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### 1. CALENDAR OF FORTHCOMING RURAL CONFERENCES & EVENTS

Date	Event	Contact
31 August - 2 September, 2005	Royal Geographical Society With The Institute of British Geographers Annual Conference, Royal Geographical Society, London, 2005. "Flows And Spaces In A Globalised World".	<a href="http://www.rgs.org/category.php?Page=mainevents">http://www.rgs.org/category.php?Page=mainevents</a>  Registration: <a href="http://www.rgs.org/AC2005/registration.htm">http://www.rgs.org/AC2005/registration.htm</a>  Timetable: <a href="http://www.rgs.org/category.php?page=ac2005%20session%20timetable">http://www.rgs.org/category.php?page=ac2005%20session%20timetable</a>
22-27 August, 2005	European Society for Rural Sociology XXI Congress: A common European countryside?: Change and continuity, diversity and cohesion in the enlarged Europe, Keszthely, Hungary.	email: <a href="mailto:esrs2005@freemail.hu">esrs2005@freemail.hu</a> Web site: <a href="http://www.esrs.hu/keszthely2005">http://www.esrs.hu/keszthely2005</a>
15-21 May, 2006	Fifth British-French Rural Geography Symposium: New occupants and new residents in the European Countryside, Clermond Ferrand, France.	<a href="mailto:n.walford@kingston.ac.uk">n.walford@kingston.ac.uk</a>

## **2. RGRG DISSERTATION PRIZES**

### **Undergraduate Prize, 2004**

Eleven entries were received.

First place: Paul Chase, University of Aberystwyth, 'Journeys past the milestone: understanding travel and mobility for the rural elderly'.

Second place: Philip Longton, University of Lancaster, 'Sustainable transport in National Parks'.

Third place: Matthew Tarrant, University of Southampton, 'Did key policy maker responses to the 2001 Foot and Mouth Disease epidemic exacerbate the impact of the crisis for agricultural stakeholders?'

### **Postgraduate Prize, 2004**

Mark Pearson, Kings College London, 'Incommensurable Paradigms? The Bt cotton debate in India'.

### **Undergraduate Dissertation Prize, 2005**

The prize is available to students who have completed an undergraduate degree and produced a dissertation in a subject area related to rural geography. The relevant examination board for the degree may nominate **one** candidate each year and should arrange for **one** copy of the dissertation to be sent to the dissertation prizes officer of the Rural Geography Research Group **by the 31 July, 2005** (address below), together with full contact details of the nominee and the nominating institution. Submitted dissertations will be considered by a panel of assessors comprising members of the RGRG Committee. The winner of the prize and the institution will be notified by the end of December, 2005 when submitted dissertations will be returned.

Three prizes are available. Due to diminishing reserves, the RGRG have had to reduce the prize money this year as follows: **first prize: £25; second prize: £20; and third prize: £15.**

### **Masters Dissertation Prize, 2005**

The deadline for the submission of dissertations for the RGRG Masters Dissertation Prize is **31 January, 2006**. The prize is available to students who have completed a taught Masters degree and produced a dissertation in a subject area related to rural geography in the year 2004-2005. The relevant examination board for the degree may nominate **one** candidate each year and should arrange for **one** copy of the dissertation to be sent to the dissertation prizes officer of the Rural Geography Research Group (as below), together with full contact details of the nominee and the nominating institution. Submitted dissertations will be considered by a panel of assessors comprising members of

the RGRG committee. The winner of the prize and the institution will be notified by the end of the academic year 2006, when submitted dissertations will be returned. The award is **£50**.

Please submit dissertations to: Dr. Carol Morris, Centre for Rural Research, Department of Geography, University of Exeter, Lafrowda House, St. German's Road, Exeter, EX4 6TL.

### **3. RECENT CONFERENCE REPORTS**

#### **3.1 SESSIONS AT THE AAG 2005, DENVER, COLORADO, 5-9 APRIL, 2005**

##### **The Global Countryside**

The Global Countryside session drew together contributions from British and North American researchers broadly addressing issues of rural change in contemporary society. As intended by the theme of the session, globalization in its many guises formed a context for the range of papers presented, but many also focused on issues of representation of rural change and conflict. Matt McCourt (University of Maine at Farmington) started the session with his paper on 'Hounding Hunters, Baiting Voters: Tracking rurality, expertise, and outsiders in Maine's bear hunting debates'. Examining a 2004 referendum that proposed to make the hunting of bears with bait, traps or dogs illegal in Maine, the paper argued that the debate contested long-established meanings of the Maine woods, hunting and rurality. Michael Woods (University of Wales, Aberystwyth) in the second paper, 'The Global Countryside? Globalisation, hybridity and the reconstitution of rural space', examined in more detail the concept of 'the global countryside' that formed the theme of the session. This paper argued that the impact of globalization on rural space has received less attention from the geographers than the impact on urban space, yet is both far-reaching and spatially differentiated. It was proposed that 'spaces of global countryside' had been produced in which global processes and actors had usurped local and domestic actors in shaping the locality. Yet, such spaces were also hybrid spaces, constituted by local human and non-human actants as well as global actants, and thus retaining a potential for local dissidence.

