A Personal View, *Doris Schmied*
- 2 Changing Concepts for and Features of Village Development in Germany from 1950 to the Present, *Gerhard Henkel*
- 3 Integrated Rural Development and its Implementation in Germany, *Ulrike Grabski-Kieron*
- 4 New Concepts of Regional Development in Rural Areas, *Jörg Maier*
- 5 Conversion of Redundant Agricultural Buildings and the Implications for Rural Development, *Stefanie Arens*
- 6 Second Homes and Planning Control in Wales, *Nick Gallent, Mark Tewdwr-Jones and Alan Mace*
- 7 Sustainable Development and Planning for New Housing in Rural Areas, *Olivia Wilson*
- 8 Using the Participatory Approach to Improve the Quality of Rural Life: Practical Experiences from Hesse, *Nathalie Franzen*

- 9 Participation – Added Value through Collective Action? A Qualitative Cost-Benefit Analysis of the Transdisciplinary Research Project GRANO, *Axel Dosch*
- 10 Sustainable Forms of Food Supply in Rural Areas: Case Studies from Austria, *Franz Brunner*
- 11 Localizing Products, Producing Locales: Commodification and Authentification of Local Food and Rural Nature, *Ulrich Ermann*
- 12 Towards a Post-productivist Countryside in the UK and Germany?, *Geoff Wilson*
- 13 The Drivers of Agricultural Land Use Change in Scotland over the Past Decade: Preliminary Results from Huntly, Aberdeenshire, *Rob Burton*
- 14 Village Communication and Land Use Decisions, *Carmen Retter and Hermann Boland*
- 15 Development of Soil Quality Indicators for Assessment of Agricultural Sustainability: A Blend of Scientific and Indigenous Knowledge, *Konstantinos N. Baginetas, Charles Watkins and Richard Field*
- 16 Rural Accessibility and Social Inclusion: Towards Conceptualisation and Analysis, *John H. Farrington and Conor Farrington*

Copies of this publication are available at £20 (contributor's price: £10; RGRG members: £14). Please make cheque payable to the 'Rural Geography Research Group' and send orders to: Olivia Wilson, 6 Newton Close, Newton Ferrers, Plymouth PL8 1AL (or use order form on back page). Email enquiries to: Olivia.Wilson@plymouth.gov.uk

7. ITEMS FOR SPRING 2006 NEWSLETTER

Articles, letters and comments and other items for inclusion in the Spring Newsletter should be sent to: Mark Riley, RGRG Newsletter Editor, Department of Geography, University of Portsmouth, Buckingham Building, Lion Terrace, Portsmouth, PO1 3HE. by 30 March, 2006; Tel: +44(0)23 9284 2493; email: mark.riley@ports.ac.uk.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

The RGRG, like many other research groups, is making increasing use of electronic means of communication.

Please update your email address!

Email is increasingly used to distribute the bi-annual Newsletter and urgent items of news throughout the year. Although email addresses are now available for about half of RGRG members, several appear to be out-of-date.

If you have changed your email over the past few months or have recently gone 'on-line', please send your new address to Mark Riley, Department of Geography, University of Portsmouth, Buckingham Building, Lion Terrace, Portsmouth, PO1 3HE; email: mark.riley@ports.ac.uk.

The RGRG Web site (<http://www.geog.plym.ac.uk/ruralgeography/default.htm>) has been up and running for a few years. If you have any items that you wish to have posted on the RGRG web site, please contact Mark Riley (University of Portsmouth) preferably by email: mark.riley@ports.ac.uk.

RURAL GEOGRAPHY RESEARCH GROUP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The present membership of the RGRG Committee is as follows:

Position	Member	Email contact
Chair	Professor Henry Buller, University of Exeter (2006)	h.buller@exeter.ac.uk
Secretary	Dr Annie Hughes, Kingston University (2005)	a.hughes@kingston.ac.uk
Treasurer	Dr Darren Smith, University of Brighton (2007)	d.smith@brighton.ac.uk
Membership and Prizes Officer	Dr Lewis Holloway, University of Hull (2009)	l.holloway@hull.ac.uk
Newsletter Editor	Dr Mark Riley, University of Portsmouth (2009)	mark.riley@ports.ac.uk
Ordinary Member	Dr Keith Halfacree, University of Swansea (2004)	K.H.Halfacree@swansea.ac.uk
Ordinary Member	Dr Jo Little, University of Exeter (2007)	j.k.little@exeter.ac.uk
Ordinary Member	Professor Guy Robinson, Kingston University (2006)	g.robinson@kingston.ac.uk
Postgraduate Member	Matthew Offord Kings College, London	matthew.offord@bbc.co.uk
Postgraduate Member	Helen Moggridge, Kings College London	helen.moggridge@kcl.ac.uk

Schmied, D. and Wilson, O. (eds) (2005) The Countryside in the 21st Century: Anglo-German Perspectives. BAYREUTER GEOWISSENSCHAFTLICHE ARBEITEN Volume 26, Naturwissenschaftliche Gesellschaft Bayreuth e.V. ISBN 3-9809181-5-7

This edited proceedings (in English) brings together a collection of papers by German and British rural geographers that were presented at the first Anglo-German rural geography conference in Bayreuth, September 2002. The sixteen contributions consider contemporary aspects of rural social, economic and environmental change in Britain and Germany, including: rural and regional development, conversion of redundant farm buildings, second homes, local foods, land use decision-making, rural accessibility and post-productivism. This collection serves to highlight similarities and differences in issues of concern and research approaches between the two countries.

ORDER FORM

I would like to order _____ copy(ies) at –

Contributor price: £10 per copy

RGRG member price (non-contributors): £14

Normal price: £20

Payment by cheque to: **Rural Geography Research Group.**

Please send orders to:

Olivia Wilson
6 Newton Close
Newton Ferrers
Plymouth PL8 1AL.

Email enquiries to Olivia.Wilson@plymouth.gov.uk