The re-imagining of rural space under globalization was also addressed by David Bell (Staffordshire University) in his paper, 'Global Rural Idylls', which asked whether there are globalized versions of the 'rural idyll' circulating. It focused on three contexts in which this process can be observed: the creation of a global media idyll; the role of global tourism in creating a global tourist idyll; and the agro-food business's desire to promote the notion of a global gastro-idyll. Finally in the first module, Alister Scott's (Macaulay Institute) paper 'Community Representations of Rurality: what kind of countryside do we want', drew on research for the Welsh Assembly Government to explore how individuals perceive rural change and the future of the countryside. It found that whilst communities' visions reflect the key principles of rural

planning theory, such as multifunctionality and integrated rural development, they conflicted with the experience of rural planning, which was criticized over the type, place and scale of development and the lack of influence of local views.

The second module in the session opened with Sarah Ives (University of Washington) presenting on 'Filming the Globalized Agrarian Landscape: a narrative from the Pacific Northwest'. This paper focused on the ways in which the restructuring of the US apple industry to meet the pressures of globalization had been represented in a documentary film, *Broken Limbs*, and explored the reactions and responses of viewers. Jesse Heley (University of Wales Aberystwyth) shifted attention from film to the internet with his paper 'Engaging with Cyber-rurality'. In this he examined the representation of an English village through its 'village website' and explored how the construction of the website and the representation that it portrayed reflected the class and power structures of the community. Martin Phillips (University of Leicester) continued the theme of representation in his paper, "'Everyone around the world knows a Greengrass": television drama and decentred imaginative geographies of rurality'. Drawing on research examining television dramas produced and broadcast in Britain, Australia and New Zealand, the paper traced how real and imagined rural spaces are drawn into the practices of watching rural television dramas, and considered how decentered imaginative geographies of rurality articulate with discourses of identity and broadcasting. Finally, Ayele Ulfata Gelan (Macaulay Institute) turned the focus back on the economic and environmental dimensions of globalization, with a discussion of the 'Impacts of CAP Reform on Less Favoured Areas', examining the differential impacts that the June 2003 CAP reform is likely to have in different rural areas in Scotland.

Michael Woods and Deborah Dixon (University of Wales Aberystwyth)

### **Political Economy of Organic Food Supply Chains/Alternative Food Networks**

The 2005 AAG contained a number of papers and sessions on the theme of organic food and alternative food systems, with two dedicated sessions organised by Amy Trauger (Penn State), Markus Hassler (Rhine, Bochum) and Andrew Murphy (Birmingham). The sessions were very well attended (as usual the popular sessions were held in small rooms), with nine closely-related papers on the theme. Papers in the first session included:

- Joan Qazi (Washington) with Bruce Scholten (Durham) on labour practices on family farms in rural Washington. Farms rely heavily on the 'farm wife' to provide unpaid farm or back-office labour, despite aspirations of the individuals concerned; CSAs and other alternative food systems likewise rely on unpaid labour in the form of volunteers, apprenticeships and internships (such as the Willing Workers on Organic Farms scheme).
- Gavin Parker (Reading) discussed community supported agriculture (the Teikei system) in Japan. Gavin showed network maps portraying

connections between multiple producers to multiple consumers via retailers, and commented on social capital existing in various network configurations (including CSAs operating around a centrepiece of a school).

- Amy Trauger presented a paper on social (in)justice, farm networks and cooperatives in Pennsylvania. Amy commented on the cheap food policy in the US which subsidises conventional producers but not organic producers. Organic farmers therefore seek to compete on quality rather than quantity, but economic injustice runs wide. Amy also considered class (of consumers), race (migrant labour) and gender (farm wife) aspects of socio-economic injustice.
- Rachel Slocum (Rutgers) on racism, gender and power relations in the community food movement, with a case study of community food organisations (in particular the Community Food Security Coalition) in the US north-east.
- Liz Oughton (Newcastle) with Gina Porter (Durham) compared the discourses of institutions, agrifood networks and sustainable agriculture in Europe and Africa (Ghana), where production is organic by default but where producers cannot afford the costs of certification. Liz noted that organic certification is unlikely in least-developed nations unless it can be combined with fair trade labelling. It is difficult to separate organics from other alternative food systems. Vast parts of the market is not transparent to consumers – what happens along the supply chain?

Following her earlier 'author meets critics' session on the new book 'Agrarian Dreams', Julie Guthman was present for the first session, and amongst others in the audience put challenging questions to the presenters.

The second session was a little less crowded due to stiff competition from Jane Jacobs and the bar, but still provided plenty of interest. Among the papers were:

- David Gibbs (Hull), with David Atkinson (Hull) and Suzanne Reimer (Southampton) on protected geographical indication/protected designation of origin and regional development in Italy. David discussed the transmission (and translation) of meaning 'downwards' from producers, and in particular the role of knowledge nodes such as wine guides and experts, and the imaginative geographies of the Italian south.
- Ulrich Ermann (Erlangen-Nuremberg) presented a paper on the regionalisation of food in Germany through Michel Callon's concept of framing. Ulrich commented on the "Think Global, Eat Local" campaign by the federal minister for consumer protection, food and agriculture, and the commodification and authentication of food.
- Johanna Wendel (Toronto) on the branding of organic farms on Ontario. Johanna discussed the consolidation in retail and distribution, with wholesalers/brokers merging and organic food becoming mainstreamed in supermarkets, with resulting reduction in sales in health food stores. The increase in scale of sales requires an increase in scale of production, and thus increasing reliance on importing over local supply. In response organic farmers are attempting to brand themselves to assist direct sales

through farmers markets and farm sales (though these often also involve imported produce, often on the same trucks that supply the chain stores.

- Andrew Murphy (Birmingham) presented a paper on attempted (re)connections between organic food producers, retailers and consumers, such as through farm and retailer open days / visits, and visual connections such as producer calendars (thankfully not of the Calendar Girls type of revelation), as a response to the increasing scale and globalisation of the organic food industry.

In all, a productive and informative afternoon, and part of an ongoing series on organic food supply chains. The conversation continues at the IBG in London in August, with a series of sessions on organic food supply chains and alternative food networks.

Andrew Murphy (University of Birmingham)

### **Planning, Youth and Civic Engagement**

Contemporary research on young people and the provision of open public space has begun to highlight the extent to which rural and suburban youth see themselves as part of or apart from their communities. Yet relatively few studies have attempted to address the extent to which these idealizations and behaviours are being incorporated into local systems of regulation. The objective of this session organised by Michael Leyshon (University of Exeter) and Sean DiGiovanna (Rutgers University, New Jersey), was to bring together academics from diverse geographical backgrounds to attempt to consider how debates surrounding the regulation and participation of young people in society are changing the way in which geographers give meanings to young people's lives. While much recent geographical research has offered an uncritical treatment of the role of young people *in* communities, through focusing on external factors of social change, the session attempted to explore in detail the cultural politics of place from a young person's perspective. In order to promote a greater awareness of young people's needs the session brought together work on the different ways in which rural, suburban and urban youth negotiate the increasing annihilation of public space, and the ways in which communities attempt to control or accommodate youth behaviour.

The session opened with a paper by Catherine Brace, Adrian Bailey and David Harvey (all University of Exeter) entitled '*Disciplining youthful Methodist bodies in nineteenth century Cornwall*'. Their paper developed work on religion in geography, drawing on theoretical debates over such issues as community construction, civic responsibility, placed identities and public performance, together with notions of sacredness and private dimensions of faith. Their paper illustrated how Methodist communities sought to regulate young people's behavior beyond the spaces of the chapel through the activities of the Sunday school and the Band of Hope (a temperance organization in which children were enrolled as young as six and who took a pledge of total abstinence). Their work illustrated the complex *spatialities* as

well as a histories forged in the relationships between Methodists' beliefs in autodidacticism, temperance and social engagement.

The theme of including young people in communities was explored in a modern context by Mark Goodwin (University of Exeter) and Dawn Armstrong-Esther (University of Wales, Aberystwyth) in their paper *'From exclusion to participation: negotiating the spaces of youth engagement'*. Presenting the paper, Mark Goodwin reported on the experiences of an action-research project which has attempted to establish a voice for young people in rural Wales. Their project is based in the small town of Llanwrtyd Wells, and was set up to explore the best ways of meeting the health needs of young people. Through interviewing young people Goodwin and Armstrong-Esther were able to identify tensions in the community, revealing that young people felt particularly strongly about issues of representation and participation and especially frustrated by some of the decisions made by the Town Council. As a result of the research, a dedicated community worker was employed by the project who was able to facilitate the establishment of a youth council, known as Dyfodol. At local level, Dyfodol has successfully campaigned on issues of litter, river pollution, play spaces, meeting places, community transport and mountain bike trails. Whereas adults in the town formerly viewed young people with suspicion, and complained about vandalism and loitering, the youth council is now accepted and the children's views are seen as creative and constructive. The development of Dyfodol has provided a forum through which civic engagement can take place. This paper illustrated how shared decision-making cannot be imposed on communities, but must be built through networks of trust and support which include both children and adults.

Developing the theme of inclusion but this time in an Anglo-American planning context, Michael Leyshon (University of Exeter) and Sean DiGiovanna (Rutgers University, New Jersey) presented a paper on *'Responding to the Needs of Young People: Planning and Youth Engagement'*. Their paper pointed to the role of young people as active agents in the construction of their identities and the ways in which local spaces are constructed and appropriated. While traditional planning approaches tend to plan for young people, Leyshon and DiGiovanna showed that few cases exist where youth are encouraged to take an active role in planning. Importantly young people increasingly have to negotiate the annihilation of public space and regulation of their behaviour as communities attempt to control their activities by denying them places for informal recreation and socialization. This paper outlined a comparative study between the USA and UK of the ways in which rural and suburban youth see themselves as part of (or apart from) their communities and the extent to which these idealizations and behaviours are being incorporated into the local planning process.

The session also incorporated a paper with an explicit urban focus by Eleanor Jupp (Open University) which explored how 'young people' as a discursive category occupy a central role in the imagining of public space, a category through which a whole series of tensions around the past, present and future of the areas is played out, both between local people and with service providers. Jupp's paper traced these tensions within two localities in Stoke-

on-Trent and the impacts on the lives of young people and others. She illustrated how young people can and do play a positive and creative role in the production of spaces in their communities.

Overall, the diversity of presentations was felt to be indicative not only of the current interest in youth cultures, but also of a broader recognition of how the changing position of young people in society is intimately intermeshed with the cultural politics of place. To these ends, the session worked extremely well in synthesising much of the valuable research carried out in the field, whilst also identifying many of the critical silences which still tend to characterise such work. It is hoped that this session may have inspired at least some of those present to address such silent youthful voices as well as staking out some important avenues for future research.

Michael Leyshon (University of Exeter)

#### **4. CALL FOR PAPERS**

##### **4.1 European Society for Rural Sociology XXI Congress: A common European countryside?: Change and continuity, diversity and cohesion in the enlarged Europe, Keszthely, Hungary, 22-27 August, 2005.**

Call for papers - pre-registration for the working groups extended to 15 May, 2005

The previous three ESRS congresses have examined the changing nature of rural society and shifting meanings attached to rurality in the context of modernity and development in rural areas. The XXIst Congress in Keszthely takes an important current event - the one-year anniversary of the European enlargement - as starting point for engaging in the ongoing questions around change and continuity, diversity and cohesion in rural Europe. Whether the focus is placed on economy or society, culture or development policy, social welfare or modes of governance, it is clear that enlargement has introduced a whole range of new research agendas for European rural scientists. The XXIst Congress seeks to engage with these emerging research agendas.

List of working groups

1. A. Verbole, D. Kovács, A. Koutsouris & B. Ilik: The role of rural tourism in the enlarged Europe
2. A. Butler, P. Le Grice & M. Reed: The 'Small Worlds' of rural Europe: social networks, social capital and enterprise
3. H. Renting, H. Buller & L. Granberg, Sociological approaches to the multifunctionality of agriculture and rural areas
4. F. Collantes: Demographic evolution and socio-economic transformation in rural Europe: from industrial revolution to the present day
5. I. Darnhofer and M. Schermer: Continuity and change in organic farming – philosophy, practice and policy

6. E. Eklund, K. Andersson & M. Lethola: Realigning rural-urban relations in Europe: markets, regulatory regimes, social classes and coalitions
7. P. Vergunst, K. Bruckmeier & V. Majerova: Changing social structures and identities in the European countryside
8. P. Feindt, P. Lowe & H. Vihinen: Integration and disintegration of rural and agricultural policies
9. G. Brunori & D. O'Connor: Constructions of Food Quality in Contemporary Agri-Food Systems
10. M. Haugen & M. Shucksmith: Negotiating rurality(ies)
11. B. Hildenbrand & C.B. Hennon: Rural history: from past to future - rural transition in the course of time
12. H. Tovey & K. Daugstad: The dynamics of knowledge in rural development
13. M. Cawley, C. Kasimis & A. Papadopolos: Mobility and migration in the era of globalisation: risks and opportunities for rural regions
14. K. Kovacs & I. Morell: Gendered rural space East and West?
15. R. Almas & B. Egil Flo: Group farming and joint farming; towards new organisation forms in agricultural production
16. E. Figueiredo & A. Valadas de Lima, The environment in the social construction of a diverse European countryside
17. P. Starosta & A. Pilichowski, Social capital, citizen participation and economic growth in rural areas
18. C. Ray: Futurology and rural development policy
19. K. Mikko Vesala & H. Pesonen, Religious communities and rural development
20. S. Skerrat & J. Oksa: Role of ICT in supporting change and continuity in rural areas
21. S. Trifunovic, New challenges ahead of rural sociology of extended Europe
22. M. Woods: Democracy in rural Europe: Governance, power and participation
23. I. Kovach, M. Lostak & T. Marsden: The European Union and European Rurality after (and before) enlargement(s)
24. A. Evans & M. Miele: Conceptualising animal welfare: towards an understanding of how we enact, govern and represent our multiple relationships with non-human animals
25. F. Ventura & P. Milone, The construction of regulating policies for a multifunctional agriculture
26. Paul Milbourne: Changing states of welfare in rural Europe?

Thematic excursions:

- Agricultural mass production: large enterprises and family farms in Hungary
- The restored countryside: rural castles, chateaus and manor houses
- Nature conservation in the Kis-Balaton lake area
- Rural tourism: at the crossroads of mass and soft tourism
- Rural goods and services: wine, vineyards and wine routes
- The 'oil' of rural Hungary: thermal spas and wellness tourism

Important deadlines:

15 May 2005: Call for papers - pre-registration for the working groups

15 May 2005: Registration for the Congress, including participation, request for accommodation, other optional services

30 May 2005: Confirmation letter sent to participant acknowledging registration and requesting payment

15 June 2005: Deadline for payment of the full participation fee including registration fee, accommodation and other services (the organisers can guarantee the services requested only for participants meeting this deadline)

Contacts: email: [esrs2005@freemail.hu](mailto:esrs2005@freemail.hu)

Web site: <http://www.esrs.hu/keszthely2005>

#### **4.2 Fifth British-French Rural Geography Symposium: New occupants and new residents in the European Countryside**

The dates and location of the fifth joint meeting of British and French rural geographers have now been set for **15-21 May 2006, Clermond Ferrand, France**. The latest symposium in the series, which has proved one of the most successful collaborations between the Rural Geography Research Group and colleagues overseas, having started in Caen in September 1989, will follow a similar structure to previous gatherings with two days of papers and two days in field. Having previously taken students to this area of the Massif Central, I can assure you that it is well worth visiting and offers many opportunities for exploring contemporary issues of rural restructuring. Papers from the previous symposia have all been published in collected works and it is intended that this tradition will continue following the next meeting in Clermond Ferrand. Anyone interested in purchasing a copy of the edited volume from the last joint meeting in Worcester in 2001 at a cost of £15 (inc. P&P), either for their personal use or for an institutional library, may do so by contacting Dr Nigel Walford at the address below (cheques payable to Rural Geography Research Group).

It is intended that there will about 15 papers from both the British and French 'teams' and I would therefore like to invite colleagues to respond to this **call for papers** by offering an abstract related to, albeit perhaps rather tenuously, the overall theme **New occupants and new residents in the European Countryside**. This theme provides scope for papers on a range of topics reflecting on contemporary and historical issues associated with new people coming to live in or otherwise occupy the European countryside. This topical theme will enable contributor to explore a range of issues related to migration and circulation within European rural areas. Please send your abstract (300 words maximum) including title and details of **all** authors, with the lead author identified, to Dr Nigel Walford at the address below by **30 June 2005**. Papers will be delivered in either English or French and it anticipated that some translation facilities will be available, either from bilingual colleagues or more formally. Abstracts will be published in English and French. British contributors offering abstracts may provide a French translation at the same time if they wish.

The British and French organisers are keen to encourage rural researchers at all stages of their careers to contribute to the symposium and applications will be submitted to seek grants that will help to support the attendance of doctoral researchers and other colleagues who experience difficulties in securing funding from elsewhere. It should be noted that a number of low cost airlines operate from various UK airports to Clermond Ferrand.

**Our French hosts have kindly offered to pay for four nights hotel accommodation, breakfasts and lunches and field trip costs for one author of each paper, up to a maximum of 15 papers per country.**

Dr Nigel Walford  
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## **5. FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES AND EVENTS**

### **5.1 The History of Gardens and Landscapes Seminars**

All interested in researching gardens and landscapes are welcome at these seminars, held at 5.30 pm in the Wolfson Room of the Institute for Historical Research, Senate House, Malet Street, London. Please check on the website in case there is a change of venue. The theme for the summer term is 'Architecture in the Garden'.

- |        |   |
|--------|---|
| 6 May  | Shifting Conceptions of the Italianate Garden, 1840-1914.<br>Patricia White, Institute of Education.                            |
| 20 May | 'Edifices' in the Walled Kitchen Garden.<br>Susan Campbell.   |
| 27 May | Follies in the time of functionalism: garden buildings<br>of the twentieth century.<br>Dr Alan Powers, University of Greenwich. |

For further information (and about the MA Garden History at Birkbeck), contact Dr Janet Waymark: [janetwaymark@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:janetwaymark@yahoo.co.uk) or Dr Alan Powers: [pasquito@aol.com](mailto:pasquito@aol.com). More information can be found about seminars at the IHR at: [www.history.ac.uk/ihrseminars/gardens.htm/](http://www.history.ac.uk/ihrseminars/gardens.htm/).

**5.2 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.**

**The Annual General Meeting of the RGRG will be held on Wednesday, 31 August (time to be confirmed, but usually around mid-day) at the RGS/IBG.**

The RGRG are involved in organising six separate sessions at the Royal Geographical Society with the Institute of British Geographers Annual Conference in London in September, 2005. The relevant sessions are outlined below.

**5.2.1 RGRG Co-Sponsored Session with the Planning and Environment Research Group: Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) and the Future of Rural Spaces (Wednesday 31 August, 2005: 9.00-11.10 & 15.45-18.00)**

Although public controversies over the introduction of GMOs in the form of seeds, crops and animals have died down in recent years, these new developments will continue to have major implications for rural spaces. Many commentators have posited an explicit tension between the type of high tech, intensive agriculture (epitomised by the adoption of GMOs) and the rural development/multifunctional land use direction proposed by Marsden and others, and examined in a large range of studies on organics, short-food chains, quality food production etc. However, an argument could also be made that GMOs are not inherently inconsistent with the rural development model: Are they necessarily 'high tech and intensive'? Does adoption of GM technology secure or undermine rural futures? This session aims to investigate these questions through a mix of a panel discussion and papers.

Professor David Gibbs, Department of Geography University of Hull,  
Cottingham Road, Hull, HU6 7RX  
Tel: 01482 465330  
E-mail: [d.c.gibbs@hull.ac.uk](mailto:d.c.gibbs@hull.ac.uk)

Professor Chris Cocklin, Professor & Director Monash Environment Institute,  
School of Geography & Environmental Science, Clayton Campus, University  
of Monash.  
Tel. +61 3 990 52926  
Email: [Chris.Cocklin@arts.monash.edu.au](mailto:Chris.Cocklin@arts.monash.edu.au)

**5.2.2 RGRG Sponsored Session: New and Emerging Researchers in Rural Geography (Wednesday, 31 August, 2005: 15.45-18.00)**

The aim of this session is to provide a supportive forum for postgraduate students currently engaged in rural research to present their ideas and findings. The original outline strongly encouraged contributions from all stages of the research process and invited participants to consider any aspect of rural geography and to address theoretical, empirical and/or methodological issues related to their work. The session will be organised around three

complementary themes. These are: 'geographies of organic farming'; 'geographies of rural land use' and 'geographies of rurality'. Collectively the session seeks to provide a lively insight into current postgraduate research in rural geography, especially methodological engagements with qualitative and quantitative methods and the implications this has for how we interpret and understand rural studies and rural space.

Damian Maye, Geography Subject Group, School of Science and the Environment, James Starley Building, Coventry University, Priory St, Coventry, CV1 5FB

Email: [d.maye@coventry.ac.uk](mailto:d.maye@coventry.ac.uk)

Matthew Offord, Department of Geography, King's College London, Strand, London. WC2R 2LS.

Email: [matthew.offord@bbc.co.uk](mailto:matthew.offord@bbc.co.uk)

**5.2.3 RGRG Co-Sponsored Session with the Developing Areas Research Group: Young rural lives: Global perspectives on rural childhood and youth (Thursday, 1 September, 2005: 9.00-11.10; 13.45-15.30 & 15.45-18.00)**

This session would support the collaborative writing of a book edited by the convenors (publisher currently being sought). The book 'Young Rural Lives' bridges traditional divides between research in Majority (third) and Minority (first) Worlds. It will collate thematically organised case studies and co-authored commentaries that integrate and advance current understandings and debates about rural childhood and youth. Paper presenters will be expected to have completed a draft chapter before the conference and to participate in a review of their paper/draft at the conference – co-authored thematic writing on the three themes will also be debated and planned in this session.

**Session Aims:**

- to compare and contrast the dynamics of life for rural young people in Majority and Minority worlds
- to explore generic theoretical questions of identity, agency and power that shape, and are shaped by, the everyday lives of these young people
- to document case studies of these themes and present collaborative critical conceptualisations of how further understandings can be achieved.

Dr E. Robson, The School of Earth Sciences and Geography, Keele University, Keele, Staffordshire, ST5 5BG, United Kingdom

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**5.2.4 RGRG Co-sponsored session with Economic Geography Research Group: New geographies of food: Political and cultural economies of organic food supply (Thursday, 1 September, 2005: 9.00-11.10; 15.45-18.00 & Friday, 2 September, 2005: 9.00-11.00 & 15.45-18.00)**

**The session has been timetabled by the RGS-IBG with an EGRG session on organic food chains under the broad title: 'New geographies of food'.**

Since the late 1990s, agri-food scholars have identified the emergence of 'alternative' food systems offering potential to re-configure contemporary food provision around more economically just, ethically sound and ecologically sustainable relationships between food producers, processors and consumers. Largely in the context of developed market economies, notions of 'relocalisation' and the 'quality turn' have figured prominently in these 'new' agro-food trajectories. Emerging empirical research, however, is now problematising some of the assumptions and terminologies embedded within academic discourses of 'alternative' food systems. Conceptually, calls have been made for a move away from production-centred, broadly political economy analyses, towards theorisations encompassing the cultures, sociologies and politics of consumption. The session seeks to address the following inter-linked questions:

- How can 'alternative' food systems be conceptualised? What is their relationship with conventional systems? How useful is the concept of 'alternative' in this context?
- What discourses, representations and practices are involved in the construction of 'alternative' food systems?
- What critical insights can be gained from the perspectives of the multiple actors involved in constructing 'alternative' food systems (e.g. producers, retailers, consumers, institutions, activists)?
- What is the significance of different developmental, institutional, socio-cultural and geographical contexts for the construction of 'alternative' food systems?

Papers will thus be organised to consider how 'alternative' food systems are conceptualised and represented; how 'alternative' food chains are constructed; and how we might make room for other 'alternative' voices, especially consumption, the developing world and sustainability.

Dr Moya Kneafsey, Dr Lewis Holloway and Damien Maye, Geography Subject Group, School of Science and the Environment, James Starley Building, Coventry University, Priory St, Coventry, CV1 5FB  
Tel. 024 7688 8159  
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**5.2.5 RGRG Co-Sponsored Session with the Political Geography Research Group: Power in the Countryside (Thursday, 1 September, 2005: 9.00-11.10; 13.45-15.30 & 15.45-18.00)**

This session aims to explore aspects of power relations, power structures and power conflicts in rural societies. It will revisit some of the key concerns of the political economy approach within rural geography, including class relations, property & the role of the state, but will also draw in perspectives based on post-structuralist theories of power. Papers are invited on any topic related to power and rural society, including rural community power and leadership, governance and participation, citizenship and community empowerment, labour and property relations and rural conflicts and resistance.

Dr Michael Woods, Institute of Geography and Earth Sciences, The University of Wales, Aberystwyth, Llandinum Building, Penglais Campus, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion SY23 3DB, Wales, UK.

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**5.2.6 RGRG Sponsored Session: Rural Dwelling / Country Dwellings (Friday, 2 September, 2005: 9.00-11.10 & 15.45-18.00)**

A central theme in the work of the leading 20<sup>th</sup> Century 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, though, he felt that this dislocation was not necessarily irreversible if a greater sense of 'co-responsibility' between humans and non-human 'nature' re-emerges in the production process (Bonnett, 2003), for example.

The aim of this session is to examine the extent to which rurality and rural places today are associated with dwelling. It seeks to explore – at the conceptual, perceptual and/or lived dimensions – the extent to which rural places facilitate a sense of dwelling. Inter-linked questions that we may seek to address in the session include:

- To what extent does a desire for a sense of dwelling underpin the 'lure of the countryside' that is so commonplace in richer countries?
- How are rural place and their diverse components (house, animals, settlements, etc.) implicated in producing a sense of dwelling?
- What is the role and character of embodied practices in facilitating a sense of emotional engagement with 'nature'?
- How do villages and rural houses – country dwellings – gather together the elements that espouse rural dwelling?
- What forces are undermining any rural sense of authentic dwelling today?

- Are rural places able to transcend the somewhat essentialist and nostalgic sense of authenticity that Heidegger seemed to imbue them with?
- Can we avoid reactionary nostalgia in promoting a renewed concern with dwelling through a critical reading of rural life?
- How useful are the ideas of Heidegger and related thinkers (e.g. Henri Lefebvre on alienation) to help our understanding of the enduring appeal of things rural?

Dr Keith Halfacree, Department of Geography, University of Wales, Swansea, Singleton Park, Swansea, SA2 8PP.UK.

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Email: [k.h.halfacree@swansea.ac.uk](mailto:k.h.halfacree@swansea.ac.uk)

**5.2.7 Population Geography Research Group Sponsored Session: Changing 'faces' of rural populations, geographies and mobile societies (Thursday, 1 September, 2005: 13.45-15.30; 15.45-18.00; Friday, 2 September, 2005: 9.00-11.10)**

Session 1

Dan Vickers (University of Leeds)

Who lives in rural areas? And what are they doing?

Martin Phillips (University of Leicester)

Changing class complexions in countryside

Keith Hoggart (Kings College London)

A differentiated countryside? The geography of the rural working classes

Rebecca Higley and Darren P. Smith (University of Brighton)

'Other' rural gentrifications and downshifting

Nigel Walford (Kingston University)

Connecting urban and rural populations: an initial attempt to identify migratory pathways

Naomi Bushin (University of Wales Swansea)

Should we stay or should we go? The impacts of family migration to rural areas

Caitriona Ni Laoire (University College Cork)

The green green grass of home'? Return migration to rural Ireland

Craig Rostance and Darren P. Smith (University of Brighton)

Rural migrants and the family context

Discussant - Keith Halfacree (University of Wales Swansea)

## Session 2

Paul Milbourne (University of Cardiff), Bill Edwards and Michael Woods (University of Aberystwyth)  
From consensus to ambivalence: rethinking the communities of rural Wales

Darren P. Smith (University of Brighton)  
The rural lifescapes of the Lewes Downs and cultural (in)competence

Marie Mahon (National University of Ireland, Galway)  
New population but the same rural space? Adjusting expectations of place.

Graham Gardner (University of Aberystwyth)  
Changing places: exploring the memories of contemporary rural residents

Andrew Church (University of Brighton)  
Change or continuity? Land owners, public access and woodlands in south east England

Frances Drake (University of Leeds)  
Debating the need for mobile phone masts: a rural perspective

Louise Mijering, Bettina Van Hoven and Paulus Huigen (University of Groningen) Intentional communities: a new 'face' in rural populations?

Discussant - Paul Cloke (University of Bristol)

## Session 3

Jonathan D. Rigg (University of Durham)  
Restructuring lives and livelihoods in Rural Asia

Rebecca Elmhirst (University of Brighton)  
Migrant legitimacies and the politics of scale in Indonesia

Michelle Carnegie (The Australian National University)  
Movement as integral to livelihoods: the changing geographies of a rural population in Eastern Indonesia

Roy Maconachie (University of Sussex) and Tony Binns (University of Otago)  
Farming miners or mining farmers? Diamond mining and rural development in post-onflict Sierra Leone

Jenny Elliott (University of Brighton)  
Identifying and understanding environmental transformations under Zimbabwe's resettlement programme

Ben Rogaly et al. (University of Sussex)

Migrant working in British agriculture: the role of the seasonal agricultural workers scheme

Larch Dukes Maxey (University of Wales Swansea)  
Low Impact Development: Creating a truly sustainable countryside?

Carlos Betancourth (Consultant)  
Species of spaces

Discussant - Michael Woods

Darren Smith, University of Brighton.

## **6. POSTGRADUATE NEWS**

### **6.1 The Postgraduate Forum**

The Postgraduate Forum held its annual Mid-Term Conference at the University of Nottingham (19/02/05). The event attracted 50 geography post-graduate students overall from around the UK, including a number of interesting papers from rural geographers. Students were able to present their research in an informal, supportive atmosphere and the event provided an excellent opportunity for new and emerging rural geographers to build links with others in the wider postgraduate community.

### **6.2 RGS-IBG Annual Conference**

As well as the RGRG 'New and Emerging Researchers in Rural Geography' session at this year's RGS-IBG 2005 annual conference, a selection of rural geography papers will also be presented as part of one of three 'Postgraduate Forum' sessions, probably under the title 'Environment and Society'.

Damian Maye, Coventry University.

## **7. POSTGRADUATE OPPORTUNITIES**

### **7.1 ESRC Collaborative (CASE) PhD studentship at COVENTRY UNIVERSITY: 'Relocalising food production and consumption: analysing local and organic buying groups in mainland Europe and England/Wales' – in conjunction with The Soil Association.**

We are looking for a high quality candidate with, or completing, an RT recognised advanced (Masters) course in Human Geography or related area of Social Science. Further details are available from either Brian Ilbery (024 76887712 or [b.ilbery@coventry.ac.uk](mailto:b.ilbery@coventry.ac.uk)) or Damian Maye (024 76887689 or [d.maye@coventry.ac.uk](mailto:d.maye@coventry.ac.uk)). Applications should be submitted by 20 May, 2005.

ESRC meets the tuition fees and pays an attractive maintenance grant of £14,000 p.a. The collaborating organisation pays an additional £2,000 p.a.

### **Research project**

Current methods of the direct sales of food in the UK, in which consumers have a direct link with producers, include box schemes, farmers' markets, farm shops and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA), many of which have been pioneered by the organic sector. All of these, while successful, still serve only a small proportion of the population. In Europe, there is a range of other 'buying group' models that have been successful in purchasing and distributing larger volumes of fresh, seasonal and locally produced organic produce at affordable prices. This research project aims to investigate how direct sales can be brought more into the mainstream in the UK, but at the same time maintaining the integrity of the 'local'.

The project has the following four main objectives:

- To provide a comprehensive assessment of the various types of 'local and organic buying groups' in selected European countries.
- To develop an understanding of the main opportunities and barriers (e.g. institutional, environmental, cultural and socio-economic) to the development of 'local and organic buying groups' in England and Wales.
- To consider the impacts of 'local and organic buying groups' on selected local economies and communities in England and Wales.
- To explore the extent to which such schemes can help deliver a) rural and urban regeneration and b) rural and urban integration and reconnection in England and Wales.

Damian Maye, Department of Geography, Coventry University, Priory Street, Coventry CV1 5FB.

## **8. 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 Lyndenn 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-imaging 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

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#### **9. ITEMS FOR AUTUMN 2005 NEWSLETTER**

Articles, letters and comments and other items for inclusion in the Spring Newsletter should be sent to: Stephen Essex, RGRG Newsletter Editor, School of Geography, University of Plymouth, Plymouth, PL4 8AA by 30 September, 2005; Tel. +44 (0)1752 233080; Fax: +44 (0)1752 233054; e-mail: [s.essex@plymouth.ac.uk](mailto:s.essex@plymouth.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 Stephen Essex, School of Geography, University of Plymouth, Drake Circus, Plymouth, PL4 8AA. email: [sessex@plymouth.ac.uk](mailto:sessex@plymouth.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 Stephen Essex (University of Plymouth) preferably by email: [s.essex@plymouth.ac.uk](mailto:s.essex@plymouth.ac.uk).